

The Bad Beginning

by Lemony Snicket

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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OPTIONAL POST-READING QUIZ

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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: accompany, accomplice, adopt, assortment, despise, dilemma, duration, elaborate (2), indignant, lament, nevertheless, notorious, on the other hand, pandemonium, perish, relinquish, therefore, treachery, unsavory



More Vocabulary Printables

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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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

- The exact numbers are shown in the **accompanying** table.
 - provided together
 - informative
 - previously published
- They were **accomplices** in the crime.
 - working together
 - victims together
 - observers together
- The company plans to **adopt** new safety guidelines next month.
 - ignore
 - publish
 - take on
- An **assortment** of students gathered after school—some studying, others just chatting.
 - small group
 - variety
 - large group
- She **despises** his lifestyle.
 - admires
 - wants
 - hates
- Maya faced a **dilemma**: tell the truth and hurt her friend, or stay silent.
 - hard choice
 - simple task
 - lucky break
- The **duration** of the flight from New York to London is about seven hours.
 - length of time
 - total cost
 - distance covered
- Their culture has **elaborate** wedding ceremonies.
 - generous
 - exciting
 - detailed
- He walked with an **elaborate** swagger.
 - exaggerated
 - slightly noticeable
 - rudely disrespectful
- She was **indignant**, but she agreed to be searched when they accused her of shoplifting.
 - annoyed at something unjust
 - surprised at the unexpected
 - defensive about being suspected
- We **lamented** our sad circumstances.
 - made worse
 - improved
 - expressed grief about
- She loves him. **Nevertheless**, she is determined to stop seeing him unless he stops drinking.
 - also
 - despite that
 - in addition

13. She is notorious for flagrant fouls and losing her temper.
- A. frightening and intimidating
 - B. widely admired
 - C. well known for something bad
14. I think she's pushy. On the other hand, my boyfriend describes her as assertive.
- A. also
 - B. from another point of view
 - C. for that reason
15. The party erupted into pandemonium as news spread of the victory.
- A. noisy disorder
 - B. song
 - C. news watching
16. We can work together or perish separately.
- A. work
 - B. die
 - C. fail
17. I am relinquishing my bedroom to our house guest
- A. giving up
 - B. showing
 - C. preventing entry to
18. We reduced locations where mosquito eggs can mature and therefore reduced the number of mosquitoes.
- A. in addition
 - B. in spite of that
 - C. for that reason
19. The general's treachery put the whole army in danger.
- A. bravery
 - B. betrayal
 - C. confusion
20. I hate to talk about such an unsavory scandal.
- A. unpleasant
 - B. secretive
 - C. well-known

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 "Your parents," Mr. Poe said, "have **perished** in a terrible fire."
 - A. examined in detail to better understand
 - B. died, was destroyed, or ceased to exist
 - C. moved into position to work; or started
- 2 **On the other hand**, they had never heard of Count Olaf and didn't know what he would be like.
 - A. in keeping with or in agreement with what was just stated
 - B. from another point of view; or in a way that is different (a phrase used to introduce a different perspective or idea)
 - C. therefore (for that reason)
- 3 They passed the Fickle Fountain, an **elaborately** carved monument that occasionally spat out water in which young children played.
 - A. in a good or beneficial manner
 - B. in a manner that does not stop
 - C. with much detail or complexity
- 4 Count Olaf had a great number of very long speeches, which he performed with **elaborate** gestures and facial expressions.
 - A. exaggerated
 - B. optimistic or agreeable
 - C. not sensible or careful
- 5 The bricks had been cleaned very well, and through the wide and open windows one could see an **assortment** of well-groomed plants.
 - A. any substance that tends to increase the flow of urine
 - B. a collection containing a variety of a sort of a thing
 - C. an electronic component that acts like a one-way valve
- 6 The theater troupe laughed, and a few of them applauded as if Count Olaf had done something very brave instead of something **despicable**.
 - A. not easily influenced or harmed OR not capable of being treated in a particular way
 - B. someone who consumes more than they should -- especially eating and drinking too much
 - C. terrible (vile; disgusting) -- worthy of being strongly disliked and looked down upon
- 7 "Perhaps if we explained our situation to her, she would agree to **adopt** us," Klaus said hopefully, but when Violet looked at him she saw that he knew it was of no use.
 - A. begin fighting again
 - B. recognize difference
 - C. take on as one's own
- 8 **Therefore**, to make you feel a little more at home here, I would like to have you participate in my next play.
 - A. despite that (used to connect contrasting ideas)
 - B. even though -- used to connect contrasting ideas
 - C. for that reason
- 9 Books about the law are **notorious** for being very long, very dull, and very difficult to read.
 - A. without boundaries or limits
 - B. not good at making decisions
 - C. well known for something bad
- 10 He wasn't sure the book would help them out of their **dilemma**.
 - A. a situation in which a difficult choice must be made between imperfect alternatives
 - B. connected by blood or marriage; or a plant or animal related by origin or grouping
 - C. relating to the south Asian Muslim republic that is the fifth most populous country
- 11 He wasn't merely an **unsavory** drunken brute, but an unsavory, clever drunken brute.
 - A. unpleasant or distasteful -- as from offensive morality or bad taste
 - B. secretive
 - C. well-known

- 12 Klaus sighed, and **relinquished**—a word which here means "gave to Count Olaf even though he didn't want to"—the book on nuptial law.
- A. gave up or let go
 - B. helped make clear
 - C. thought carefully
- 13 Her heart pounding, Violet stood stock-still, wondering if Count Olaf or one of his **accomplices** would come and investigate.
- A. people who assisted each other in a task
 - B. acts of taking something on as one's own
 - C. logical conclusions reached by reasoning
- 14 All in all, the Baudelaire orphans had encountered catastrophe after catastrophe, and Violet found their situation **lamentably** deplorable, a phrase which here means "it was not at all enjoyable."
- A. in a bad or harmful manner
 - B. not capable of being found
 - C. to express grief or regret
- 15 "I'm sure they will," said a voice suddenly, and the children turned to see Mr. Poe, dressed very formally and **accompanied** by his wife.
- A. joined
 - B. exercised privileges to which one is not entitled
 - C. having multiple areas of control or concentration
- 16 You and I will stand here for the **duration** of the act.
- A. the time during which something continues
 - B. a particular understanding or explanation
 - C. meticulousness (care about small details)
- 17 What was good news to Violet and her siblings, of course, was bad news to Count Olaf. **Nevertheless**, he gave everyone a grim smile.
- 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)
- 18 "But there is something illegal about dangling an infant out of a tower window," Justice Strauss said **indignantly**.
- A. with anger or annoyance at something unjust or wrong
 - B. with surprise as something unexpected
 - C. with acceptance of something undesired as unavoidable
- 19 Instantly, **pandemonium** ensued as everyone ran this way and that, shouting at one another.
- A. a state of noisy confusion and disorder
 - B. something that causes ongoing suffering
 - C. worry or concern about what will happen
- 20 Ahead of them were the darkened streets, where Count Olaf had escaped to plan more **treachery**.
- A. reporter
 - B. betrayal
 - C. disorder

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	B	perish	High-utility academic word; used 5 times in this book.
2	B	on the other hand	Used 2 times in this book.
3	C	elaborate (<i>as in: an elaborate design</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
4	A	elaborate (<i>as in: an elaborate wink</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
5	B	assortment	Used 3 times in this book.
6	C	despise	Used 2 times in this book.
7	C	adopt	High-utility academic word; used 6 times in this book.
8	C	therefore	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this book.
9	C	notorious	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
10	A	dilemma	High-utility academic word
11	A	unsavory	Used 2 times in this book.
12	A	relinquish	High-utility academic word
13	A	accomplice	Used 2 times in this book.
14	C	lament	High-utility academic word
15	A	accompany (<i>as in: the accompanying chart</i>)	High-utility academic word
16	A	duration	Used 2 times in this book.
17	B	nevertheless	High-utility academic word
18	A	indignant	High-utility academic word
19	A	pandemonium	Used 2 times in this book.
20	B	treachery	Used 2 times in this book.