

# Parrot in the Oven

by Victor Martinez

## Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

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### Contents & Printing Notes

Unlike our most popular resources, this one's auto-selected.  
Review before use, or edit the DOCX from the Resources menu.

#### PRE-READING ACTIVITY

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#### OPTIONAL POST-READING QUIZ

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

Pages are ordered for double-sided printing.

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#### 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:** agitate, coax, commotion, confide, delirium, establish, exasperated, feud, foreman, immigrate, indignant, initiate, listless, mock, monopoly, nonchalant, ornery, prescribe, sloth, sullen



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# ANSWER KEY

## Vocabulary Preview

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

# Vocabulary Preview

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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_\_

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

1. She gets **agitated** whenever the topic comes up.
  - A. calm and thoughtful
  - B. gloomy (sad)
  - C. emotionally disturbed
2. Let's see if we can **coax** her into coming with us.
  - A. trick
  - B. gently persuade
  - C. drag forcefully
3. Her entrance created quite a **commotion**.
  - A. disturbance
  - B. outburst of laughter
  - C. accident
4. She **confided** in her parents.
  - A. trusted
  - B. didn't trust
  - C. was proud
5. She spun in circles, **delirious** with joy.
  - A. in a state of dizziness or extreme fatigue
  - B. creating a state of embarrassment for those around her
  - C. in a state of having been taken over by excitement or emotion
6. Which word choice would help to **establish** a serious tone.
  - A. avoid
  - B. create
  - C. increase
7. My little brother can be **exasperating**. He's always testing his boundaries.
  - A. very active
  - B. endearing (lovable)
  - C. greatly annoying
8. It's time to stop this **feud**.
  - A. oppression of others
  - B. continuous complaining
  - C. long-standing fight
9. If you want to leave early, you have to ask the **foreman**.
  - A. supervisor
  - B. owner
  - C. customer
10. At that time, most of the people who **immigrated** to the United States came from Latin America and Asia.
  - A. relocated
  - B. exported goods
  - C. visited
11. She was **indignant**, but she agreed to be searched when they accused her of shoplifting.
  - A. annoyed at something unjust
  - B. surprised at the unexpected
  - C. defensive about being suspected
12. My mother couldn't attend my Honor Society initiation ceremony.
  - A. graduation
  - B. joining
  - C. convention

13. She accepted her fate with listless resignation.
- A. unenergetic
  - B. frustrated
  - C. lonely
14. It is an exercise where the two divisions take part in a mock battle.
- A. low-casualty
  - B. not real
  - C. high-casualty
15. Critics warned that the tech giant's monopoly over online search could limit innovation and competition.
- A. minor stake
  - B. shared market
  - C. complete control
16. How could she be so nonchalant about making him suffer?
- A. dishonset
  - B. unconcerned
  - C. happy
17. He is too ornery to celebrate his birthday.
- A. bad-tempered
  - B. old
  - C. ill
18. Most doctors prescribe simple lifestyle changes before medication.
- A. ignore
  - B. delay
  - C. recommend
19. The sloth is hanging upside down in that tree.
- A. a type of animal with odd mating habits
  - B. a type of animal that imitates bird songs
  - C. a type of animal that moves very slowly
20. A sullen crowd watched the execution.
- A. excited
  - B. unhappy
  - C. celebrating

## Vocabulary in Context

### Parrot in the Oven

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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_\_ Score \_\_\_\_\_ / 20

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

- 1 The **foreman** ... refused at first to hire us, saying I was too young, that it was too late in the day—most field workers got up at the first wink of dawn.
  - A. a person who is in charge of other workers
  - B. someone who roughly calculates or guesses a value, quantity, or extent of something
  - C. someone responsible for making a judgment after thinking carefully about something
- 2 He poured himself some water and glared over at the **Immigration** officers as they packed in the people and roared off in a boiling cloud of dust.
  - A. the act of coming to live in a new country; or indication that something is related to that act
  - B. "spiritually renew" in a Christian ceremony OR initiate or purify by a challenging experience
  - C. a sexually transmitted disease that, if treated early, can be completely cured with antibiotics
- 3 Shaped like box hotels in a **Monopoly** set, the houses weren't pretty or stylish, but in spring the grass flowed to every porch like green water lapping against the hulls of houseboats, and that was beautiful.
  - A. in a manner that tries to obtain a result through gentle and careful effort -- often gently persuading
  - B. in the manner of someone who consumes more than they should -- especially eating and drinking too much
  - C. complete control over a product, service, or resource -- usually by a single person, company, or group
- 4 ...he added, "Besides, I have never done anything in my whole life that would make me beg." "Would you rather let the kids starve?" Mom asked, **indignant** and, as usual, making a ton of sense.
  - A. angered or annoyed at something that is wrong
  - B. surprised as something unexpected
  - C. accepted of something undesired as unavoidable
- 5 "I'll get a job," he said, **sullenly**, "don't worry about it, I'll get job."
  - A. in a manner that involves betrayal
  - B. showing a gloomy or bad mood
  - C. in a manner that calls or attracts
- 6 Then Little Tommy, looking **ornery** and offended, huffed over and planted his bony chest against mine.
  - A. easily annoyed and quick to complain and argue
  - B. a document granting permission to do something
  - C. the state or character of being bad or harmful
- 7 They'd been arguing all morning, and had **established** a polite buffer of silence between them.
  - A. persuaded someone to want something (often sex or love) by tempting with something desired
  - B. created
  - C. not having a relationship whereby a change in one thing helps predict a change in another
- 8 Mom asked about Dad, and Rico, tapping his finger on the counter, said he'd gone home. It was the way he said it, too **nonchalant**, too nervously offhand, too guilty, actually, that made Mom suspicious right away.
  - A. sensible and careful
  - B. trying to appear calm and unconcerned
  - C. sincerity (realness)
- 9 He moved like a ground **sloth**, and kept gulping water from the garden hose.
  - A. surgical interruption of nerve tracts to and from the frontal lobe of the brain
  - B. a right that is naturally due because of human nature and the natural condition
  - C. a type of mammal that seldom moves and is typically very slow when it does move
- 10 Linda always showed wrinkles of concern over Magda, but when alone she **confided** to me that Magda had to learn how things worked at the laundry.
  - A. placed trust (in someone) by talking about private things
  - B. viewed in a certain way so as to form a belief or opinion
  - C. made a decision or voiced an opinion by formal group vote
- 11 "Hey, now, check this out," I **coaxed**.
  - A. did not vote OR did not drink alcohol OR (more rarely) did not do something else
  - B. tried to obtain a result through gentle and careful effort -- often gently persuaded
  - C. thought of something as true or likely, even though it was not known with certainty

- 12 *The way her hair was soft around her ears made my stomach landslide with a strange, **delirious** emotion.*
- A. relating separately to the people or things just mentioned
  - B. in a manner of accepting something as true (without proof)
  - C. extremely happy and excited (perhaps uncontrollably so)
- 13 *There was also a **feud** going on between Lencho and Coach Rogers.*
- A. select (on a computer screen)
  - B. consume or destroy completely
  - C. a bitter, long-standing quarrel
- 14 *His wife had come over when she heard the **commotion**.*
- A. noisy disturbance
  - B. circular movement
  - C. size or dimension
- 15 *Nardo was busy sorting out **prescriptions** in a cardboard box.*
- A. classical musical forms in which a theme is introduced and then extended and developed through some number of successive imitations
  - B. diplomats appointed by their government to protect the government's commercial interests and help its citizens in a foreign country
  - C. medicines with a doctor's instructions
- 16 *"Okay . . . okay. I give up!" Dorothy said, gritting her teeth and dropping her arms, **exasperated**.*
- A. said indirectly
  - B. came or arrived
  - C. greatly annoyed
- 17 *Magda just stared at me like she didn't believe what I'd said. She went back inside, **listlessly** waving her hand in the air. "Just don't get burned, that's all I gotta say. Don't get burned."*
- A. with a lack of energy and normal enthusiasm
  - B. in a manner that stops or hinders something
  - C. in a manner involving only one part or side
- 18 *"You ever stole a car?" he asked, choking a little.  
"No, sorry," I said, regretting again my mousy admission.  
"Never?" Mondo asked, in **mock** surprise. He turned sideways and raised an eyebrow at the guys.*
- A. not real
  - B. pretend (not real)
  - C. allowing
- 19 *The **initiation** was to test a guy's courage.*
- A. submissiveness -- often an attitude of someone who is so submissive or eager to serve and please that they seem to lack self-respect
  - B. the process of accepting someone as a member of a group--perhaps including a period of instruction, a test, and/or a ceremony
  - C. a government policy in which significantly less money is spent than normal; or any notable absence of luxury, comfort, or decoration
- 20 *Eddie was so white, when he got **agitated**, little rosebuds bloomed on his face, then closed again like tiny fists.*
- A. concentrated, look at, or paid attention to
  - B. thought carefully and made a judgment about
  - C. emotionally upset (stirred up)

# ANSWER KEY

## Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	A	foreman	Used 9 times in this book.
2	A	immigrate	Used 5 times in this book.
3	C	monopoly	High-utility academic word
4	A	indignant	High-utility academic word
5	B	sullen ( <i>as in: a sullen mood</i> )	Used 2 times in this book.
6	A	ornery ( <i>as in: is ornery when she first wakes up</i> )	Used 2 times in this book.
7	B	establish ( <i>as in: establish a positive tone</i> )	High-utility academic word
8	B	nonchalant	High-utility academic word
9	C	sloth ( <i>as in: a sloth in the tree</i> )	Used about once per 10 books in our high school library
10	A	confide	High-utility academic word
11	B	coax ( <i>as in: coax her to join us</i> )	Used 2 times in this book.
12	C	delirium ( <i>as in: delirious with joy</i> )	Used about 2 times per 10 books in our high school library.
13	C	feud	Used 2 times in this book.
14	A	commotion	Used 3 times in this book.
15	C	prescribe	Used 2 times in this book.
16	C	exasperated	High-utility academic word
17	A	listless	Used about 3 times per 10 books in our high school library.
18	B	mock ( <i>as in: a mock trial</i> )	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
19	B	initiate ( <i>as in: initiate into the fraternity</i> )	High-utility academic word; used 4 times in this book.
20	C	agitate	High-utility academic word