

The Bet

by Anton Chekhov

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: a priori, audible, capricious, comprehend, conscientious, deception, deprive, despise, earnest, fleeting, hideous, illusory, immortal, indebted, obligation, posterity, principal, procure, theology, zeal



More Vocabulary Printables

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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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

Vocabulary Preview

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

1. Some philosophers argue that moral truths can be known **a priori**.
 - A. as self-evident or logically deduced
 - B. from empirical experiments
 - C. proven through experimentation
2. It was so quiet; our breathing was the only thing **audible** in the room.
 - A. making too much noise
 - B. that was comforting
 - C. capable of being heard
3. The court overturned the ruling--describing it as having been made in a **capricious** manner.
 - A. biased
 - B. impulsive
 - C. harmful
4. Washington fails to **comprehend** the change in China's strategy.
 - A. fully understand
 - B. regard respectfully
 - C. respond adequately to
5. I try to hire employees who are **conscientious**.
 - A. smart
 - B. attractive
 - C. careful
6. The con artist used clever **deception** to trick wealthy investors.
 - A. kindness
 - B. trickery
 - C. praise
7. The court ruling **deprived** him of custody of his children.
 - A. granted
 - B. stripped
 - C. delayed
8. She **despises** his lifestyle.
 - A. admires
 - B. wants
 - C. hates
9. She has a casual, go-with-the-flow personality and doesn't appreciate his **earnestness**.
 - A. frivolous attitude
 - B. seriousness
 - C. falseness
10. Youth is **fleeting**.
 - A. short-lived
 - B. reckless
 - C. troubled
11. He had a **hideous** scar running from his forehead to his jaw.
 - A. barely noticeable
 - B. extremely ugly
 - C. perfectly healed
12. The promise of quick success proved **illusory** once the hard work began.
 - A. false or misleading
 - B. reliable and true
 - C. exciting and rewarding

13. She believes we have an **immortal** soul.
- A. conflicted
 - B. perfect in every way
 - C. lasting forever
14. She felt **indebted** to her mentor for years of patient guidance.
- A. grateful
 - B. annoyed
 - C. jealous
15. I have a family **obligation** Saturday afternoon.
- A. emergency
 - B. duty
 - C. meeting
16. She recorded her family history for **posterity**, hoping her great-grandchildren would one day read it.
- A. personal amusement
 - B. future generations
 - C. academic records
17. The **principal** reason for the delay was bad weather.
- A. final
 - B. main
 - C. stated
18. She was able to **procure** tickets to the sold-out concert.
- A. obtain or get
 - B. lose or misplace
 - C. destroy or ruin
19. She studied **theology** for years before becoming a hospital chaplain.
- A. ancient warfare
 - B. modern poetry
 - C. religious studies
20. We need someone with both **zeal** and ability.
- A. enthusiasm
 - B. patience
 - C. honesty

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 *I have not tried either the death penalty or imprisonment for life, but if one may judge **a priori**, the death penalty is more moral and more humane than imprisonment for life.*
 - A. knowledge that is assumed to be true without proof -- often deduced or seen as self-evident, but independent of experience
 - B. commonly accepted belief that children need a secure relationship with an adult for normal social and emotional development
 - C. a group of universities and colleges in the northeastern United States that regularly compete against each other in sports
- 2 *"If you mean that **in earnest**," said the young man, "I'll take the bet, but I would stay not five but fifteen years."*
 - A. seven wise men of ancient Greece
 - B. serious; or in a serious manner
 - C. real (genuine, true, or sincere)
- 3 *On my part it was the **caprice** of a pampered man, and on his part simple greed for money....*
 - A. someone who expresses disapproval
 - B. impulsiveness or unpredictability
 - C. purpose, job, or natural activity
- 4 *The slightest attempt on his part to break the conditions, if only two minutes before the end, released the banker from the **obligation** to pay him two millions.*
 - A. battle
 - B. a duty
 - C. memory
- 5 *In the first year the books he sent for were **principally** of a light character; novels with a complicated love plot, sensational and fantastic stories, and so on.*
 - A. in a manner that is poisonous
 - B. primarily or most importantly
 - C. in an offensively bold manner
- 6 *In the fifth year music was **audible** again, and the prisoner asked for wine.*
 - A. not easily set on fire
 - B. surrounding conditions
 - C. capable of being heard
- 7 *In the second half of the sixth year the prisoner began **zealously** studying languages, philosophy, and history.*
 - A. with active interest and enthusiasm
 - B. in a manner that is excessively dry
 - C. with careful thinking or discussion
- 8 *In the course of four years some six hundred volumes were **procured** at his request.*
 - A. got by special effort
 - B. marked important text
 - C. recognized difference
- 9 *It seemed strange to the banker that a man who in four years had mastered six hundred learned volumes should waste nearly a year over one thin book easy of **comprehension**.*
 - A. the understanding of something
 - B. a change; or a changed version
 - C. a type of small portable radio
- 10 *Theology and histories of religion followed the Gospels.*
 - A. microorganisms (living creatures so small it takes a microscope to see them)
 - B. the smallest part of any material that cannot be broken up by chemical means
 - C. the study of religion; or a particular system or school of religious beliefs

- 11 He will take my last penny from me, he will marry, will enjoy life, will gamble on the Exchange; while I shall look at him with envy like a beggar, and hear from him every day the same sentence: "I am **indebted** to you for the happiness of my life, let me help you!"
- grateful
 - influenced by personal belief, feelings, or preferences (rather than being based purely upon fact)
 - the state or quality of expressing or displaying sexual activity or violence with detailed clarity
- 12 And I have only to take this half-dead man, throw him on the bed, stifle him a little with the pillow, and the most **conscientious** expert would find no sign of a violent death.
- not attractive or desirable
 - orbiting Earth once per day
 - careful to do what is right
- 13 And I **despise** your books, I despise wisdom and the blessings of this world.
- to be overly unhappy and unsociable
 - technical: center or concentration
 - dislike strongly and look down upon
- 14 It is all worthless, **fleeting**, illusory, and deceptive, like a mirage.
- lasting a short time
 - sensible and careful
 - not demonstrative of
- 15 It is all worthless, **fleeting**, **illusory**, and deceptive, like a mirage.
- something that seems real or possible but is actually false or misleading
 - finding fault and telling others; or tending to have unfavorable opinions
 - the state or degree of not finding a condition or substance to be present
- 16 It is all worthless, **fleeting**, **illusory**, and **deceptive**, like a mirage.
- very large
 - misleading
 - changeable
- 17 You may be proud, wise, and fine, but death will wipe you off the face of the earth as though you were no more than mice burrowing under the floor, and your **posterity**, your history, your immortal geniuses will burn or freeze together with the earthly globe.
- not thinking carefully
 - all future generations
 - lacks adequate funding
- 18 You may be proud, wise, and fine, but death will wipe you off the face of the earth as though you were no more than mice burrowing under the floor, and your posterity, your history, your **immortal** geniuses will burn or freeze together with the earthly globe.
- (adjective) of low quality, or of lower quality or rank than something else OR (more rarely as a noun) a person of lower rank or status
 - relating to existentialism -- a philosophical movement that assumes each person is free to determine what is essential in their existence
 - living or existing forever
- or:
- someone famous throughout history
- or:
- someone who will never die -- such as a mythological god
- 19 You have taken lies for truth, and **hideousness** for beauty.
- the characteristic of demonstrating something
 - extremely ugly, offensive, and/or frightening
 - the quality of not being sensible and careful
- 20 To **deprive** myself of the right to the money I shall go out from here five hours before the time fixed, and so break the compact....
- of the Netherlands or its people
 - to take away or keep from having
 - referring to any rocky mountains

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	A	a priori	
2	B	earnest	High-utility academic word
3	B	capricious	Used about 2 times per 10 books in our high school library.
4	B	obligation	Used about 9 times per 10 books in our high school library.
5	B	principal	Used about 20 times per 10 books in our high school library.
6	C	audible (<i>as in: barely audible</i>)	Used about 12 times per 10 books in our high school library.
7	A	zeal	Used about 3 times per 10 books in our high school library.
8	A	procure	Used about 3 times per 10 books in our high school library.
9	A	comprehend	High-utility academic word
10	C	theology	Used 2 times in this story.
11	A	indebted	Used about once per 10 books in our high school library
12	C	conscientious	Used about 2 times per 10 books in our high school library.
13	C	despise	Used 5 times in this story.
14	A	fleeting	Used about 7 times per 10 books in our high school library.
15	A	illusory	
16	B	deception	High-utility academic word
17	B	posterity	Used about 2 times per 10 books in our high school library.
18	C	immortal	Used about 9 times per 10 books in our high school library.
19	B	hideous	Used about 11 times per 10 books in our high school library.
20	B	deprive	Used about 7 times per 10 books in our high school library.