

Self-Reliance

by Ralph Waldo Emerson

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 from the Resources menu.

PRE-READING ACTIVITY

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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: chaste, cleave, conform, contradict, cultivate, cumulative, discern, doctrine, eloquent, eminent, hinder, interloper, intuition, revere, scorn, spontaneous, stoic, venerable, yield (2)



More Vocabulary Printables

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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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

Vocabulary Preview

Self-Reliance

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

1. Jacob remained **chaste** until he met his future spouse.
 - A. a virgin
 - B. disillusioned
 - C. unfaithful to anyone
2. She was taught that she must **cleave** to God.
 - A. pray sincerely
 - B. hold firmly
 - C. give service
3. The Asche experiment showed the influence of the desire to **conform**.
 - A. fit in
 - B. have independence
 - C. be honorable
4. Does the sentence **contradict** what is said in the previous paragraph?
 - A. disagree with
 - B. reinforce
 - C. expand upon
5. Creativity can be **cultivated**.
 - A. useful
 - B. developed or grown
 - C. risky or dangerous
6. At my company, sick days are not **cumulative**. They say, "Thank you," but you lose days you do not use by the end of the year.
 - A. increased by additions over time
 - B. interchangeable with similar things
 - C. swappable for cash
7. In the novel, she sees through his friendly facade and **discerns** his evil intent.
 - A. understands
 - B. overcomes
 - C. avoids
8. She challenges accepted **doctrine**.
 - A. champions
 - B. authority
 - C. beliefs
9. She is the most **eloquent** speaker at the school.
 - A. well-spoken
 - B. experienced
 - C. popular
10. Despite her **eminent** status in the art world, she remained humble and approachable.
 - A. respected and well-known
 - B. newly acquired
 - C. barely noticed
11. The brace I have to wear is **hindering** my movements
 - A. helping or assisting
 - B. drawing attention to
 - C. making difficult

12. She felt like an interloper at the family reunion she crashed.
- A. an intruder
 - B. a close friend
 - C. an invited guest
13. Intuitively, I knew not to trust her.
- A. logically
 - B. instinctively
 - C. conclusively
14. She reveres nature and all that is natural.
- A. dislikes and avoids
 - B. deeply respects
 - C. thoroughly enjoys
15. That coach scorns students who don't have natural ability.
- A. disrespects
 - B. encourages
 - C. trains
16. The group broke into spontaneous laughter.
- A. quiet and polite
 - B. sudden and unplanned
 - C. loud and bothersome
17. She remained stoic during the crisis and did not show fear.
- A. asking many questions
 - B. acting without caution
 - C. not showing emotion
18. Many were surprised that a venerable institution like Bear Stearns could so rapidly go out of business.
- A. large and successful
 - B. long respected
 - C. popular
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 [147] I read the other day some verses written by an **eminent** painter which were original and not conventional
 - A. respected and famous or important
 - B. able to be stopped from happening
 - C. improper, awkward, or unfavorable
- 2 They teach us to abide by our **spontaneous** impression with good-humored inflexibility then most when[153] the whole cry of voices is on the other side.
 - A. fascinate so much that awareness of other surrounding things is partially lost and too much trust is granted
 - B. behaving in an instinctive, uninhibited manner OR happening naturally (without planning or external force)
 - C. related to a government official whose job is to represent their country in discussions with other countries
- 3 Infancy conforms to nobody: all **conform** to it, so that one babe commonly makes four or five[159] out of the adults who prattle and play to it.
 - A. to comply, fit in, or be similar to what is normal
 - B. leave a place, job or position previously occupied
 - C. someone (or something) taking the place of another
- 4 [165] He who would gather immortal palms must not be **hindered** by the name of goodness, but must explore if it be goodness
 - A. not interacting; or not interested
 - B. not provided with investment funds
 - C. slowed down or caused problems for
- 5 The **doctrine** of hatred must be preached as the counteraction of the doctrine of love when that pules and whines.
 - A. a substance that stimulates the production of antibodies to protect against a disease
 - B. an economic system where most decisions are made through voluntary buying and selling
 - C. a belief (or system of beliefs or principles) accepted as authoritative by some group
- 6 It is easy enough for a firm man who knows the world to brook the rage of the **cultivated** classes.
 - A. a non-doctor who assisted a women in childbirth
 - B. developed, grown, or prepared for growing crops
 - C. not found guilty or forced into a bad situation
- 7 Why drag about this corpse of your memory, lest you **contradict** somewhat[184] you have stated in this or that public place?
 - A. disagree
 - B. subtract
 - C. continue
- 8 In your metaphysics you have denied personality to the Deity; yet when the devout motions of the soul come, **yield** to them heart and life, though they should clothe God with shape and color.
 - A. select (on a computer screen)
 - B. give in, give way, or give up
 - C. an involuntary vomiting spasm
- 9 Our age **yields** no great and perfect persons.
 - A. produces or gives
 - B. complains or verbally attacks in a loud, excited way
 - C. formally gives up power, as of monarchs and emperors
- 10 If I can be firm enough to-day to do right, and **scorn** eyes,[196] I must have done so much right before as to defend me now.
 - A. disrespect or reject as not good enough
 - B. not answer questions; or block progress
 - C. move from more general to more specific

- 11 *The force of character is **cumulative**.*
- increased by a series of additions
 - degree to which things are related
 - not connected by blood or marriage
- 12 *Honor is **venerable** to us because it is no ephemeris.*
- relating to understanding or explaining something in a particular way
 - respected (worthy of respect) -- typically because of age or position
 - [of food] able to be prepared in a manner that keeps it from spoiling
- 13 *Christ is born, and millions of minds so grow and **cleave** to his genius, that he is confounded with virtue and the possible of man.*
- bounce back
 - hold firmly
 - begin again
- 14 *We denote this primary wisdom as **Intuition**, whilst all later teachings are tuitions.*
- the redirection energy from a negative (unacceptable) impulse or urge into a positive or acceptable action
 - the ability to know instinctively rather than through reasoning; or the thing that is known in such a way
 - someone with a potentially life-threatening psychological eating disorder that prevents eating enough food
- 15 *When we **discern** justice, when we discern truth, we do nothing of ourselves, but allow a passage to its beams.*
- notice or understand something
 - made by taking on as one's own
 - a sensible view of a situation
- 16 *Commerce, husbandry, hunting, whaling, war **eloquence**, personal weight, are somewhat, and engage my respect as examples of its presence and impure action.*
- powerful use of language
 - lowering moral standards
 - changing or not reliable
- 17 *How far off, how cool, how **chaste** the persons look, begirt each one with a precinct or sanctuary!*
- not having sexual intercourse (ever, outside of marriage, or for a long time); or not involving sexual desire
 - a citizen of Rome between the founding of the city (753 BC) and the fall of the Western Roman Empire (476 AD)
 - able to be portrayed or created in a particular way OR able to be interpreted, translated, or extracted from
- 18 *Let a Stoic[226] open the resources of man, and tell men they are not leaning willows, but can and must detach themselves; that with the exercise of self-trust, new powers shall appear; that a man is the word made flesh,[227] born to shed healing to the nations.[228] that he should be ashamed of our compassion, and that the moment he acts from himself, tossing the laws, the books, idolatries and customs out of the window, we pity him no more, but thank and **revere** him,—and that teacher shall restore the life of man to splendor, and make his name dear to all history.*
- eagerly join in
 - respect or admire
 - dislike and avoid
- 19 *The soul is no traveler; the wise man stays at home, and when his necessities, his duties, on any occasion call him from his house, or into foreign lands, he is at home still; and shall make men sensible by the expression of his countenance, that he goes the missionary of wisdom and virtue, and visits cities and men like a sovereign, and not like an **interloper** or a valet.*
- someone or something that, without invitation, inserts itself
 - someone who converts something so it is not what it should be
 - someone or something that makes someone want to do something
- 20 *For every **Stoic** was a Stoic; but in Christendom where is the Christian?*
- suitability; or the degree of having been adapted
 - appropriate or related in size, amount, or degree
 - seeming unaffected by pleasure, pain, or emotions

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	A	eminent	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this essay.
2	B	spontaneous	High-utility academic word; used 4 times in this essay.
3	A	conform	High-utility academic word; used 8 times in this essay.
4	C	hinder (<i>as in: hindered by</i>)	Used 2 times in this essay.
5	C	doctrine	Used 4 times in this essay.
6	B	cultivate	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this essay.
7	A	contradict	High-utility academic word; used 4 times in this essay.
8	B	yield (<i>as in: yield to pressure</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this essay.
9	A	yield (<i>as in: will yield valuable data</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this essay.
10	A	scorn	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this essay.
11	A	cumulative	Used 2 times in this essay.
12	B	venerable	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this essay.
13	B	cleave (<i>as in: cleave to</i>)	2 meanings in this essay.
14	B	intuition	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this essay.
15	A	discern	Used 3 times in this essay.
16	A	eloquent	Used 3 times in this essay.
17	A	chaste (<i>as in: remained chaste</i>)	Used 2 times in this essay.
18	B	revere	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this essay.
19	A	interloper	Used 2 times in this essay.
20	C	stoic	Used 3 times in this essay.