

Outlander

by Diana Gabaldon

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Contents & Printing Notes

Unlike our most popular resources, this one's auto-selected.
Review before use, or edit the DOCX via "View / Print / Edit Web
Quiz" on the Resources menu.

PRE-READING ACTIVITY

Answer Key — Preview	2	teacher use / self-check only
Vocabulary Preview	3	

OPTIONAL POST-READING QUIZ

Vocabulary in Context	5	
Answer Key — In Context	7	teacher use only

Pages are ordered for double-sided printing.

About the Pre-Reading Activity

Open-dictionary; ungraded or completion grade. Students preview 20 words from the upcoming reading, each in a sentence that supports understanding. They choose the best meaning from 3 choices.

About the Optional Post-Reading Quiz

Use after reading, or skip. The same words appear in excerpts from the text.

Practice words: abbey, abrupt (2), breech, cynical, dour, dubious, foal, genealogy, impotent (2), inhabitant, manor, monk, precarious, protrude, reprove, tact, yield (2)



More Vocabulary Printables

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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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#	KEY
1	C
2	C
3	A
4	C
5	A
6	A
7	A
8	A
9	C
10	B
11	C
12	B
13	B
14	B
15	C
16	C
17	A
18	B
19	A
20	B

Vocabulary Preview

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

Read each prompt. Then choose the best meaning for the bold word.

1. After years of dedicated service to the church, she retired to a quiet **abbey** in the countryside.
 - A. a small, rural parish church
 - B. a large cathedral open to the public
 - C. a building where monks or nuns live
2. The weather changed **abruptly** at about noon.
 - A. for the better
 - B. gradually
 - C. suddenly
3. Try not to be so **abrupt** with the people you manage. It may seem quicker, but we're losing talented people because they don't like working with you.
 - A. rude or unfriendly because of using too few words or moving too quickly
 - B. relating to classical music plays in which most of the dialogue is sung
 - C. unbelieving; or having difficulty accepting something so unexpected
4. The hunter cleaned the **breech** after firing several rounds at the target.
 - A. tip of an arrow
 - B. edge of a blade
 - C. back of a firearm
5. Over the years, she has grown **cynical** and unhappy.
 - A. distrustful of others
 - B. trusting of strangers
 - C. envious of friends
6. The **dour** guard frowned at every joke and ordered the students to be quiet.
 - A. grim and unfriendly
 - B. cheerful and playful
 - C. confused and lost
7. She gave a **dubious** look when he claimed to have met the president.
 - A. doubtful
 - B. polite
 - C. joyful
8. The mare gave birth to a healthy **foal** in the spring meadow.
 - A. young horse
 - B. metal gate
 - C. wooden saddle
9. The researcher is utilizing a database that combines **genealogy** records with vital statistics including cause-of-death.
 - A. medical information
 - B. blood test
 - C. family history
10. She felt **impotent** rage.
 - A. extreme
 - B. powerless
 - C. regrettable
11. He was **impotent**, but they adopted children.
 - A. gay
 - B. never home due to outside responsibilities
 - C. unable to have an erection for sexual intercourse

12. The inhabitants of the village were very friendly.
- A. tourists
 - B. residents
 - C. visitors
13. She inherited the manor, but seldom visits it.
- A. castle
 - B. large house
 - C. palace
14. Each monk in the order leads a simple life without luxury.
- A. a female member of a religious order
 - B. a male member of a religious order
 - C. a member of a religious order
15. It is a precarious political situation.
- A. exciting
 - B. complex
 - C. dangerous
16. She is operating to repair the muscle wall through which the hernia protrudes.
- A. heals over
 - B. shrinks back
 - C. sticks out
17. I don't want to spoil her, but I don't have the heart to reprove her.
- A. criticize
 - B. compliment
 - C. instruct
18. She means well, but she lacks tact.
- A. a plan
 - B. sensitivity
 - C. ability
19. The experiment yielded data that raised a new set of questions.
- A. produced
 - B. destroyed
 - C. slowed down
20. After the scandal, she yielded to public pressure and resigned her position.
- A. added
 - B. gave in
 - C. produced

Vocabulary in Context

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____ Score _____ / 20

Read each prompt. Then choose the best meaning for the bold word.

- 1 *The Hoovering in the hall stopped **abruptly**.*
 - A. not exactly or accurately
 - B. in a manner like a "monk"
 - C. suddenly
- 2 *I got up and relit the candles, making mild remarks about his **abrupt** methods of entering rooms.*
 - A. rude because of using too few words and moving too quickly
 - B. relating to classical music plays in which most of the dialogue is sung
 - C. to say or handle things in a way that makes others feel good about them
- 3 *Frank's passion for **genealogy** was yet another reason for choosing the Highlands.*
 - A. small quantity or indication
 - B. reason (for doing something)
 - C. family ancestry or its study
- 4 *Well, I phrased it a little more **tactfully** than that, but only because the Gaelic language hasn't got a specific word for drawers.*
 - A. in a pessimistic or disagreeable manner
 - B. in a manner that makes others feel good
 - C. enthusiastically or with great interest
- 5 *You mean, since the houses are fairly new, nothing was buried under them, and the **inhabitants** are now remedying the omission.*
 - A. things accepted as true (without proof)
 - B. people (who live in a particular place)
 - C. things designed to stop something else
- 6 *Mr. Crook's seamed face seemed to be admitting a **dubious** possibility to this suggestion.*
 - A. doubtful; or suspicious; or full of uncertainty -- sometimes to indicate that *something described as good* is actually bad
 - B. related to a mental illness most commonly associated with undeveloped social abilities, language, and other communication skills
 - C. relating to realities beyond scientific understanding OR inspiring a sense of wonder or mystery; or beyond human comprehension
- 7 *Our guide, despite his **dour** appearance, was knowledgeable and talkative, pointing out the islands, castles, and ruins that rimmed the long, narrow loch.*
 - A. very serious, stern, and unfriendly -- often in a gloomy or harsh way
 - B. [of food] able to be prepared in a manner that keeps it from spoiling
 - C. relating to understanding or explaining something in a particular way
- 8 *I was quite sure I was still hallucinating when the sound of shots was followed by the appearance of five or six men dressed in red coats and knee **breeches**, waving muskets.*
 - A. views
 - B. names
 - C. pants
- 9 *Our **precarious** balance, heretofore contained in a staid wobble, suddenly became much more erratic.*
 - A. likely to change
 - B. able to be found
 - C. unsafe or unsure

- 10 *There was a, levy put on the **manors** near Fort William—food for the garrison, horses for transport, and suchlike.*
 A. enthusiastic expressions of feelings or thoughts OR things flowing or given off (often under pressure such as blood or leaking gas)
 B. a large house of a wealthy person
- or historically:
- the main house of a lord and the land around it that was worked by tenant farmers
 C. people who monitor criminals who do not have to be in prison as long as they demonstrate good behavior and obey special restrictions
- 11 *Because of the poor circulation and the degeneration of connective tissue, victims were invariably sterile, and often **impotent** as well.*
 A. a connection where measuring one particle instantly affects another, regardless of distance
 B. a potentially life-threatening eating disorder that prevents people from eating enough food
 C. unable to have an erection for sexual intercourse
- 12 *The hand bunched into a fist and struck the bedframe with an **impotent** rage that made the whole bed tremble.*
 A. the state of being awake
 B. powerless to change things
 C. able to take on or adopt
- 13 *Finally, he invited me to come to the stable next day and see a newborn foal.*
 A. a young horse; or giving birth to a young horse
 B. mark important text; or the text that is marked
 C. give an opinion of what is wrong with something
- 14 *He shook his head **reprovingly** at the boy.*
 A. in a critical manner
 B. with great annoyance
 C. in a wasteful manner
- 15 *This time I had time to see the dagger hilt **protruding** from the beast's side, perhaps the work of the man on the ground before me.*
 A. hiring again
 B. getting near
 C. sticking out
- 16 *I yielded my horse and my bags with good grace, having little other choice.*
 A. with rises and falls in pitch
 B. gave in, gave way, or gave up
 C. embarrassed or self-conscious
- 17 *They're a root crop that will keep for a long time, and the **yield** is better than wheat.*
 A. production
 B. stop (something from happening)
 C. think deeply or carefully about
- 18 *I said, a little **cynically**.*
 A. someone who expects the worst -- especially of people (such as expecting them to be selfish and lie)
 B. while taking pains to avoid being observed; or in a nervous manner (as though hoping not to be seen)
 C. in a manner that provokes, excites, or stimulates -- especially controversy, sexual desire, or anger
- 19 *For the second, he thought from the look of me I was going to die in any case, so he sent me to the **abbey**.*
 A. a small, rural parish church
 B. a large cathedral open to the public
 C. a building where monks or nuns live or lived; or a church associated with such a building
- 20 *"I said I was a virgin, not a **monk**," he said, kissing me again.*
 A. gradual destruction (of something previously established) -- such as a government, rule, or belief
 B. a male member of a religious order typically living under vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience
 C. a system of government with a ruler who has absolute power -- especially one who abuses that power

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	C	abrupt (<i>as in: an abrupt change</i>)	Used 74 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
2	A	abrupt (<i>as in: she is abrupt</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
3	C	genealogy	Used 8 times in this book.
4	B	tact	High-utility academic word; used 18 times in this book.
5	B	inhabitant	Used 24 times in this book.
6	A	dubious	High-utility academic word; used 16 times in this book.
7	A	dour	Used 8 times in this book.
8	C	breech	Used 18 times in this book.
9	C	precarious	Used 20 times in this book.
10	B	manor	Used 15 times in this book.
11	C	impotent (<i>as in: impotent, so no children</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
12	B	impotent (<i>as in: impotent fury</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
13	A	foal	Used 7 times in this book.
14	A	reprove	Used 6 times in this book.
15	C	protrude	Used 12 times in this book.
16	B	yield (<i>as in: yield to pressure</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
17	A	yield (<i>as in: will yield valuable data</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
18	A	cynical	Used 17 times in this book.
19	C	abbey	Used 17 times in this book.
20	B	monk	Used 26 times in this book.