

Tear Down This Wall Speech

by Ronald Reagan

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: abundant, afflict, alliance, aspiration, crucial, democracy, deploy, deter, deterrent, doctrine, fortitude, initiative, innovate, lament, nucleus, obsolete, secular, suppress, thwart, unprecedented



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	B
6	A
7	A
8	A
9	B
10	C
11	B
12	B
13	B
14	C
15	C
16	A
17	A
18	A
19	B
20	B

Vocabulary Preview
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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

1. The region has **abundant** natural resources, from oil to fresh water.
 - A. extremely scarce
 - B. highly disputed
 - C. widely available
2. She has been **afflicted** with migraines since childhood.
 - A. worried about
 - B. surprised by
 - C. made to suffer
3. She understands the shifting **alliances** in the Middle East.
 - A. associations formed to support common interests
 - B. sets of competing interests amongst neighbors
 - C. borders between countries
4. Her **aspiration** to travel the world was finally realized when she received a job offer from an international company.
 - A. reason
 - B. payment
 - C. desire
5. The information is **crucial** to making a good decision.
 - A. helpful
 - B. very important
 - C. more than is needed
6. Canada has a parliamentary **democracy**.
 - A. government by the people
 - B. government by one ruler
 - C. government by the wealthy
7. The city **deployed** snowplows before the storm reached downtown.
 - A. sent out
 - B. held back
 - C. sold off
8. Warning signs help **deter** people from trespassing.
 - A. discourage
 - B. encourage
 - C. celebrate
9. The steep fine served as a **deterrent** to careless parking.
 - A. something that rewards
 - B. something that discourages
 - C. something that explains
10. She challenges accepted **doctrine**.
 - A. champions
 - B. authority
 - C. beliefs
11. She showed **fortitude** by staying calm and determined during the long recovery.
 - A. physical speed
 - B. mental courage
 - C. sudden anger

12. She showed great initiative by organizing the project without being asked.
- A. reluctant obedience
 - B. self-starting drive
 - C. lengthy hesitation
13. Companies must innovate quickly to stay ahead of their competitors.
- A. follow old rules
 - B. create new methods
 - C. imitate rivals
14. We lamented our sad circumstances.
- A. made worse
 - B. improved
 - C. expressed grief about
15. The small reading group became the nucleus of a schoolwide book club.
- A. ending
 - B. critics
 - C. center
16. That old phone is obsolete.
- A. outdated
 - B. classic
 - C. broken
17. Sweden's population is more secular than populations of most countries.
- A. non-religious
 - B. similar
 - C. blonde
18. Stalin suppressed criticism in the press.
- A. kept from spreading
 - B. caused to spread
 - C. expressed publicly
19. The environmental activists thwarted the construction of the new oil pipeline by protesting and filing lawsuits.
- A. surprised
 - B. prevented
 - C. responded
20. The targeting of civilians is unprecedented in the conflict.
- A. a recurring problem
 - B. not having happened before
 - C. highly regrettable

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 Yet I do not come here to **lament**.
 - A. gradually add or remove
 - B. make or cause to become
 - C. express grief or regret
- 2 Speaking precisely 40 years ago this month, he said: "Our policy is directed not against any country or **doctrine**, but against hunger, poverty, desperation, and chaos."
 - 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
- 3 Where there was want, today there's **abundance**—food, clothing, automobiles—the wonderful goods of the Ku'damm.
 - A. sharpness or intenseness
 - B. conflict or disagreement
 - C. large amount or quantity
- 4 But in the West today, we see a free world that has achieved a level of prosperity and well-being **unprecedented** in all human history.
 - A. relating to understanding or explaining something in a particular way
 - B. not having happened before; or nothing similar having happened before
 - C. [of food] able to be prepared in a manner that keeps it from spoiling
- 5 I understand the fear of war and the pain of division that **afflict** this continent— and I pledge to you my country's efforts to help overcome these burdens.
 - A. think carefully
 - B. strongly desire
 - C. cause suffering
- 6 Beginning 10 years ago, the Soviets challenged the Western alliance with a grave new threat, hundreds of new and more deadly SS-20 **nuclear** missiles, capable of striking every capital in Europe.
 - A. the quality of inappropriateness in size, amount, or degree
 - B. the condition of being exclusive to (someone or some group)
 - C. relating to the central or most important part of something
- 7 The Western alliance responded by committing itself to a counter-**deployment** unless the Soviets agreed to negotiate a better solution; namely, the elimination of such weapons on both sides.
 - A. placing or activating
 - B. a nerve or brain cell
 - C. long eventful journey
- 8 But through it all, the **alliance** held firm.
 - A. association formed to support common interests
 - B. set of competing interests amongst neighbors
 - C. sense of isolation due to competing interests
- 9 While we pursue these arms reductions, I pledge to you that we will maintain the capacity to **deter** Soviet aggression at any level at which it might occur.
 - A. try to prevent; or prevent
 - B. draw pictures to accompany
 - C. hire again or occupy again

- 10 *And in cooperation with many of our allies, the United States is pursuing the Strategic Defense Initiative—research to base deterrence not on the threat of offensive retaliation, but on defenses that truly defend; on systems, in short, that will not target populations, but shield them.*
- A. the state of not being relevant (not related to the subject being considered, or not important enough to want to consider)
 - B. the ability and tendency to determine what should be done and to start doing it without instruction; or to start something
 - C. someone who is not civilized or not moral OR an offensive term for a person who does not believe in a preferred religion
- 11 *And in cooperation with many of our allies, the United States is pursuing the Strategic Defense Initiative—research to base **deterrence** not on the threat of offensive retaliation, but on defenses that truly defend; on systems, in short, that will not target populations, but shield them.*
- A. the degree to which something can be translated
 - B. something that discourages something not wanted
 - C. the state or quality of being able to challenge
- 12 *But we must remember a **crucial** fact: East and West do not mistrust each other because we are armed; we are armed because we mistrust each other.*
- A. natural
 - B. very important
 - C. more than is needed
- 13 *In the Philippines, in South and Central America, **democracy** has been given a rebirth.*
- A. a system of government in which citizens have power with equal votes
 - B. relating to logical examination of something to better understand it
 - C. lack of interest; or the process of stopping interaction or interest
- 14 *Yet in this age of redoubled economic growth, of information and **innovation**, the Soviet Union faces a choice: It must make fundamental changes, or it will become obsolete.*
- A. "spiritually renew" in a Christian ceremony OR initiate or purify by a challenging experience
 - B. the introduction of something that is new and different; or something that is new and different
 - C. a European country (sometimes called Holland) and that literally means "*lower countries*"
- 15 *Yet in this age of redoubled economic growth, of information and innovation, the Soviet Union faces a choice: It must make fundamental changes, or it will become **obsolete**.*
- A. no longer in general use because it was replaced by something better
 - B. surprise -- often so much so that one doesn't know what to say or do
 - C. an appropriate size, amount, or degree in relation to something else
- 16 *Certainly there's a great deal to be said for your **fortitude**, for your defiant courage.*
- A. unconstrained in some way -- such as untied or no longer obligated
 - B. strength of mind that enables one to endure adversity with courage
 - C. the highest degree awarded in universities in many fields of study
- 17 *Something instead, that has seen the difficulties of life in Berlin but chose to accept them, that continues to build this good and proud city in contrast to a surrounding totalitarian presence that refuses to release human energies or **aspirations**.*
- A. battles
 - B. results
 - C. desires
- 18 *The totalitarian world produces backwardness because it does such violence to the spirit, **thwarting** the human impulse to create, to enjoy, to worship.*
- A. changing the direction of a light wave (or other wave) by passing an opaque edge or narrow opening
 - B. to prevent someone from doing what they want to do; or (less commonly) to oppose someone's efforts
 - C. interfering (in another's affairs or business); or handling (something that shouldn't be handled)
- 19 *Years ago, before the East Germans began rebuilding their churches, they erected a **secular** structure: the television tower at Alexander Platz.*
- A. non-religious
 - B. not important
 - C. inappropriate
- 20 *There in Berlin, like the city itself, symbols of love, symbols of worship, cannot be **suppressed**.*
- A. kept or tried to keep under control
 - B. not learned, discovered, or decided
 - C. blended three or more musical notes

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	C	lament	High-utility academic word
2	C	doctrine	Used about 4 times per 10 books in our high school library.
3	C	abundant	High-utility academic word
4	B	unprecedented	High-utility academic word
5	C	afflict	Used about 7 times per 10 books in our high school library.
6	C	nucleus	Used 2 times in this speech.
7	A	deploy	Used 2 times in this speech.
8	A	alliance	Used 4 times in this speech.
9	A	deter	Used about 4 times per 10 books in our high school library.
10	B	initiative	Used about 4 times per 10 books in our high school library.
11	B	deterrent	Used about once per 10 books in our high school library
12	B	crucial	High-utility academic word
13	A	democracy	Used about 6 times per 10 books in our high school library.
14	B	innovate	High-utility academic word
15	A	obsolete	High-utility academic word
16	B	fortitude	Used about 2 times per 10 books in our high school library.
17	C	aspiration	Used about 2 times per 10 books in our high school library.
18	B	thwart (<i>as in: thwarted her plans</i>)	Used about 2 times per 10 books in our high school library.
19	A	secular (<i>as in: a secular organization</i>)	Used about once per 10 books in our high school library
20	A	suppress	Used about 13 times per 10 books in our high school library.