

The Age of Innocence

by Edith Wharton

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

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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: abysmal, allude, candid, conform, conspicuous, convention, countenance (2), discredit, eminent, enumerate, inarticulate, irony (2), opera, perplex, phase (2), prudent, tacit



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	A
6	C
7	A
8	B
9	C
10	A
11	C
12	C
13	B
14	B
15	A
16	C
17	B
18	C
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. Their customer satisfaction rating is **abysmal**.
 - A. very bad
 - B. complicated
 - C. fantastic
2. She didn't mention any names, but everyone knew she was **alluding** to the President.
 - A. being discouraging
 - B. indirectly referring
 - C. not talking
3. My **candid** opinion is that their team is much better than ours, but an upset isn't impossible.
 - A. honest
 - B. expert
 - C. tactful
4. The Asche experiment showed the influence of the desire to **conform**.
 - A. fit in
 - B. have independence
 - C. be honorable
5. She is the most **conspicuous** person on the President's cabinet, often appearing on television.
 - A. easy to notice
 - B. hard to trust
 - C. quick to argue
6. In most countries, the **convention** is to shake the head to indicate "no", but in Bulgaria that indicates "yes".
 - A. movement
 - B. agreement
 - C. normal behavior
7. Her **countenance** grew stern.
 - A. facial expression
 - B. a method of counting
 - C. voice
8. They **countenance** terrorism.
 - A. provide funds for
 - B. show favor for
 - C. discourage
9. Russian TV is famous for inventing stories to **discredit** those who disagree with Russian interests.
 - A. anger
 - B. convince
 - C. damage the reputation of
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. There is not enough time to **enumerate** all of her accomplishments.
 - A. study
 - B. follow
 - C. list
12. She seemed uninformed and inarticulate compared to her opponent in the debate.
 - A. biased
 - B. without empathy
 - C. poorly spoken

13. Ironically, her strongest supporters undermined her popularity through their extremism.
- A. when what happens is exactly what usually happens
 - B. when what happens is very different than what might be expected
 - C. when what happens is very fitting for the situation
14. Her voice was dripping with irony as she said, "You look beautiful."
- A. sincerity
 - B. sarcasm
 - C. kindness
15. We're going to the opera this evening.
- A. musical theater performance
 - B. outdoor sporting event
 - C. casual dinner gathering
16. I am perplexed by her sudden change of mind on this important issue.
- A. amused
 - B. annoyed
 - C. confused
17. We finished the first phase of the project.
- A. pretending to have moral standards while not living up to them
 - B. a stage during the development of something
 - C. someone responsible for a wrongdoing -- especially a criminal
18. When I was young, I went through a phase where I was deathly afraid of the dark.
- A. a short saying that expresses a general truth or principle
 - B. an organized body of related information on a computer
 - C. a period of time when someone exhibits unusual behavior
19. Courage is dangerous without prudence.
- A. good sense
 - B. good purpose
 - C. good support
20. We have a tacit agreement.
- A. reasonable
 - B. clear
 - C. implied

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 No expense had been spared on the setting, which was acknowledged to be very beautiful even by people who shared his acquaintance with the **Opera** houses of Paris and Vienna.
 - A. (built for) classical music plays in which most of the dialogue is sung
 - B. a person with or something related to an eating disorder in which overeating is followed by guilt and unhealthy attempts at correction -- especially self-induced vomiting
 - C. the act of forcing into an undesired activity or situation -- such as legally sentencing someone to punishment OR the act of finding guilty -- especially in court
- 2 And he contemplated her absorbed young face with a thrill of possessorship in which pride in his own masculine initiation was mingled with a tender reverence for her **abysmal** purity.
 - A. very bad
 - B. absolute
 - C. pleasing
- 3 it was against all the rules of their code that the mother and son should ever **allude** to what was uppermost in their thoughts
 - A. select (on a computer screen)
 - B. refer (even indirectly)
 - C. consume or destroy completely
- 4 But, as it was against all the rules of their code that the mother and son should ever allude to what was uppermost in their thoughts, he simply replied: "Oh, well, there's always a **phase** of family parties to be gone through when one gets engaged, and the sooner it's over the better."
 - A. a measure of north/south (relative to the equator) on the earth
 - B. stage (of the development of something)
 - C. an optical device that produces an intense narrow beam of light
- 5 But my poor child is going through a **phase** of exaltation, of abhorrence of the world.
 - A. the act or process of stopping something from happening
 - B. an organization comprised of firms in a single industry
 - C. a period of time when someone exhibits unusual behavior
- 6 "It sounds more **conspicuous**; and that can hardly be what she wishes," said Mrs. Archer distantly.
 - A. easily noticed -- typically attracting attention such as by being large, flashy, or unusual
 - B. the quality or degree of being in a crosswise direction (at a right angle to the long axis)
 - C. relating to an acute intestinal infection caused by ingestion of contaminated water or food
- 7 The young man felt a touch on his arm and saw Mrs. van der Luyden looking down on him from the pure **eminence** of black velvet and the family diamonds.
 - A. famous, respected, or important within a particular field or profession
 - B. the act of finding fault and telling others; or a description of faults
 - C. the process of thinking carefully and making a judgment about something
- 8 Archer was proud of the glances turned on her, and the simple joy of possessorship cleared away his underlying **perplexities**.
 - A. agreements to marry
 - B. outward appearances
 - C. things that confuse
- 9 On the sideboard, between fluted Sheraton knife-cases, stood a decanter of Haut Brion, and another of the old Lanning port (the gift of a client), which the wastrel Tom Lanning had sold off a year or two before his mysterious and **discreditable** death in San Francisco—an incident less publicly humiliating to the family than the sale of the cellar.
 - A. full of strong desire for something
 - B. in a manner that takes on or adopts
 - C. tending to damage the reputation of

- 10 *Better keep on the surface, in the **prudent** old New York way, than risk uncovering a wound he could not heal.*
- A. sensible and careful
 - B. not demonstrative of
 - C. sincerity (realness)
- 11 *She drew them away, and he turned to the door, found his coat and hat under the faint gas-light of the hall, and plunged out into the winter night bursting with the belated eloquence of the **inarticulate**.*
- A. tendency to be direct in a disagreeable, insensitive manner
 - B. the degree or quality of being exactly vertical or straight
 - C. unable to express oneself clearly; or not expressed clearly
- 12 *it shed an **ironic** light on the situation to know...*
- A. exceedingly funny (resulting in uncontrollable laughter); or exhibiting excessive, uncontrollable emotion
 - B. indicating that what happened is very different than what might have been expected
 - C. a mental disorder characterized by alternating episodes of major depression and abnormally elevated mood
- 13 *She pronounced the "we" with a faint emphasis that gave it an **ironic** sound.*
- A. nervousness or discomfort felt by someone due to concern about what others will think of them
 - B. saying one thing while meaning another
 - C. able to be persuaded to want something (often sex or love) by tempting with something desired
- 14 *But European society is not given to divorce: Countess Olenska thought she would be **conforming** to American ideas in asking for her freedom.*
- A. complying, fitting in, or being similar to what is normal
 - B. understanding or explaining something in a particular way
 - C. making something lighter -- such as an area of a painting
- 15 *That is just like the extraordinary things that foreigners invent about us. They think we dine at two o'clock and **countenance** divorce!*
- A. return to an undesirable previous condition
 - B. approve of
 - C. cancel or annul a formal ruling or contract
- 16 *After that there was still time to review, one by one, the familiar **countenances** in the first rows;*
- A. faces
 - B. instances of dramatic change
 - C. changes; or changed versions
- 17 *Mrs. Welland agreed, as if allowing for an inherited oddity; and after that the question of Newland's unemployment was **tacitly** dropped.*
- A. exactly or accurately
 - B. completely or totally
 - C. in an indirect manner
- 18 *...she had managed to brush away the **conventions** and make him feel that to seek to be alone was the natural thing for two old friends who had so much to say to each other....*
- A. things accepted as true (without proof)
 - B. things that help clarify or demonstrate
 - C. things regarded as normal
- 19 *Archer had been wont to smile at these annual vaticinations of his mother's; but this year even he was obliged to acknowledge, as he listened to an **enumeration** of the changes, that the "trend" was visible.*
- A. someone who expresses disapproval
 - B. the act of recognizing difference
 - C. to name or list things one-by-one
- 20 *May met the question with her unshaken **candour**.*
- A. honesty and directness
 - B. lacks adequate funding
 - C. lowers moral standards

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	A	opera	Used 43 times in this book.
2	A	abysmal (<i>as in: an abysmal lecture</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
3	B	allude	High-utility academic word; used 20 times in this book.
4	B	phase (<i>as in: a critical phase</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
5	C	phase (<i>as in: she's going through a phase</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
6	A	conspicuous	High-utility academic word; used 10 times in this book.
7	A	eminent	High-utility academic word; used 6 times in this book.
8	C	perplex	Used 8 times in this book.
9	C	discredit	Used 6 times in this book.
10	A	prudent	High-utility academic word; used 8 times in this book.
11	C	inarticulate	Used 4 times in this book.
12	B	irony (<i>as in: situational irony</i>)	Used 8 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
13	B	irony (<i>as in: verbal irony</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
14	A	conform	High-utility academic word; used 8 times in this book.
15	B	countenance (<i>as in: giving countenance</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
16	A	countenance (<i>as in: a pleasant countenance</i>)	Used 12 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
17	C	tacit	Used 6 times in this book.
18	C	convention (<i>as in: conventional behavior</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 16 times in this book.
19	C	enumerate	Used 3 times in this book.
20	A	candid (<i>as in: your candid opinion</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 6 times in this book.