

The Broken Gun

by Louis L'Amour

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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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: accustom, acquire, authenticity, belligerent, contempt, feint, however (2), inclined, infinite, litigate, moreover, motive, nevertheless, refuge, respite, skeptical, subconscious, taunt, wary



More Vocabulary Printables

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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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#	KEY
1	A
2	A
3	B
4	A
5	B
6	A
7	A
8	C
9	C
10	C
11	B
12	B
13	C
14	B
15	A
16	A
17	A
18	C
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. Actors and politicians are **accustomed** to less privacy than the rest of us.
 - A. used to
 - B. happy with
 - C. paid for
2. They are working to **acquire** nuclear weapons.
 - A. obtain (get)
 - B. eliminate (get rid of)
 - C. disguise or hide
3. The museum tested the letter to prove its **authenticity**.
 - A. being expensive
 - B. being genuine
 - C. being colorful
4. She likes to make people lose their cool by starting **belligerent** political arguments.
 - A. hostile or combative
 - B. clever or intelligent
 - C. ridiculous or absurd
5. He was impolite. She pretended not to notice except that she treated him with **contempt**.
 - A. great annoyance
 - B. lack of respect
 - C. impatience
6. He **fainted** left and then charged from the right.
 - A. faked
 - B. attacked strongly
 - C. moved sideways
7. I hope to take the ACT just once. However, I will take it early, so there is time to study and take it again if my scores aren't high enough.
 - A. but
 - B. also
 - C. and
8. However safe we make it, there will always be risk.
 - A. on-the-other-hand
 - B. in addition
 - C. no matter how
9. I was **inclined** to laugh, but I overcame the urge.
 - A. disinclined
 - B. afraid
 - C. tending
10. The night sky seemed **infinite** as we gazed at countless stars.
 - A. blurry
 - B. silent
 - C. endless
11. I am trying to avoid **litigation**.
 - A. close friendship amongst a group of people
 - B. the process of a engaging in a lawsuit
 - C. feelings of respect and reverence

12. Many graduates have high college debt. Moreover, too many of them haven't found good-paying jobs.
- A. in contrast to that
 - B. in addition to that
 - C. as a result of that
13. A desire for religious freedom was their motive for leaving England.
- A. excuse
 - B. technique
 - C. reason
14. She loves him. Nevertheless, she is determined to stop seeing him unless he stops drinking.
- A. also
 - B. despite that
 - C. in addition
15. She took **refuge** from the sun under a beautiful oak tree.
- A. protection
 - B. shade
 - C. warmth
16. The weekend provided a much-needed **respite** from her busy school schedule.
- A. break
 - B. continuation
 - C. resumption
17. She is **skeptical** about the project.
- A. doubtful
 - B. keeping silent
 - C. excited
18. If revenge was a motive, it was **subconscious**.
- A. unnecessary
 - B. well-disguised
 - C. without awareness
19. They **taunted** her until she responded physically, and then they beat her up.
- A. followed
 - B. insulted
 - C. surrounded
20. She looked **wary** as she reached out to pet her friend's new dog.
- A. determined
 - B. distrustful
 - C. excited

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 *They were the things a hoaxer would not think of, and they were evidence of **authenticity** to me.*
 - A. not recognizable as different
 - B. quality of being real or true
 - C. not mirroring back (an image)
- 2 *He turned to look at me, his eyes faintly **taunting**.*
 - A. giving an opinion of what is wrong with something
 - B. intentionally angering, challenging, or upsetting
 - C. keeping people and goods from reaching a location
- 3 *Even when there were no comments on the scars, I could see the curiosity they created, and I had not grown **accustomed** to it.*
 - A. used to (adapted to something, so it seems normal)
 - B. the ability to be taken up or received into heaven
 - C. the state or character of being good or beneficial
- 4 *I know the **wariness** did not show, for I have frequently been called too trusting by people who knew me only slightly.*
 - A. not done on purpose
 - B. caution or distrust
 - C. not straightforward
- 5 *Or some **subconscious** perception of movement?*
 - A. the quality of being clear, easily noticed, and/or identifiable as different or separate
 - B. the quality of not being clear, easily noticed, or identifiable as different or separate
 - C. mental activity of which we are not aware, but which can influence feelings and behavior
- 6 *If the Wells family had never tried to sell any of their land perhaps there had never been a title search; and even if there had been, the methods of **acquiring** land in pioneer days had been irregular, to say the least.*
 - A. obtaining (coming into possession of)
 - B. strongly desiring; or a strong desire
 - C. changing to fit a different situation
- 7 *He looked **belligerent**, but scared too.*
 - A. hostile (the attitude of one eager to fight); or one already engaged in a fight or war
 - B. related to intelligence -- such as requiring, appealing to, or possessing intelligence
 - C. (adjective) designed to stop something OR (noun) something that stops something else
- 8 *Nevertheless, there had to be a catch somewhere.*
 - 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)
- 9 *The bronc I was riding had so far shown no real itch for trouble, but I was a **skeptic**, and I kept remembering that shying for even a small drop-off.*
 - A. doubtful (that something is true or worthwhile)

or more rarely:

generally tending to doubt what others believe

 - B. of the American Indian civilization of Yucatan and Belize and Guatemala that reached its peak between AD 300 and 900
 - C. a hole or dropoff so deep the bottom cannot be seen -- often used figuratively to imply a frightening bottomless pit
- 10 *Moreover, a little to my left and back of me there was a saddle about six or seven hundred feet higher than where I now lay.*
 - A. despite that (used to connect contrasting ideas)
 - B. in addition to what has just been said
 - C. even though -- used to connect contrasting ideas

- 11 *Slowly, with **infinite** care, my palms reached up along the wall...up, up higher.*
- A. power or responsibility that can be taken on or adopted
 - B. the characteristic of bouncing back light/heat/sound...
 - C. unlimited; without boundaries; or too numerous to count
- 12 *In the back of my mind, **however**, there was something else.*
- A. a word used to connect contrasting ideas as when using *though, in spite of that, in contrast, nevertheless*, etc.
 - B. in keeping with or in agreement with what was just stated
 - C. therefore (for that reason)
- 13 *Out in lonely country there are always such sounds—the rustle of some small animal moving, the trickle of sand, the sound of wind, **however** slight.*
- A. people who are good at or spend much time studying, thinking, and reasoning
 - B. aka analysis -- psychiatric treatment; or a theory of psychiatric treatment
 - C. regardless of how
- 14 *Cities and highways and people were not many miles away from us, no distance at all as such things are figured in these days, but between ourselves and whatever **refuge** they offered, those miles were all desert and mountains.*
- A. something giving protection or comfort -- especially a safe place
 - B. a ceiling designed to affect noise -- typically to decrease noise
 - C. a person (often a writer or artist) living an unconventional life
- 15 *We needed this **respite**, and despite the fact that we seemed to be in a trap here, there was a way out if John Toomey was right.*
- A. a temporary relief from harm or discomfort
 - B. continuation
 - C. resumption
- 16 *They were confident their plans would succeed, and had nothing but **contempt** for the law and for the law-abiding citizen.*
- A. frustration at being treated unfairly
 - B. disrespect
 - C. prejudice or unfair treatment
- 17 *After some **litigation** you would lose the ranch, but you would still be free.*
- A. job, reservation, booking, or activity
 - B. the process of a engaging in a lawsuit
 - C. thing that affects a result or outcome
- 18 *...good police officers have a sense of impending trouble, and a natural **inclination** to be not only suspicious, but skeptical.*
- A. wrong understanding
 - B. act of hiring again
 - C. tendency
- 19 *I would be an invited guest, they had no **motive** for wanting me out of the way that anyone could guess ...it would simply be an accident.*
- A. small quantity or indication
 - B. the sacred writings of Islam
 - C. reason (for doing something)
- 20 *He got up off the floor, his face a great blotch of blood, and I **feinted**.*
- A. any distracting or deceptive maneuver; or the act of making the maneuver
 - B. having points along the edge -- like a saw, some knives, and some leaves
 - C. broke the law by telling lies after formally promising to tell the truth

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	B	authenticity	Used about once per 10 books in our high school library
2	B	taunt	Used 4 times in this book.
3	A	accustom	Used 5 times in this book.
4	B	wary	High-utility academic word; used 6 times in this book.
5	C	subconscious	Used 2 times in this book.
6	A	acquire	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this book.
7	A	belligerent	Used 2 times in this book.
8	B	nevertheless	High-utility academic word
9	A	skeptical	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
10	B	moreover	High-utility academic word; used 4 times in this book.
11	C	infinite	Used 2 times in this book.
12	A	however (<i>as in: However, complications may...</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
13	C	however (<i>as in: However much she tried...</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
14	A	refuge	Used 2 times in this book.
15	A	respite	Used about 3 times per 10 books in our high school library.
16	B	contempt (<i>as in: feels contempt towards her</i>)	Used 5 times in this book.
17	B	litigate	Used about 2 times per 10 books in our high school library.
18	C	inclined (<i>as in: I'm inclined to</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
19	C	motive (<i>as in: What is her motive?</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this book.
20	A	feint	Used 2 times in this book.