

The Gold-Bug

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

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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: adapted, allude, attain, coincidence, cordial, demeanor, enable, endeavor, enigma, expedient, however (2), infernal, ingenuity, inquiry, interpose, predominant, scrutiny, subsequent, vary



More Vocabulary Printables

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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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#	KEY
1	B
2	C
3	A
4	B
5	B
6	B
7	C
8	A
9	B
10	A
11	C
12	A
13	A
14	C
15	C
16	A
17	C
18	C
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 mention any names, but everyone knew she was **alluding** to the President.
 - A. being discouraging
 - B. indirectly referring
 - C. not talking
2. They hope to **attain** effective law and order in the region before withdrawing troops.
 - A. openly oppose
 - B. carefully describe
 - C. successfully gain
3. It was a fortunate **coincidence** that we ran into each other at Starbucks.
 - A. unlikely event
 - B. plan
 - C. likely event
4. The professor greeted each student **cordially** as they entered.
 - A. in a hurried manner
 - B. in a friendly manner
 - C. in a clumsy manner
5. Despite her nervousness, her professional **demeanor** never wavered.
 - A. words
 - B. manner
 - C. work
6. Modern smartphones **enable** people to work from almost anywhere.
 - A. require
 - B. allow
 - C. remind
7. I will **endeavor** to finish by Friday.
 - A. not be able
 - B. promise
 - C. try
8. The locked box with no key remained an **enigma** to everyone in the room.
 - A. mystery
 - B. simple task
 - C. clear answer
9. Borrowing chairs from next door was a useful **expedient** until the new ones arrived.
 - A. careful warning
 - B. practical solution
 - C. lasting tradition
10. 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
11. **However** safe we make it, there will always be risk.
 - A. on-the-other-hand
 - B. in addition
 - C. no matter how

12. That **infernal** alarm clock kept going off every five minutes.
- A. annoying
 - B. expensive
 - C. antique
13. It's going to take a lot of **ingenuity**, but I think we can save the company.
- A. creativity
 - B. money
 - C. time
14. The official **inquiry** has ended, but the press continues to ask questions.
- A. story
 - B. statement
 - C. investigation
15. They have **interposed** themselves on the side of our enemy.
- A. been seen
 - B. hidden
 - C. inserted
16. The Kurds are **predominantly** Sunni Muslim.
- A. most commonly
 - B. always
 - C. seldom
17. The new policy faced **scrutiny** from independent reviewers.
- A. strong support
 - B. quick approval
 - C. careful examination
18. The results of the initial investigation were unclear, but a subsequent investigation concluded that she used good judgment.
- A. thorough
 - B. official
 - C. following
19. McDonald's menu options **vary** by location.
- A. are consistent
 - B. are different
 - C. are known
20. The human spine is not as **well adapted** to walking upright as we would like.
- A. well suited
 - B. known widely
 - C. insured

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 The shrub here often **attains** the height of fifteen or twenty feet, and forms an almost impenetrable coppice, burthening the air with its fragrance.
 - A. says (or makes a sound) with the voice
 - B. controls (how something will turn out)
 - C. gains or reaches something with effort
- 2 For some minutes he continued to **scrutinize** the drawing minutely where he sat.
 - A. being a boundary or limit
 - B. find, search, or research
 - C. to look at very carefully
- 3 He now grew more composed in his **demeanor**; but his original air of enthusiasm had quite disappeared.
 - A. lacking experience or sophistication
 - B. the manner in which a person behaves
 - C. a Muslim religious teacher or leader
- 4 He did not press me to remain, but, as I departed, he shook my hand with even more than his usual **cordiality**.
 - A. psychiatrist
 - B. friendliness
 - C. satisfaction
- 5 After some **inquiries** respecting his health, I asked him, not knowing what better to say, if he had yet obtained the scarabæus from Lieutenant G --.
 - A. social events or ceremonies
 - B. reasons for doing something
 - C. questions or investigations
- 6 In the next—"You are mistaken," he **interposed**, "I am as well as I can expect to be under the excitement which I suffer."
 - A. (verb) drew pictures to accompany OR (adjective) accompanied by pictures
 - B. not justified or explained as an understandable reaction to another action
 - C. to insert between other elements; or to interrupt or stop action by others
- 7 "I am anxious to oblige you in any way," I replied; "but do you mean to say that this **infernal** beetle has any connection with your expedition into the hills?"
 - A. very bad; or very annoying; or characteristic of hell or the underworld
 - B. relating to classical music plays in which most of the dialogue is sung
 - C. strict, firm, or hard (not giving in, not giving way, or not giving up)
- 8 In the mean time I **endeavored**, but all in vain, to sound him in regard to the object of the expedition.
 - A. decided in advance
 - B. not disagreed with
 - C. tried or attempted
- 9 Legrand, **however**, although evidently much disconcerted, wiped his brow thoughtfully and recommenced.
 - 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)
- 10 ...the error, **however** trivial in the beginning, increased as we proceeded with the line, and by the time we had gone fifty feet, threw us quite off the scent.
 - 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
- 11 Amazement was, of course, **predominant**.
 - A. most frequent, common, or important; or having more power and influence
 - B. relating to classical music plays in which most of the dialogue is sung
 - C. strict, firm, or hard (not giving in, not giving way, or not giving up)

- 12 It became necessary, at last, that I should arouse both master and valet to the **expediency** of removing the treasure.
- A. the act of again being in a working position; or the act of starting again
 - B. convenient, speedy, or practical; or an action that is speedy or practical
 - C. someone who creates or spreads one-sided information to influence opinions
- 13 We, finally, **lightened** the box by removing two thirds of its contents, when we were **enabled**, with some trouble, to raise it from the hole.
- A. got closer to
 - B. made possible
 - C. not satisfied
- 14 We estimated the entire contents of the chest, that night, at a million and a half of dollars; and upon the **subsequent** disposal of the trinkets and jewels (a few being retained for our own use), it was found that we had greatly undervalued the treasure.
- A. able to take on or adopt
 - B. the state of being awake
 - C. following something else
- 15 This is the usual effect of such **coincidences**.
- A. situations where things happened at the same time by chance even though they were unlikely
 - B. streaks of light in the sky caused by small space rocks burning up in Earth's atmosphere
 - C. pathways consisting of a series of regularly spaced columns -- typically covered by a roof
- 16 Matters of little moment are rarely consigned to parchment; since, for the mere ordinary purposes of drawing or writing, it is not nearly so **well adapted** as paper.
- A. well suited
 - B. restraining
 - C. surrendered
- 17 Were all the jewels of Golconda awaiting me upon my solution of this **enigma**, I am quite sure that I should be unable to earn them.
- A. something mysterious that seems unexplainable
 - B. male, female, or any of many trans categories
 - C. an official charge (of having broken the law)
- 18 Circumstances, and a certain bias of mind, have led me to take interest in such riddles, and it may well be doubted whether human **ingenuity** can construct an enigma of the kind which human ingenuity may not, by proper application, resolve.
- A. ability to solve problems in smart creative ways
 - B. the act, process, or instance of telling a story
 - C. a general feeling of not being as good as others
- 19 In the present case—indeed in all cases of secret writing—the first question regards the language of the cipher; for the principles of solution, so far, especially, as the more simple ciphers are concerned, depend upon, and are **varied** by, the genius of the particular idiom.
- A. took on as one's own
 - B. differed; or changed
 - C. began fighting again
- 20 I made no doubt that here was the 'devil's seat' **alluded** to in the MS., and now I seemed to grasp the full secret of the riddle.
- A. marked important text
 - B. indirectly referenced
 - C. gained advantage from

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	C	attain	High-utility academic word; used 5 times in this story.
2	C	scrutiny	High-utility academic word; used 6 times in this story.
3	B	demeanor	Used 4 times in this story.
4	B	cordial (<i>as in: a cordial reception</i>)	Used 2 times in this story.
5	C	inquiry	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this story.
6	C	interpose	Used 3 times in this story.
7	A	infernal	Used 3 times in this story.
8	C	endeavor	Used 4 times in this story.
9	A	however (<i>as in: However, complications may...</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this story.
10	C	however (<i>as in: However much she tried...</i>)	2 meanings in this story.
11	A	predominant	Used 4 times in this story.
12	B	expedient	Used 2 times in this story.
13	B	enable	High-utility academic word; used 4 times in this story.
14	C	subsequent	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this story.
15	A	coincidence	Used 5 times in this story.
16	A	adapted (<i>as in: the species is well adapted for</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this story.
17	A	enigma	High-utility academic word; used 4 times in this story.
18	A	ingenuity	Used 3 times in this story.
19	B	vary	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this story.
20	B	allude	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this story.