

Sole Survivor

by Dean Koontz

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: approximate, assets (2), clairvoyance, compassion, conviction, debris, imbue, lapse (2), luminous, manifest, molecule, nonetheless, perish, perpetual, redundant, revelation, sensuous, transcript



More Vocabulary Printables

verbalworkout.com

(all resources free)

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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

Vocabulary Preview

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

1. The circumference of the earth is **approximately** 24,900 miles at the equator.
 - A. exactly
 - B. commonly mistaken as
 - C. about
2. She's kind, beautiful and athletic, but her quick mind is her rarest **asset**.
 - A. characteristic
 - B. weakness
 - C. positive trait
3. The company is worth much more than its reported **net assets**.
 - A. stock market valuation
 - B. cash value of things owned
 - C. money in the bank
4. She claimed **clairvoyance** after saying she had seen the accident before it happened.
 - A. ordinary common sense
 - B. careful scientific proof
 - C. supposed psychic insight
5. It is not enough to be **compassionate**. We must act. It is not enough to act. We must act with intelligence.
 - A. lucky
 - B. sympathetic
 - C. talented
6. She stood up in class with total **conviction** and said, "I believe animals deserve to be treated kindly, no matter what."
 - A. raised voice
 - B. firm belief
 - C. shaky voice
7. Crews spent hours clearing **debris** from the highway after the crash.
 - A. intact structures
 - B. valuable items
 - C. scattered wreckage
8. She was **imbued** from infancy with a sense that life should be fair.
 - A. filled
 - B. discouraged
 - C. misled
9. Her job is to assure there is no **lapse** of the high standards at their hotels.
 - A. copying
 - B. change
 - C. period of time
10. She allowed her life insurance to **lapse**.
 - A. automatically increase
 - B. automatically renew
 - C. end or terminate
11. The snow was **luminous** from the moonlight.
 - A. soft and silent
 - B. wet and slushy
 - C. bright and glowing

12. The guns were not on the ship's manifest.
- A. upper deck (without a ceiling)
 - B. official document listing contents being transported
 - C. decks above the water line
13. A water molecule is made of two hydrogen atoms and one oxygen atom.
- A. tiny chemical unit
 - B. large living cell
 - C. kind of heavy metal
14. The class was hard. It was nonetheless my favorite.
- A. despite that
 - B. because of that
 - C. for that reason
15. We can work together or perish separately.
- A. work
 - B. die
 - C. fail
16. He has a perpetual fear of forgetting important deadlines.
- A. joyful
 - B. constant
 - C. secret
17. After the merger, they concluded the office was redundant.
- A. more than is needed or desired
 - B. less than what is required
 - C. exactly fitting requirements
18. I was leaning toward voting for her, but her stance on education policy was a revelation to me.
- A. something surprising and previously unknown
 - B. something that made a decision easy
 - C. something that reversed a previous decision
19. I made the bed with sensuous silk sheets.
- A. smooth to the touch
 - B. pleasing to touch
 - C. cool to the touch
20. I listened to the podcast and then read the transcript to better understand some of the points.
- A. word-for-word written record
 - B. summary of the main points
 - C. list of vocabulary used

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 *She was a kind and gentle woman, full of **compassion** for Joe even as she coped with her own loss.*
 - A. the taking on or adoption of power or responsibility
 - B. sympathy for another's suffering and wanting to help
 - C. the process of controlling (how something turns out)
- 2 *He didn't have the courage to end his life, because he had no **convictions** about what came after this world.*
 - A. not working or not operating
 - B. a strong, firmly held belief
 - C. calculates or judges too low
- 3 *Three hundred and thirty people, including passengers and crew, **perished** instantly.*
 - A. examined in detail to better understand
 - B. died, was destroyed, or ceased to exist
 - C. moved into position to work; or started
- 4 *When the remains of his wife and children had been conveyed to him, after the investigation of the crash and the meticulous cataloguing of both the organic and the inorganic **debris**, Joe was given only fragments of their bodies.*
 - A. the act of treating or preparing food in a way that keeps it from spoiling
 - B. passages food and drink follow between the back of mouths and the stomachs
 - C. pieces of something that has been destroyed; or trash that is lying around
- 5 *The sea was a **perpetually** laboring machine with no purpose but the continuation of its own existence, romanticized and cherished by countless poets but incapable of knowing human passion, pain, and promise.*
 - A. done in a manner that is of low quality or of lower quality than something else
 - B. continuing forever without change; or occurring so frequently it seems constant
 - C. in a manner that relates to electricity generated by light or affected by light
- 6 *It was green, stationary, and located **approximately** where the van itself was parked.*
 - A. relating to the outside
 - B. cheerfully and friendly
 - C. about (but not exactly)
- 7 *I'll be back when it's time, she promised, as though she had **revelations** to make, truths to reveal.*
 - A. something that was previously unknown (and typically surprising); or making such a thing known
 - B. compounds consisting of large molecules made up of linked series of repeated smaller molecules
 - C. members of the Religious Society of Friends (the Friends have never called themselves Quakers)
- 8 *According to the **manifest**, Rose Tucker was forty-three years old, and her home was in Manassas, Virginia.*
 - A. the process of controlling (how something turns out)
 - B. document listing passengers being transported
 - C. the taking on or adoption of power or responsibility
- 9 *Ignoring him **nonetheless**, Joe drove toward the exit.*
 - A. in spite of that (used to connect contrasting ideas)
 - B. in keeping with or in agreement with what was just stated
 - C. therefore (for that reason)
- 10 *Joe slid a finger down the smooth silver-plated frame and across the glass, as if he were **clairvoyant** and able to read the meaning of the photograph by absorbing a lingering psychic energy from it.*
 - A. nervousness or discomfort felt by someone due to concern about what others will think of them
 - B. able to be persuaded to want something (often sex or love) by tempting with something desired
 - C. to perceive things beyond the natural range of the senses -- especially foreseeing the future
- 11 *He checked the **luminous** dial of his watch.*
 - A. able to be persuaded to do something by tempting with pleasure or something desired
 - B. relating to one-sided information that is purposefully spread to influence opinions
 - C. glowing or shining

(also used metaphorically to describe beauty or intelligence)

- 12 *The gunman, about forty, had large sad eyes, hound-dog eyes, a nose bashed red by the slow blows of two decades of drink, and a **sensuous** mouth.*
- A. the state or degree of having found a condition or substance to be present
 - B. relating to pleasure from the body's senses rather than from the intellect
 - C. most extreme as in final, best, worst, most important, or most fundamental
- 13 *I always have a cassette recorder with me, because I like to tape all meetings myself and have my own transcripts prepared.*
- A. word-for-word written record
- or:
- a copy of the official record of a student's courses and grades
- or:
- biology: a strand of RNA copied from a DNA template
- B. powered mechanical devices, typically used to fabricate metal components of machines by the selective removal of metal such as cutting, grinding or drilling
 - C. people who believe in the teaching of Buddha -- that aims to end suffering by ending selfish desire and following a path of wisdom, ethics, and meditation
- 14 *Frank had lost the left one when his car was broadsided by a pickup truck driven by a nineteen-year-old drunk with **lapsed** insurance.*
- A. excessively excited
 - B. nervous or confused
 - C. no longer in effect
- 15 *Lately, KSB-22-09 is experiencing memory **lapses** and spells of paranoia, which are thought to be related to the long-term use of the sedative that he receives before bed each night.*
- A. commends or praises publicly
 - B. temporary failures
 - C. make up (something not true)
- 16 *The drunk driver had no **assets**, and they received no compensation from any insurance company for the loss of the limb.*
- A. things that hold other things together, or wrap or cover or tie something
 - B. things of financial value
 - C. atoms with an electrical charge caused by the loss or gain of an electron
- 17 *If you can bear to watch, the containment vessel is opened twice each week to allow the handlers to clean their **asset**.*
- A. something quoted (to make a point)
 - B. particles emitted by nuclear decay
 - C. thing of value
- 18 *The **imbued** photograph is usually enough.*
- A. filled
 - B. traded
 - C. copied
- 19 *Now we understand more about **molecular** structure—and particle physicists create matter ex nihilo all the time.*
- A. relating to the smallest amount of a chemical substance that can exist by itself
 - B. of a guitar or other musical instrument: not using electricity to amplify sound
 - C. the state of being playful, amusing, or impulsive rather than seriously rational
- 20 *If any of these IV drips or other lifelines works loose or otherwise fails, an insistent alarm immediately alerts the handlers, and in spite of the existence of **redundant** systems, repairs are undertaken without delay.*
- A. more than is needed -- often something that is unnecessarily repeated
- or in technical usage: describing a secondary component designed to work if the primary component fails
- B. the degree to which a performance of or to someone else's work lends itself to the expression of personal artistic ideas or feelings by the performer
 - C. the quality or degree of being straightforward or clear (sometimes indicating that truth is not worded carefully to spare feelings or gain advantage)

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	B	compassion	Used 18 times in this book.
2	B	conviction (<i>as in: spoke with conviction</i>)	Used 8 times in this book.
3	B	perish	High-utility academic word; used 9 times in this book.
4	C	debris	Used 9 times in this book.
5	B	perpetual	High-utility academic word; used 6 times in this book.
6	C	approximate	High-utility academic word; used 7 times in this book.
7	A	revelation	Used 16 times in this book.
8	B	manifest (<i>as in: ship's manifest</i>)	Used 8 times in this book.
9	A	nonetheless	Used 10 times in this book.
10	C	clairvoyance	Used 3 times in this book.
11	C	luminous	Used 9 times in this book.
12	B	sensuous	Used 4 times in this book.
13	A	transcript	Used 16 times in this book.
14	C	lapse (<i>as in: allowed the policy to lapse</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
15	B	lapse (<i>as in: a lapse in judgement</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
16	B	assets (<i>as in: the company's assets & liabilities</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
17	C	assets (<i>as in: it's one of her best assets</i>)	Used 5 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
18	A	imbue	Used 4 times in this book.
19	A	molecule	Used 9 times in this book.
20	A	redundant	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
