

# The House of Mirth

by Edith Wharton

## Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

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### 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.

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#### 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:** adapt, consequence (2), conspicuous, constraint, contrast, countenance (2), interpose, irony (2), legacy, odious, penitent, perceive, prudent, repugnant, resolve (2), scruples



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# ANSWER KEY

## Vocabulary Preview

### The House of Mirth

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

# Vocabulary Preview

## The House of Mirth

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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_\_

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

1. This passage is **adapted** from Ralph Ellison, *Invisible Man* ©1952.
  - A. copied
  - B. read
  - C. changed
2. Her job prospects are hindered as a **consequence** of the conviction.
  - A. result
  - B. unimportant part
  - C. important part
3. It is the most **consequential** tax legislation in decades.
  - A. unethical
  - B. important
  - C. harmful
4. She is the most **conspicuous** person on the President's cabinet, often appearing on television.
  - A. easy to notice
  - B. hard to trust
  - C. quick to argue
5. We want **constraints** on her power to spend taxpayer funds.
  - A. flexibility
  - B. limitations
  - C. increases
6. There was quite a **contrast** between the styles of the two teachers.
  - A. notable similarity
  - B. covering of all styles
  - C. notable difference
7. Her **countenance** grew stern.
  - A. facial expression
  - B. a method of counting
  - C. voice
8. They **countenance** terrorism.
  - A. provide funds for
  - B. show favor for
  - C. discourage
9. They have **interposed** themselves on the side of our enemy.
  - A. been seen
  - B. hidden
  - C. inserted
10. **Ironically**, her strongest supporters undermined her popularity through their extremism.
  - A. when what happens is exactly what usually happens
  - B. when what happens is very different than what might be expected
  - C. when what happens is very fitting for the situation
11. Her voice was dripping with **irony** as she said, "You look beautiful."
  - A. sincerity
  - B. sarcasm
  - C. kindness
12. Her parents left her a small **legacy**.
  - A. inheritance
  - B. meal
  - C. "todo" list

13. The poll tax was designed as a particularly **odious** violation of civil rights.
- A. extremely devious
  - B. harmful and hidden
  - C. extremely dislikable
14. After breaking the window, the **penitent** boy apologized to his neighbor.
- A. proud of one's actions
  - B. confused about the rules
  - C. feeling regret for wrongdoing
15. 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
16. Courage is dangerous without **prudence**.
- A. good sense
  - B. good purpose
  - C. good support
17. His **repugnant** behavior at the party made everyone want to go home early.
- A. warmly welcomed
  - B. highly amusing
  - C. deeply offensive
18. I **resolved** to never drink again.
- A. was forced
  - B. was encouraged
  - C. firmly decided
19. She is testing my **resolve** to keep a good attitude.
- A. determination
  - B. ability
  - C. optimism
20. Her **scruples** were not so strong as to withstand her friend's arguments.
- A. principles that discourage certain kinds of action
  - B. known facts
  - C. firmness of purpose

## Vocabulary in Context

### The House of Mirth

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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_\_ Score \_\_\_\_\_ / 20

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

- 1 She came forward smiling, eager almost, in her **resolve** to intercept him.
  - A. firmness of purpose
  - B. wrongly translating
  - C. difficult situation
- 2 She had decided to defer the purchase of the dressing-case till she should receive the bill for her new opera-coak, and the **resolve** made her feel much richer than when she had entered the shop.
  - A. influence or effect
  - B. gain advantage from
  - C. decision
- 3 Could one never do the simplest, the most harmless thing, without subjecting one's self to some odious conjecture?
  - A. the degree to which something is able to change or is different
  - B. not trustworthy, or improper, or attracting unwelcome attention
  - C. extremely unpleasant, disgusting, dislikable, or worthy of hate
- 4 But some intuitive **repugnance**, getting the better of years of social discipline, had made her push Mr. Rosedale into his OUBLIETTE without a trial.
  - A. discouragement
  - B. dissatisfaction
  - C. strong disgust
- 5 Hitherto Lily had been undisturbed by **scruples**.
  - A. principles that discourage certain kinds of action
  - B. moves again into position to work; or starts again
  - C. prepares food in a way that keeps it from spoiling
- 6 Mrs. Peniston, however, did not suffer from her niece's **adaptability**.
  - A. someone bound to serve another without pay -- such as a slave or serf
  - B. a semiconductor device use to amplify (or control) electrical current
  - C. the degree to which something can change to fit a different situation
- 7 this group of rich and **conspicuous** people.
  - A. prominent (easily noticed)
  - B. the quality or degree of being in a crosswise direction (at a right angle to the long axis)
  - C. relating to an acute intestinal infection caused by ingestion of contaminated water or food
- 8 "He is my father's cousin," Miss Bart **interposed**.
  - 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
- 9 The stir of the pulses which his nearness always caused was increased by a slight sense of **constraint**.
  - A. lacking experience or sophistication
  - B. something that limits something else
  - C. a Muslim religious teacher or leader
- 10 She "went through" the linen and blankets in the precise spirit of the **penitent** exploring the inner folds of conscience; she sought for moths as the stricken soul seeks for lurking infirmities.
  - A. having the characteristic of or relating to bouncing back light/heat/sound...
  - B. suffering from too few red blood cells

or (less commonly): lacking vitality

  - C. feeling or expressing sorrow for having done wrong; or a person who does such
- 11 but she had a fatalistic sense of being drawn from one wrong turning to another, without ever **perceiving** the right road till it was too late to take it.
  - A. seeing
  - B. telling (a story)
  - C. causing suffering

- 12 *But if you have run into debt, you must suffer the consequences*
- A. results (of that)
  - B. battles
  - C. desires
- 13 *As became persons of their rising consequence, the Gormers were engaged in building a country-house on Long Island; and it was a part of Miss Bart's duty to attend her hostess on frequent visits of inspection to the new estate.*
- A. translates
  - B. importance or significance (often used in that day to refer to wealth)
  - C. sticks out
- 14 *I shall certainly not do anything to give the impression that I countenance your behaviour.*
- A. return to an undesirable previous condition
  - B. approve
  - C. cancel or annul a formal ruling or contract
- 15 *she seated herself with a beaming countenance beside her visitor.*
- A. facial expression
  - B. the best or most important
  - C. a secret agreement or plot
- 16 *she remarked to Miss Bart with a faint touch of irony: "I suppose I ought to say good morning."*
- A. soft leather shoe traditionally worn by Native Americans
  - B. saying one thing while meaning the opposite
  - C. belief or opinion formed by viewing things a certain way
- 17 *it struck her now with a peculiar irony that the money she had used had been Gus Trenor's.*
- A. lymph node -- one of many bean-sized organs that filter bacteria and other toxins from circulating white-blood-cell filled lymph fluid
  - B. when what happened was very different than what might have been expected
  - C. someone who believe behavior should be guided by high ideals or standards -- often with the implication that the person is unrealistic
- 18 *Selden saw that for the moment all he could do was to ... offer sympathy and to counsel prudence.*
- A. good sense and caution
  - B. not easily set on fire
  - C. surrounding conditions
- 19 *In her ignorance of legal procrastinations she had supposed that her legacy would be paid over within a few days of the reading of her aunt's will; and after an interval of anxious suspense, she wrote to enquire the cause of the delay.*
- A. a gift left in a will
  - B. the act of taking something on as one's own
  - C. something that helps clarify or demonstrate
- 20 *The force of contrast gave an added keenness to the luxury of lying once more in a soft-pillowed bed, and looking across a spacious sunlit room at a breakfast-table set invitingly near the fire.*
- A. come to terms with
  - B. block or interfere
  - C. notable difference

# ANSWER KEY

## Vocabulary in Context

### The House of Mirth

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	A	resolve ( <i>as in: Her resolve weakened.</i> )	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
2	C	resolve ( <i>as in: I resolved to stop drinking.</i> )	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
3	C	odious	Used 9 times in this book.
4	C	repugnant	Used 8 times in this book.
5	A	scruples	Used 10 times in this book.
6	C	adapt ( <i>as in: adapted to the new rules</i> )	High-utility academic word; used 12 times in this book.
7	A	conspicuous	High-utility academic word; used 15 times in this book.
8	C	interpose	Used 10 times in this book.
9	B	constraint	Used 7 times in this book.
10	C	penitent	Used 8 times in this book.
11	A	perceive ( <i>as in: though blind, can perceive light</i> )	High-utility academic word; used 19 times in this book.
12	A	consequence ( <i>as in: a direct consequence of</i> )	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
13	B	consequence ( <i>as in: of little consequence</i> )	2 meanings in this book.
14	B	countenance ( <i>as in: giving countenance</i> )	2 meanings in this book.
15	A	countenance ( <i>as in: a pleasant countenance</i> )	Used 10 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
16	B	irony ( <i>as in: verbal irony</i> )	2 meanings in this book.
17	B	irony ( <i>as in: situational irony</i> )	Used 23 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
18	A	prudent	High-utility academic word; used 13 times in this book.
19	A	legacy	High-utility academic word; used 24 times in this book.
20	C	contrast ( <i>as in: there is a contrast</i> )	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.