

The Fall of the House of Usher

by Edgar Allan Poe

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

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: acute (2), agitate, alleviate, convey, countenance, demeanor, endeavor, equivocal, inconsistent, insufferable, luminous, moreover, oppress, pallid, perceive (2), pervasive, unobtrusive, vivacious



More Vocabulary Printables

verbalworkout.com

(all resources free)

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

The Fall of the House of Usher

by Edgar Allan Poe

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

Vocabulary Preview

The Fall of the House of Usher

by Edgar Allan Poe

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

1. She had **acute** appendicitis.
 - A. minor
 - B. bad
 - C. gradual
2. Birds tend to have **acute** vision.
 - A. colorless
 - B. poor
 - C. excellent
3. She gets **agitated** whenever the topic comes up.
 - A. calm and thoughtful
 - B. gloomy (sad)
 - C. emotionally disturbed
4. She wants to save the planet and **alleviate** poverty at the same time.
 - A. understand
 - B. eliminate
 - C. lessen
5. Please **convey** my gratitude for her hospitality.
 - A. express
 - B. accept
 - C. understand
6. Her **countenance** grew stern.
 - A. facial expression
 - B. a method of counting
 - C. voice
7. Despite her nervousness, her professional **demeanor** never wavered.
 - A. words
 - B. manner
 - C. work
8. I will **endeavor** to finish by Friday.
 - A. not be able
 - B. promise
 - C. try
9. The politician's **equivocal** statement could be taken two completely different ways.
 - A. unclear in meaning
 - B. openly honest
 - C. firmly decided
10. His grades were **inconsistent**, ranging from A's to F's each term.
 - A. perfect
 - B. private
 - C. uneven
11. The **insufferable** heat and humidity made it difficult to breathe.
 - A. extremely unusual
 - B. extremely unpleasant
 - C. seasonal
12. The snow was **luminous** from the moonlight.
 - A. soft and silent
 - B. wet and slushy
 - C. bright and glowing

13. 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
14. She is **oppressed** by her insecurity.
- A. made uncomfortable (it weighs heavily on the spirit)
 - B. showed fear by positioning the body as though afraid of being hit
 - C. laughed at or made fun of--while showing a lack of respect
15. The patient's **pallid** complexion alarmed the nurse on duty.
- A. deeply flushed
 - B. unhealthily pale
 - C. heavily wrinkled
16. Researchers **perceive** a clear pattern in how the disease spreads through families.
- A. carefully measure
 - B. view or understand
 - C. actively prevent
17. It's one thing to **perceive** something with the senses and another to understand its importance.
- A. become aware of
 - B. physically touch
 - C. clearly see
18. It is a country where corruption **pervades** their government at every level.
- A. is stopped by
 - B. is spread in
 - C. is remembered by
19. She sat **unobtrusively** in the rear of the room.
- A. without drawing attention
 - B. while shouting loudly
 - C. while crying softly
20. She's a **vivacious** high school senior who has captured the nations heart.
- A. kind and attractive
 - B. engaging and lively
 - C. smart and well-spoken

Vocabulary in Context

The Fall of the House of Usher

by Edgar Allan Poe

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____ Score _____ / 20

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

- 1 I know not how it was—but, with the first glimpse of the building, a sense of **insufferable** gloom pervaded my spirit.
 - A. excessively enjoying
 - B. extremely unpleasant
 - C. dies or is destroyed
 - 2 I know not how it was—but, with the first glimpse of the building, a sense of **insufferable** gloom pervaded my spirit.
 - A. not concentrated
 - B. spread throughout or filled
 - C. stopped fighting
 - 3 The MS. gave evidence of **nervous agitation**.
 - A. officially telling someone about something; or something that contains the message
 - B. formula (a mathematical expression that describe a relationship between variables)
 - C. emotional unrest
 - 4 The writer spoke of **acute** bodily illness...
 - A. gradually getting worse
 - B. a severe illness with a rapid onset
 - C. only superficial
 - 5 Said I not that my senses were **acute**? I now tell you that I heard her first feeble movements in the hollow coffin.
 - A. lacking a tendency to be full of thought
 - B. without a tendency to be full of thought
 - C. highly perceptive
 - 6 a mental disorder which **oppressed** him
 - A. weighed heavily on the senses or spirit
 - B. joined with others in a public protest or display of support
 - C. intruded or encroached (inserted oneself without invitation)
 - 7 repeated deeds of munificent yet **unobtrusive** charity
 - A. fitting in so as not to attract much attention
 - B. the state of not being aware or concerned about something
 - C. a state similar to sleep where one is unaware of anything
 - 8 No portion of the masonry had fallen; and there appeared to be a wild **inconsistency** between its still perfect adaptation of parts, and the crumbling condition of the individual stones.
 - A. a collection of things on public display OR a detailed explanation or background of a specific topic
 - B. the process of assigning a value on or judging the worth of something; or the result of such a process
 - C. not the same in different parts or at different times
- or:
- not in agreement [with something else]
- 9 A glance, however, at his **countenance**, convinced me of his perfect sincerity.
 - A. facial expression
 - B. the best or most important
 - C. a secret agreement or plot
 - 10 His action was alternately **vivacious** and sullen.
 - A. the quality of feeling angry or unhappy about having to accept something not liked
 - B. having an engaging liveliness -- when said of a person, typically said of a female
 - C. an argument attributed to one's opponent that is weaker than their actual argument

- 11 I learned, **moreover**, at intervals, and through broken and equivocal hints, another singular feature of his mental condition.
- despite that (used to connect contrasting ideas)
 - in addition to what has just been said
 - even though -- used to connect contrasting ideas
- 12 I learned, **moreover**, at intervals, and through broken and **equivocal** hints, another singular feature of his mental condition.
- unclear in meaning
 - impossible to find
 - able to get nearer
- 13 For several days ensuing, her name was unmentioned by either Usher or myself: and during this period I was busied in earnest **endeavors** to alleviate the melancholy of my friend.
- learns, discovers, or decides
 - tells someone about something
 - attempts; or things attempted
- 14 ...and during this period I was busied in earnest endeavors to **alleviate** the melancholy of my friend.
- provide investment funds for something -- such as a business
 - ignore someone's wishes or cause inconvenience or discomfort
 - to lessen something that is bad
- 15 And thus, as a closer and still closer intimacy admitted me more unreservedly into the recesses of his spirit, the more bitterly did I **perceive** the futility of..
- not feeling or showing sympathy for another's suffering
 - view in a certain way so as to form a belief or opinion
 - suntanned; or reddish-brown or yellowish-brown in color
- 16 I could but partially **perceive** his features
- become aware of
 - think carefully
 - strongly desire
- 17 Certain accessory points of the design served well to **convey** the idea that this excavation lay at an exceeding depth below the surface of the earth.
- communicate or express
 - create dramatic change
 - mirror back (an image)
- 18 Banners yellow, glorious, golden, On its roof did float and flow; (This—all this—was in the olden Time long ago) And every gentle air that dallied, In that sweet day, Along the ramparts plumed and **pallid**, A winged odor went away.
- mental weakness caused by old age; or describing a medical condition as caused by old age
 - abnormally pale (lacking healthy skin color); or anything that lacks energy or liveliness
 - relating to a government, country, or ruling family of a country ruled by a king or queen
- 19 His countenance was, as usual, cadaverously wan—but, moreover, there was a species of mad hilarity in his eyes—an evidently restrained hysteria in his whole **demeanor**.
- lacking experience or sophistication
 - the manner in which a person behaves
 - a Muslim religious teacher or leader
- 20 But the under surfaces of the huge masses of agitated vapor, as well as all terrestrial objects immediately around us, were glowing in the unnatural light of a faintly **luminous** and distinctly visible gaseous exhalation which hung about and enshrouded the mansion.
- able to be persuaded to do something by tempting with pleasure or something desired
 - relating to one-sided information that is purposefully spread to influence opinions
 - glowing or shining

(also used metaphorically to describe beauty or intelligence)

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

The Fall of the House of Usher

by Edgar Allan Poe

#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	B	insufferable	Used 2 times in this book.
2	B	pervasive	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this book.
3	C	agitate	High-utility academic word; used 7 times in this book.
4	B	acute (<i>as in: acute pain</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
5	C	acute (<i>as in: acute sense of smell</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
6	A	oppress (<i>as in: oppressive heat</i>)	Used 4 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
7	A	unobtrusive	Used 2 times in this book.
8	C	inconsistent	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
9	A	countenance (<i>as in: a pleasant countenance</i>)	Used 8 times in this book.
10	B	vivacious	Used 3 times in this book.
11	B	moreover	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
12	A	equivocal	Used 2 times in this book.
13	C	endeavor	Used 4 times in this book.
14	C	alleviate	Used 2 times in this book.
15	B	perceive (<i>as in: perceive the system as unfair</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
16	A	perceive (<i>as in: though blind, can perceive light</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
17	A	convey (<i>as in: convey her thoughts</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 4 times in this book.
18	B	pallid	Used 2 times in this book.
19	B	demeanor	Used 3 times in this book.
20	C	luminous	Used 4 times in this book.