

The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy

by Douglas Adams

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: appalling, approach (2), component, console, deference, factor, infinite, loathe, modulate, oblong, perfunctory, plausible, positive (2), recession, rectify, revise, scintillating, vary



More Vocabulary Printables

verbalworkout.com

(all resources free)

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy

by Douglas Adams

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

Vocabulary Preview
The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy

by Douglas Adams

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

1. She has scheduled a news conference to respond to the **appalling** accusations.
 - A. false
 - B. horrible
 - C. foolish
2. I grow more nervous as the test **approaches**.
 - A. gets nearer
 - B. is remembered
 - C. continues
3. We need to **approach** this problem in a new way.
 - A. avoid
 - B. think about
 - C. assign
4. Trust is a key **component** of any strong and lasting friendship.
 - A. goal
 - B. part
 - C. result
5. The sound engineer worked her **console**.
 - A. seemingly magic powers
 - B. a standard 8-hour work shift
 - C. controls (for electronic equipment)
6. Out of **deference** to the Hindu visitors, they did not serve beef.
 - A. open dislike
 - B. loud praise
 - C. polite respect
7. In the second paragraph, the narrator's focus shifts from **factors** making her unhappy to identification of possible solutions to her unhappiness.
 - A. things that are unfair
 - B. things (that influence an outcome)
 - C. examples of illnesses
8. The night sky seemed **infinite** as we gazed at countless stars.
 - A. blurry
 - B. silent
 - C. endless
9. I **loathe** that man. He ruined my life.
 - A. fear
 - B. avoid
 - C. hate
10. She learned to **modulate** her voice so the audience could hear each point clearly.
 - A. silence
 - B. adjust
 - C. ignore
11. The table is an **oblong** shape, with curved edges.
 - A. elongated
 - B. circular
 - C. square

12. Her **perfunctory** apology did little to ease my annoyance.
A. sincere
B. superficial
C. written
13. Her theory was neat, **plausible**, and wrong.
A. reasonable
B. praiseworthy
C. foolish
14. I'm **positive** our team will win on Friday.
A. happy
B. pretty sure
C. certain
15. I **appreciate** your **positive** attitude.
A. patient
B. open-minded
C. optimistic
16. As consumer spending dropped during the **recession**, the company saw a 20% decrease in gross revenue.
A. winter
B. transition
C. poor economy
17. We are working to **rectify** the accounts and send refunds to everyone who was overbilled.
A. calculate
B. understand
C. correct
18. Do you think the writer should **revise** the underlined sentence?
A. remove
B. highlight
C. improve
19. She has a **scintillating** personality.
A. alternating
B. dull
C. stimulating
20. McDonald's menu options **vary** by location.
A. are consistent
B. are different
C. are known

Vocabulary in Context
The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy

by Douglas Adams

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____ Score _____ / 20

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

- 1 Obviously somebody had been **appallingly** incompetent and he hoped to God it wasn't him.
 - A. in a manner that is effective in producing an intended effect
 - B. in a manner that shocks with its terribleness or horribleness
 - C. in a manner that is not clearly seen, expressed or understood
- 2 For instance, he had spent those fifteen years pretending to be an out-of-work actor, which was **plausible** enough.
 - A. apparently reasonable, but unproven
 - B. in a manner that takes on or adopts
 - C. full of strong desire for something
- 3 He saw the bulldozer drivers' union representative **approaching** and let his head sink back and closed his eyes.
 - A. coming
 - B. hiring again
 - C. discouraging
- 4 Here was an **approach** that had quite simply not occurred to him.
 - A. change the direction of something or the purpose for which it is used
 - B. technique (way of doing something)
 - C. to stick out, attract more attention than desired, or impose on others
- 5 Evolution? they said to themselves, Who needs it? and what nature refused to do for them they simply did without until such time as they were able to **rectify** the gross anatomical inconveniences with surgery.
 - A. pessimistic or disagreeable
 - B. develop or change gradually
 - C. fix
- 6 Every year they import twenty-seven thousand **scintillating** jeweled scuttling crabs from their native planet and while away a happy drunken night smashing them to bits with iron mallets.
 - A. making different; or showing difference
 - B. interacting, interesting, or attracting
 - C. brilliantly lively, clever, or exciting
- 7 This suited the Dentrassis fine, because they loved Vagon money, which is one of the hardest currencies in space, but **loathed** the Vogons themselves.
 - A. took (power or responsibility)
 - B. developed or changed gradually
 - C. detested or intensely disliked
- 8 I'm doing the field research for the new **revised** edition, and one of the things I'll have to do is include a bit about how the Vogons now employ Dentrassi cooks, which gives us a rather useful little loophole.
 - A. adapted
 - B. delayed
 - C. changed
- 9 "My God," complained Arthur, "you're talking about a **positive** mental attitude and you haven't even had your planet demolished today."
 - A. unable to get closer to
 - B. not sensible or careful
 - C. optimistic
- 10 Eventually, of course, after their Galaxy had been decimated over a few thousand years, it was realized that the whole thing had been a ghastly mistake, and so the two opposing battle fleets settled their few remaining differences in order to launch a joint attack on our own Galaxy—now **positively** identified as the source of the offending remark.
 - A. without regret
 - B. with hard work
 - C. with certainty

- 11 *We've been picked up by a ship powered by the **Infinite Improbability Drive**!*
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 *The cabin was mostly white, **oblong**, and about the size of a smallish restaurant.*
A. an elongated shape (having more length than width) -- typically of a stretched circle that is longer than an oval, but occasionally used to describe a rectangle
B. a workplace where people do scientific or medical research, or produce drugs or chemicals (also used figuratively) OR (as an adjective) related to such a place
C. soccer: a foul kick taken from 12 yards in front of the goal and defended only by the goalkeeper who cannot advance beyond the goal line until the shot is taken
- 13 *The **irony** circuits cut in to his voice **modulator** as he mimicked the style of the sales brochure.*
A. someone who takes power or responsibility
B. to regulate or make something less severe
C. someone who tells someone about something
- 14 *For years radios had been operated by means of pressing buttons and turning dials; then as the technology became more sophisticated the controls were made touch-sensitive—you merely had to brush the panels with your fingers; now all you had to do was wave your hand in the general direction of the **components** and hope.*
A. sounds
B. parts
C. buttons
- 15 *Arthur followed him in nervously and was astonished to see a man lolling back in a chair with his feet on a control **console** picking the teeth in his right-hand head with his left hand.*
A. in a state where something cannot be seen clearly
B. the state or character of being greater than zero
C. controls (for electrical equipment)
- 16 *"At an Improbability **factor**," cut in Eddie, who hadn't changed a bit, "of eight million, seven hundred and sixty-seven thousand, one hundred and twenty-eight to one against."*
A. job, reservation, booking, or activity
B. something that affects a result or outcome
C. something that is made or manufactured
- 17 *"...so anyway," he said, trying to find his thread again, "the **recession** came and we decided it would save a lot of bother if we just slept through it."*
A. a period when the economy does well
B. a long period when the economy does not change much
C. a period when the economy does poorly
- 18 *They were aware that this day they would represent their entire race in its greatest moment, but they conducted themselves calmly and quietly as they seated themselves **deferentially** before the desk, opened their briefcases and took out their leather-bound notebooks.*
A. dominantly (appearing most important)
B. stubbornly
C. with polite respect
- 19 *a feeble and **perfunctory** attempt to clear away some of the appalling mess of his study.*
A. done earnestly, but largely without success
B. done without much interest or effort
C. misguided
- 20 *It was the Blagulon Kappa policecraft, a bulbous sharklike affair, slate-green in color and smothered with black stenciled letters of **varying** degrees of size and unfriendliness.*
A. gaining advantage from
B. differing; or changing
C. taking on as one's own

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy

by Douglas Adams

#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	B	appalling	Used 4 times in this book.
2	A	plausible	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
3	A	approach (<i>as in: approached the city</i>)	Used 5 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
4	B	approach (<i>as in: use the best approach</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
5	C	rectify (<i>as in: rectify the error</i>)	Used 2 times in this book.
6	C	scintillating	Used 2 times in this book.
7	C	loathe	Used 6 times in this book.
8	C	revise	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
9	C	positive (<i>as in: a positive attitude</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
10	C	positive (<i>as in: I'm absolutely positive!</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
11	C	infinite	Used 12 times in this book.
12	A	oblong	Used 3 times in this book.
13	B	modulate	Used 3 times in this book.
14	B	component	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this book.
15	C	console (<i>as in: plug it into the console</i>)	Used 11 times in this book.
16	B	factor (<i>as in: It was the deciding factor.</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 4 times in this book.
17	C	recession (<i>as in: economic recession</i>)	Used 3 times in this book.
18	C	deference	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
19	B	perfunctory	Used 2 times in this book.
20	B	vary	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.