

The Future Is in Eggs

by Eugene Ionesco

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: anarchist, console, continuity, contrast, docile, engrossed, famished, indignant, initiative, instigate, materialistic, obstinate, pessimistic, qualms, refrain, spectacle, sullen, surmount, vary, yield



More Vocabulary Printables

verbalworkout.com

(all resources free)

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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

1. She didn't call herself an anarchist, but she refused to follow rules she saw as unfair.
A. someone with anxiety
B. someone against authority
C. someone who gives advice
2. "You'll be alright," she said in a consoling voice.
A. confident
B. energetic
C. comforting
3. There was a thread of continuity my in nightmares.
A. impossibility
B. consistency
C. danger
4. Contrast typical underlying beliefs of pro-life and pro-choice supporters.
A. study
B. compare
C. describe
5. The sleddogs are docile and trainable.
A. easily led and managed
B. very strong and fast
C. smart and competitive
6. She was so engrossed in a conversation that she didn't see me.
A. interested
B. bored
C. angry
7. She skipped lunch and felt famished by dinner time.
A. very full
B. very tired
C. very hungry
8. She was indignant, but she agreed to be searched when they accused her of shoplifting.
A. annoyed at something unjust
B. surprised at the unexpected
C. defensive about being suspected
9. She showed great initiative by organizing the project without being asked.
A. reluctant obedience
B. self-starting drive
C. lengthy hesitation
10. She does not think the current leadership will instigate significant social reform.
A. take actions that create
B. to annoy or make angry -- often over a long period of time
C. to interpret something as having a specific meaning
11. I wouldn't describe myself as materialistic, but I would like some financial security.
A. too concerned with wealth and possessions
B. too afraid of risk and uncertainty
C. unwilling to spend any money
12. He is obstinate as a mule and refuses to change his mind.
A. cheerful
B. stubborn
C. graceful

13. Her outlook on the future was quite pessimistic, as she worried about the economy and the environment.
- A. expecting that things will turn out well
 - B. expecting that things will turn out badly
 - C. having no expectation of how things will turn out
14. Despite qualms about discussing her friends, she agreed to cooperate with the investigation.
- A. a desire for revenge
 - B. feelings of uneasiness
 - C. detailed plans
15. In the poem, the final line acts as a refrain, appearing after each stanza.
- A. reminder
 - B. warning
 - C. repeated line
16. It made for an unforgettable sports spectacle.
- A. something that is a complete failure
 - B. something that is unexpected
 - C. an event that attracts attention
17. A sullen crowd watched the execution.
- A. excited
 - B. unhappy
 - C. celebrating
18. She worked hard to surmount the challenges of her new job.
- A. rise above
 - B. give in to
 - C. shy away from
19. McDonald's menu options vary by location.
- A. are consistent
 - B. are different
 - C. are known
20. The experiment yielded data that raised a new set of questions.
- A. produced
 - B. destroyed
 - C. slowed down

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 Engrossed in each other, **JACQUES** and **ROBERTA** do not even see them.
 - A. with all attention focused
 - B. gradually added or removed
 - C. limited or with boundaries
- 2 **FATHER-JACQUES**: They're making a proper spectacle of themselves!
 - A. the act of interacting or getting interested again
 - B. an image (seen on a mirror or other shiny surface)
 - C. a notable or unusual event that attracts attention
- 3 Come on, **Jacqueline**, show some initiative .
 - A. the state of not being relevant (not related to the subject being considered, or not important enough to want to consider)
 - B. determining what should be done and doing it without instruction
 - C. someone who is not civilized or not moral OR an offensive term for a person who does not believe in a preferred religion
- 4 **JACQUES** and **ROBERTA**, famished, dive into the potatoes.
 - A. strongly desired
 - B. not concentrated
 - C. extremely hungry
- 5 **MOTHER-JACQUES**: Eat them up **JACQUES**: [suddenly the victim of an old qualm, timidly interrupts his gesture towards the potatoes] No ...I ... **JACQUELINE**: [to **JACQUES**] Aren't you hungry any more?
 - A. long eventful journey
 - B. feeling of uneasiness
 - C. a nerve or brain cell
- 6 **FATHER-ROBERT** and **MOTHER-ROBERT** speak to their daughter; **ROBERTA** is heard to say docilely from time to time: 'Yes, papa, yes mamma, yes papa, yes mamma, yes papa, yes mamma.'
 - A. in an easily managed manner
 - B. in a strongly biased manner
 - C. in a morally correct manner
- 7 We must all console each other!
 - A. almost, but not exact
 - B. to strongly criticize
 - C. comfort
- 8 **GRANDMOTHER-JACQUES**: Still as obstinate as ever!
 - A. not bouncing back light/heat/sound...
 - B. stubbornly not doing what others want
 - C. able to be delayed until a later time
- 9 In his frame, **GRANDFATHER-JACQUES** looks sullen and moody in contrast to his air of gaiety at the beginning of the play.
 - A. exactness or accuracy
 - B. unhappy and withdrawn
 - C. not easily identified
- 10 In his frame, **GRANDFATHER-JACQUES** looks sullen and moody in contrast to his air of gaiety at the beginning of the play.
 - A. beyond the permitted boundary or limit
 - B. in a comparison that shows differences
 - C. injured muscles or tendons in the back
- 11 **FATHER-JACQUES**: We must assure the continuity of our race.
 - A. translation
 - B. consistency
 - C. storyteller

- 12 *Whatever disappears must be replaced by new products, more numerous and varied than before.*
- A. took on as one's own
 - B. differing (having a variety)
 - C. began fighting again
- 13 *It's up to you to instigate production ... MOTHER-JACQUES: [to her son] My son, if you want me to be proud of you, try and instigate, instigate production ... [ROBERTA looks embarrassed.]*
- A. start something or take actions that cause it to happen
 - B. view in a certain way so as to form a belief or opinion
 - C. suntanned; or reddish-brown or yellowish-brown in color
- 14 *We shall soon see whether these last three years are going to yield good results.*
- A. produce or give
 - B. stop (something from happening)
 - C. think deeply or carefully about
- 15 *'Production!' become a chorused refrain whilst, without interrupting the action and the comings and goings, one hears, in voices loud enough to surmount the tumult, the following speeches:*
- A. overcome
 - B. disagree
 - C. subtract
- 16 *After this last remark, the refrain becomes: 'Yes, yes, yes!'*
- A. tell someone about something
 - B. wave or make a showy gesture
 - C. something repeated regularly
- 17 *JACQUELINE: Essentialists and materialists.*
- A. overly concerned with wealth and possessions at the expense of other interests
 - B. defensive players who line up closest to the sideline to defend against passes
 - C. powerful attacks; or sudden and enormous amount of things that must be handled
- 18 *[JACQUES is heard to say in a feeble voice:] JACQUES: And pessimists!*
- A. bases with a pH of greater than 7 (so they will dissolve in water)
 - B. people who expect things will turn out badly; or who focus on the bad part of things
 - C. DNA sequences or units of heredity that influence biological traits
- 19 *ALL: [indignant] What?*
- A. angered or annoyed at something unjust or wrong
 - B. surprised as something unexpected
 - C. accepted of something undesired as unavoidable
- 20 *JACQUES: Anarchists.*
- A. people who share professional opinions in a specific field
 - B. someone who favors eliminating all government or authority
 - C. unborn children (or other unborn or unhatched vertebrates)

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	A	engrossed (<i>as in: engrossed in the book</i>)	High-utility academic word
2	C	spectacle (<i>as in: made a spectacle of herself</i>)	Used 4 times in this play.
3	B	initiative	Used about 4 times per 10 books in our high school library.
4	C	famished	Used about 2 times per 10 books in our high school library.
5	B	qualms	Used about 2 times per 10 books in our high school library.
6	A	docile	Used about 2 times per 10 books in our high school library.
7	C	console (<i>as in: console her grief</i>)	Used about 6 times per 10 books in our high school library.
8	B	obstinate	Used about 3 times per 10 books in our high school library.
9	B	sullen (<i>as in: a sullen mood</i>)	Used about 8 times per 10 books in our high school library.
10	B	contrast (<i>as in: contrast their writing styles</i>)	High-utility academic word
11	B	continuity	Used 2 times in this play.
12	B	vary	High-utility academic word
13	A	instigate	Used 3 times in this play.
14	A	yield (<i>as in: will yield valuable data</i>)	High-utility academic word
15	A	surmount	Used about 2 times per 10 books in our high school library.
16	C	refrain (<i>as in: a repeated refrain</i>)	Used 3 times in this play.
17	A	materialistic	High-utility academic word
18	B	pessimistic	Used about 2 times per 10 books in our high school library.
19	A	indignant	High-utility academic word
20	B	anarchist	Used about once per 10 books in our high school library