

The ABC Murders

by Agatha Christie

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: accord (2), adversary, anonymous, conjecture, contradict, cunning, direct (2), discrepancy, indefatigable, infer, inquiry, minute (2), motive, narrative, nevertheless, tentative (2)



More Vocabulary Printables

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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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

Vocabulary Preview

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

1. She dresses in **accordance** with the latest fashions.
 - A. opposition
 - B. keeping
 - C. ignorance
2. After the fight, he turned himself in of his own **accord**.
 - A. own fear
 - B. own safety
 - C. own mind
3. Their **adversaries** outsmarted them.
 - A. sub-groups
 - B. replacements
 - C. opponents
4. Everyone wonders who made the **anonymous** donation.
 - A. nameless
 - B. generous
 - C. surprising
5. It is important to distinguish between **conjecture** and fact.
 - A. fantasy
 - B. theory
 - C. popularity
6. Does the sentence **contradict** what is said in the previous paragraph?
 - A. disagree with
 - B. reinforce
 - C. expand upon
7. The worst mix -- greedy, cunning, and without morals.
 - A. stupid and impatient
 - B. clever and deceitful
 - C. strong and cruel
8. She is easy to work with. She is **direct** in her communications and expectations.
 - A. straightforward
 - B. considerate
 - C. humble
9. The judge **directed** the jury to ignore the question.
 - A. asked
 - B. ordered
 - C. understood
10. There was a clear **discrepancy** in the two witnesses' stories.
 - A. a strong match
 - B. an inconsistency
 - C. a happy ending
11. She is an **indefatigable** performer, working six days a week.
 - A. busy
 - B. tireless
 - C. successful
12. The meaning of the word can be **inferred** based on context clues.
 - A. different
 - B. figured out
 - C. converted

13. The official inquiry has ended, but the press continues to ask questions.
- A. story
 - B. statement
 - C. investigation
14. Even a **minute** amount of lead can be harmful to children.
- A. large
 - B. 60 seconds
 - C. tiny
15. She thrives at sifting through that kind of **minute** detail.
- A. quickly eliminated
 - B. available from prior research
 - C. including even small considerations
16. A desire for religious freedom was their **motive** for leaving England.
- A. excuse
 - B. technique
 - C. reason
17. It's an interesting **narrative** about her first year in college.
- A. story
 - B. joke
 - C. theatrical play
18. She loves him. **Nevertheless**, she is determined to stop seeing him unless he stops drinking.
- A. also
 - B. despite that
 - C. in addition
19. She took a **tentative** step to see if her injured ankle would support her weight.
- A. careful
 - B. brave
 - C. confident
20. I have a **tentative** plan, but don't want to make any promises until I discuss it with some friends.
- A. action without forethought; or such a tendency
 - B. intended to deceive -- usually for financial gain
 - C. subject to change (likely or possibly going to change)

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 this **narrative** of mine I have departed from my usual practice of reporting only those incidents and scenes at which I myself was present.
A. story
B. snake
C. skill
- 2 Did she ever get **anonymous** letters?
A. written by an unknown person
B. exceedingly funny (resulting in uncontrollable laughter); or exhibiting excessive, uncontrollable emotion
C. when what happens is very different than what might be expected; or when things seem incongruous together
- 3 You yourself are English and yet you do not seem to appreciate the quality of the English reaction to a **direct question**.
A. straightforward (specific and clear)
B. the state or degree of being very large
C. meticulousness (care for small details)
- 4 Or is his animosity **impersonal-directed** against a foreigner?
A. helped make clear
B. aimed or focused
C. thought carefully
- 5 But by making a statement (and a somewhat out-of-the-way and preposterous one) and by your **contradiction** of it, tongues are immediately loosened.
A. something (typically a statement) that disagrees with itself; or (more rarely) the act of disagreeing
B. something made of the brownish metal with the same name -- such as a sculpture or a third place medal
C. nerve cells running from the base of the skull to the lower back and enclosed by vertebrae in adults
- 6 You, I understand, went to the police of your **own accord**?
A. the achievement of 3 positive feats in a sport
B. tropical viral disease transmitted by a mosquito
C. own mind (voluntarily)
- 7 As soon as I heard of the shocking occurrence I perceived that my statement might be helpful and came forward **accordingly**.
A. in spite of that (used to connect contrasting ideas)
B. in keeping with (the perception)
C. despite that (used to connect contrasting ideas.)
- 8 "That's all **pure conjecture**," I objected.
A. suggest (say indirectly) OR something suggested indirectly; or something that can be concluded; or a result
B. opinion based on inconclusive evidence
C. cause to happen at the same time or in a coordinated sequence; or to set clocks/watches to show the same time
- 9 Nevertheless I felt convinced that something ought to be done and that we should not allow the grass to grow under our feet.
A. in keeping with or in agreement with what was just stated
B. despite that (used to connect contrasting ideas)
C. therefore (for that reason)
- 10 The police have all the means at their disposal for that kind of inquiry.
A. small quantity or indication
B. reason (for doing something)
C. questioning or investigating

- 11 *The Barnards Elizabeth Barnard's parents lived in a **minute** bungalow, one of fifty or so recently run up by a speculative builder on the confines of the town.*
A. awake
B. exact
C. small
- 12 *He then went to the hotel at which Cust had put up and extracted a **minute** description of that gentleman's departure.*
A. having the characteristics of a *monk* (often inclined toward self-denial)
B. the quality of holding something back or holding others down through oppression
C. detailed
- 13 *Poirot said slowly: "It seems to me that there is one very important clue-the discovery of the **motive**."*
A. small quantity or indication
B. the sacred writings of Islam
C. reason (for doing something)
- 14 *Here, if one could but hit on the ideaThis alphabetical business, it has **discrepancies**.*
A. people bound to serve another without pay -- such as a slaves or serfs
B. disagreement -- especially an unexpected difference between two things
C. subtle, but fatal weaknesses where otherwise there is obvious strength
- 15 *On the contrary, Scotland Yard and the local police of the various counties were **indefatigable** in following up the smallest clues.*
A. not demonstrative of
B. with tireless effort
C. sincerity (realness)
- 16 *the race-meeting undoubtedly complicated the plans we had made **tentatively** beforehand.*
A. without concern for what others might think of oneself
B. expressed in a manner that shows approval or agreement
C. with an expectation that there might be changes
- 17 *Again, **tentatively**, he felt his coat sleeve.*
A. in an unsure or hesitant manner
B. in a manner that is not sincere
C. in comparison to something else
- 18 *Stupid and **cunning**, ruthless and magnanimous-and that there must be some dominating factor that reconciles his two natures.*
A. related to the natural world (life, air, water, land...)
B. clever
C. relating to logical examination to improve understanding
- 19 *And then-then, when I have got the answer to a certain question, I will go and see A.B.C...We will be face to face at last-A. B.C, and Hercule Poirot-the **adversaries**.*
A. loyalties
B. made holy
C. opponents
- 20 *The slight **inferences** I permitted myself to make.*
A. acts of taking something on as one's own
B. things concluded or guessed by reasoning
C. animals between one and two years of age

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	A	narrative (<i>as in: Narrative of the Life of...</i>)	Used 10 times in this book.
2	A	anonymous (<i>as in: an anonymous author</i>)	Used 9 times in this book.
3	A	direct (<i>as in: gave a direct answer</i>)	High-utility academic word; 3 meanings in this book.
4	B	direct (<i>as in: direct a question; or direct a film</i>)	High-utility academic word; 3 meanings in this book.
5	A	contradict	High-utility academic word; used 4 times in this book.
6	C	accord (<i>as in: done of her own accord</i>)	Used 3 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
7	B	accord (<i>as in: according to, or in accord with</i>)	Used 4 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
8	B	conjecture	Used 3 times in this book.
9	B	nevertheless	High-utility academic word; used 7 times in this book.
10	C	inquiry	High-utility academic word; used 6 times in this book.
11	C	minute (<i>as in: minute size</i>)	3 meanings in this book.
12	C	minute (<i>as in: minute description</i>)	3 meanings in this book.
13	C	motive (<i>as in: What is her motive?</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 13 times in this book.
14	B	discrepancy	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
15	B	indefatigable	Used 3 times in this book.
16	C	tentative (<i>as in: a tentative plan</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
17	A	tentative (<i>as in: said it tentatively</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
18	B	cunning (<i>as in: a cunning thief</i>)	Used 7 times in this book.
19	C	adversary	High-utility academic word; used 5 times in this book.
20	B	infer	High-utility academic word