

Outliers

by Malcolm Gladwell

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: approach (2), consequence (2), constraint, contrast, critique, cultivate, dynamic, dynamics, hypothesis (2), legacy, linguist, mitigate, paradigm, peasant, proficiency, yield (2)



More Vocabulary Printables

verbalworkout.com

(all resources free)

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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#	KEY
1	A
2	B
3	A
4	B
5	B
6	B
7	C
8	B
9	C
10	A
11	B
12	C
13	A
14	A
15	A
16	C
17	C
18	C
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. I grow more nervous as the test **approaches**.
 - A. gets nearer
 - B. is remembered
 - C. continues
2. We need to **approach** this problem in a new way.
 - A. avoid
 - B. think about
 - C. assign
3. Her job prospects are hindered as a **consequence** of the conviction.
 - A. result
 - B. unimportant part
 - C. important part
4. It is the most **consequential** tax legislation in decades.
 - A. unethical
 - B. important
 - C. harmful
5. We want **constraints** on her power to spend taxpayer funds.
 - A. flexibility
 - B. limitations
 - C. increases
6. **Contrast** typical underlying beliefs of pro-life and pro-choice supporters.
 - A. study
 - B. compare
 - C. describe
7. Her **critique** of the editorial prompted a spirited discussion about economic policy.
 - A. approval and recommendation
 - B. reading aloud
 - C. analysis and judgment
8. Creativity can be **cultivated**.
 - A. useful
 - B. developed or grown
 - C. risky or dangerous
9. She is a **dynamic** candidate.
 - A. careful and quiet
 - B. polite and reserved
 - C. energetic and enthusiastic
10. She is a specialist in fluid **dynamics**.
 - A. the interaction of all the forces influencing a system
 - B. limitations; or things that limit action or motion
 - C. things that are explosive or highly flammable
11. He **hypothesized** the existence of Pluto before its discovery.
 - A. fantasized
 - B. theorized
 - C. disbelieved
12. Her **hypothesis** was that the plants grew faster with classical music playing.
 - A. confirmed scientific fact
 - B. well-known principle
 - C. unproven proposed idea

13. Her parents left her a small **legacy**.
A. inheritance
B. meal
C. "todo" list
14. A forensic **linguist** testified that the latest will appears to have been authored by someone else.
A. someone who specializes in the study of language
B. a period of time or a stage during the development of something
C. an optical device that produces an intense narrow beam of light
15. The new factory is building privacy walls to **mitigate** its impact on neighbors.
A. make less harmful or unpleasant
B. change the subject from
C. make a bad situation worse
16. Since then, there's been a **paradigm** shift, and we have a new way of thinking about such things.
A. technological breakthrough
B. social trend
C. conceptual model
17. In 1932 a **peasant** revolt in Su County, China stopped collection of the poppy tax.
A. city dweller
B. young person
C. poor farmer
18. After months of practice, she gained enough **proficiency** in Spanish to hold a simple conversation.
A. interest
B. permission
C. skill
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 In 1896, a **dynamic** young priest by the name of Father Pasquale de Nisco took over at Our Lady of Mount Carmel.
A. able to be translated
B. exactness or accuracy
C. energetic
- 2 But he cannot escape the **dynamic** dictated to him by his culture in which subordinates must respect the dictates of their superiors.
A. force resulting from the interaction of many influences in a system
B. an electronic component that acts like a one-way valve
C. any substance that tends to increase the flow of urine
- 3 But these exact same biases also show up in areas of much more **consequence**, like education.
A. translates
B. importance
C. sticks out
- 4 The long summer vacation, a peculiar and distinctive American legacy that has had profound **consequences** for the learning patterns of the students of the present day.
A. effects (results)
B. battles
C. desires
- 5 In fact, by the age of twenty, the elite performers had each totaled ten thousand hours of practice. By **contrast**, the merely good students had totaled eight thousand hours, and the future music teachers had totaled just over four thousand hours.
A. beyond the permitted boundary or limit
B. in a comparison that shows differences
C. injured muscles or tendons in the back
- 6 I was **proficient** by my second year there.
A. absolute
B. pleasing
C. skillful
- 7 If you were born in the 1820s you were too old: your mind-set was shaped by the pre-Civil War **paradigm**.
A. easily set on fire
B. untied or released
C. a conceptual model
- 8 In a devastating **critique**, the sociologist Pitirim Sorokin once showed that if Terman had simply put together a randomly selected group of children from the same kinds of family backgrounds as the Termites, and dispensed with IQs altogether, he would have ended up with a group doing almost as many impressive things as his painstakingly selected group of geniuses.
A. the difference between tones of an image
B. hold together (connect or unite) or wrap
C. an examination and judgment of something
- 9 At one point I asked Langan, **hypothetically**, whether he would take a job at Harvard University were it offered to him.
A. in a manner that violates a rule, promise, or social norm; or in a manner that exceeds a limit or boundary
B. not in a sensible and clear manner; or not in a manner where parts fit together consistently or pleasingly
C. based on something that is temporarily treated as true to advance a discussion or to further investigation
- 10 The "culture of honor" **hypothesis** says that it matters where you're from, not just in terms of where you grew up or where your parents grew up, but in terms of where your great-grandparents and great-great-grandparents grew up and even where your great-great-great-grandparents grew up.
A. the quality of appropriateness in size, amount, or degree
B. a seemingly reasonable, but unproven, idea
C. feels or expresses regret for having done something wrong

- 11 *Langan talks about dealing with Reed and Montana State as if they were some kind of vast and unyielding government bureaucracy.*
 A. relating to classical music plays in which most of the dialogue is sung
 B. strict
 C. rude or unfriendly because of using too few words or moving too quickly
- 12 *So rice farmers improved their yields by becoming smarter, by being better managers of their own time, and by making better choices.*
 A. amount produced
 B. complains or verbally attacks in a loud, excited way
 C. formally gives up power, as of monarchs and emperors
- 13 *He had just been reading the work of the linguist Noam Chomsky.*
 A. a language specialist; or someone skilled in multiple languages
 B. a period of time or a stage during the development of something
 C. an optical device that produces an intense narrow beam of light
- 14 *The Irish and the Italians were peasants, tenant farmers from the impoverished countryside of Europe.*
 A. organisms in the early stages of growth prior to birth, hatching, or sprouting; in humans organisms during the first eight weeks of development (prior to the fetal stage)
 B. members of an artistic movement pioneered by Pablo Picasso and Georges Braque that featured surfaces of geometrical planes to depict three-dimensional organic forms
 C. used historically or possibly in relation to a very poor country: people of low income, education, and social standing -- especially those who raise crops or livestock
- 15 *Can we learn something about why people succeed and how to make people better at what they do by taking cultural legacies seriously?*
 A. things passed from one generation to the next
 B. jobs, reservations, bookings, or activities
 C. males, females, or various trans categories
- 16 *As the plane came in on its final approach, the pilots encountered severe wind shear.*
 A. change the direction of something or the purpose for which it is used
 B. route (way to get somewhere)
 C. to stick out, attract more attention than desired, or impose on others
- 17 *The VOR is a beacon that sends out a signal that allows pilots to calculate their altitude as they approach an airport.*
 A. get near
 B. create dramatic change
 C. mirror back (an image)
- 18 *The term used by linguists to describe what Klotz was engaging in in that moment is "mitigated speech," which refers to any attempt to downplay or sugarcoat the meaning of what is being said.*
 A. reduced in harm or unpleasantness
 B. selected (on a computer screen)
 C. took up or received into heaven
- 19 *A mind must be cultivated.*
 A. a non-doctor who assisted a women in childbirth
 B. helped to develop (grow)
 C. not found guilty or forced into a bad situation
- 20 *And what Korean Air did, when it finally turned its operations around, was give its pilots the opportunity to escape the constraints of their cultural legacy.*
 A. differences
 B. limitations
 C. thigh bones

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	C	dynamic (<i>as in: a dynamic personality</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
2	A	dynamics (<i>as in: the system dynamic</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
3	B	consequence (<i>as in: of little consequence</i>)	Used 3 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
4	A	consequence (<i>as in: a direct consequence of</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
5	B	contrast (<i>as in: contrast their writing styles</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 11 times in this book.
6	C	proficiency	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this book.
7	C	paradigm	Used 3 times in this book.
8	C	critique	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
9	C	hypothesis (<i>as in: assume as a working hypothesis</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
10	B	hypothesis (<i>as in: a study to test her hypothesis</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
11	B	yield (<i>as in: yield to pressure</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
12	A	yield (<i>as in: will yield valuable data</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
13	A	linguist	Used 5 times in this book.
14	C	peasant	Used 12 times in this book.
15	A	legacy	High-utility academic word; used 23 times in this book.
16	B	approach (<i>as in: use the best approach</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
17	A	approach (<i>as in: approached the city</i>)	Used 16 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
18	A	mitigate	High-utility academic word; used 16 times in this book.
19	B	cultivate	High-utility academic word; used 16 times in this book.
20	B	constraint	Used 3 times in this book.