

The Comedy of Errors

by William Shakespeare

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: abbey, acquaint, bestow, centaur, conjure, deceive, disparage, dissemble, divine, doting, forswear, hinder, ire, melancholy, mishap, peevish, revere, scarcity, scorn, spurn



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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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

Vocabulary Preview

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

1. After years of dedicated service to the church, she retired to a quiet **abbey** in the countryside.
 - A. a small, rural parish church
 - B. a large cathedral open to the public
 - C. a building where monks or nuns live
2. One of the objectives in my literature class is to **acquaint** my students with different cultures.
 - A. make surprised
 - B. make a list for
 - C. make familiar
3. Our organization **bestows** honors, awards, and sometimes cash prizes to promising writers.
 - A. shows
 - B. recommends
 - C. gives
4. In Greek mythology, Chiron is probably the most famous of the **centaurs**. He is known for his wisdom and knowledge of medicine.
 - A. demigod fighters in wars between gods
 - B. winged horses that can fly
 - C. mythical beings that are half man and half horse
5. The song **conjures** memories of good times.
 - A. brings to mind
 - B. is about
 - C. drives away
6. The fake article was written to attract attention and **deceive** readers.
 - A. entertain
 - B. attract
 - C. lie to or mislead
7. The victors write the history and **disparage** their enemies.
 - A. criticize
 - B. defeat
 - C. erase from history
8. She's doing what she can to change the subject and **dissemble**.
 - A. change reality
 - B. disguise the truth
 - C. re-think beliefs
9. The King claimed a **divine** right.
 - A. perfect or wonderful
 - B. from birth
 - C. coming from God
10. She **dotes** upon her children.
 - A. criticizes
 - B. worries
 - C. adores
11. She should **forswear** contributions from special interest groups.
 - A. make public
 - B. stop (taking)
 - C. take advantage of

12. The brace I have to wear is **hindering** my movements
- A. helping or assisting
 - B. drawing attention to
 - C. making difficult
13. She has a way of **arousing** his ire.
- A. curiosity
 - B. anger
 - C. guilt
14. This weather makes me **melancholy**. I can't wait for spring,
- A. happy
 - B. sad
 - C. feel like singing
15. Barbless hooks are much easier to remove from the fish (and the person fishing, in the event of a **mishap**).
- A. reversal of fortunes
 - B. violent argument
 - C. minor accident
16. After a frustrating day, she was **peevish** and snapped at everyone who spoke to her.
- A. very tired
 - B. easily annoyed
 - C. very demanding
17. She **reveres** nature and all that is natural.
- A. dislikes and avoids
 - B. deeply respects
 - C. thoroughly enjoys
18. Work is **scarce** in the region.
- A. easily found
 - B. extremely hard
 - C. in short supply
19. That coach **scorns** students who don't have natural ability.
- A. disrespects
 - B. encourages
 - C. trains
20. She **spurned** both major parties in the last election.
- A. joined
 - B. rejected
 - C. founded

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 —Thus have you heard me sever'd from my bliss; That by misfortunes was my life prolong'd, To tell sad stories of my own **mishaps**.
 - A. things that stand out
 - B. shows or demonstrates
 - C. unfortunate accidents
- 2 to our honour's great **disparagement**
 - A. the act of criticizing or making seem less important
 - B. the taking on or adoption of power or responsibility
 - C. the process of controlling (how something turns out)
- 3 Go bear it to the **Centaur**, where we host, And stay there, Dromio, till I come to thee.
 - A. the act, process, or instance of telling a story
 - B. a general feeling of not being as good as others
 - C. a mythical being that is half man and half horse
- 4 when I am dull with care and **melancholy**
 - A. relating to the outside
 - B. sad (perhaps depressed)
 - C. about (but not exactly)
- 5 They say this town is full of cozenage; As, nimble jugglers that **deceive** the eye, Dark-working sorcerers that change the mind, Soul-killing witches that deform the body, Disguised cheaters, prating mountebanks, And many such-like liberties of sin: If it prove so, I will be gone the sooner.
 - A. tell (a story)
 - B. bad or harmful
 - C. lie or mislead
- 6 Man, more **divine**, the masters of all these,
 - A. the quality of being sensible and careful
 - B. unable or difficult to meet and talk with
 - C. god-like
- 7 Beshrew his hand, I **scarce** could understand it.
 - A. the state of not being aware or concerned about something
 - B. a state similar to sleep where one is unaware of anything
 - C. in short supply OR barely or hardly (by a small margin)
- 8 Am I so round with you, as you with me, That like a football you do **spurn** me thus?
 - A. find, search, or research
 - B. reject as not good enough
 - C. being a boundary or limit
- 9 Because it is a blessing that he **bestows** on beasts:
 - A. draws
 - B. quits
 - C. gives as a gift
- 10 Either get thee from the door, or sit down at the hatch: Dost thou **conjure** for wenches, that thou call'st for such store, When one is one too many?
 - A. summon into action or bring into existence
 - B. read, listen, or watch with eager interest
 - C. provide better understanding or make clear
- 11 A very **reverent** body; ay, such a one as a man may not speak of without he say sir-reverence.
 - A. without purpose, job, or natural activity
 - B. feeling or showing respect and admiration
 - C. the quality of being sensible and careful

- 12 *Why, thou peevish sheep, What ship of Epidamnum stays for me?*
A. trustworthy with secrets or subtle (not attracting attention)
B. annoyed or easily annoyed -- especially by unimportant things
C. related to the setting or situation in which something occurs
- 13 *As if I were their well-acquainted friend;*
A. not having taken power or responsibility
B. compensated for a loss; or paid a reward
C. known well
- 14 *Why, sir, I brought you word an hour since that the bark Expedition put forth to-night; and then were you hindered by the sergeant, to tarry for the hoy, Delay: here are the angels that you sent for to deliver you.*
A. not interacting; or not interested
B. not provided with investment funds
C. slowed down or caused problems for
- 15 *Peace, doting wizard, peace; I am not mad.*
A. protecting something or keeping it as it is
B. compensating for a loss; or paying a reward
C. demonstrating love and uncritical affection
- 16 *Did not her kitchen-maid rail, taunt, and scorn me?*
A. disrespect or reject
B. not answer questions; or block progress
C. move from more general to more specific
- 17 *Dissembling villain, thou speak'st false in both.*
A. preparing food in a way that keeps it from spoiling
B. hiding or disguising the truth
C. supporting by providing money or other economic aid
- 18 *Who heard me to deny it or forswear it?*
A. a drug that calms or puts to sleep; or describing something as calming
B. renounce
C. the reason for doing something; or the level of desire to do something
- 19 *—Go, some of you, knock at the abbey-gate, And bid the lady abbess come to me: I will determine this before I stir.*
A. a small, rural parish church
B. a large cathedral open to the public
C. a building where monks or nuns live or lived; or a church associated with such a building
- 20 *My liege, I am advised what I say; Neither disturb'd with the effect of wine, Nor, heady-rash, provok'd with raging ire, Albeit my wrongs might make one wiser mad.*
A. allow
B. anger
C. quits

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	C	mishap	Used 2 times in this play.
2	A	disparage	High-utility academic word
3	C	centaur	Used 7 times in this play.
4	B	melancholy	Used 3 times in this play.
5	C	deceive	Used 2 times in this play.
6	C	divine (<i>as in: to forgive is divine</i>)	Used 3 times in this play.
7	C	scarcity	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this play.
8	B	spurn	Used 4 times in this play.
9	C	bestow	Used 4 times in this play.
10	A	conjure	Used 3 times in this play.
11	B	revere	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this play.
12	B	peevish	Used 2 times in this play.
13	C	acquaint	Used 3 times in this play.
14	C	hinder (<i>as in: hindered by</i>)	Used 4 times in this play.
15	C	doting	Used 4 times in this play.
16	A	scorn	High-utility academic word; used 5 times in this play.
17	B	dissemble	Used 2 times in this play.
18	B	forswear (<i>as in: forswear my country of birth</i>)	Used 6 times in this play.
19	C	abbey	Used 9 times in this play.
20	B	ire	Used 2 times in this play.