

The Importance of Being Earnest

by Oscar Wilde

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 via "View / Print / Edit Web
Quiz" on 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: allude, candid, conducive, deceive, deception, domestic, impetuous, indignant, inquiry, metaphor, motive, ostentatious, philanthropy, reconcile, refute, scoundrel, speculate, susceptible, tedious, vulgar



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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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

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. My **candid** opinion is that their team is much better than ours, but an upset isn't impossible.
A. honest
B. expert
C. tactful
3. Her spending habits are not **conducive** to achieving her financial goals.
A. helpful
B. harmful
C. irrelevant
4. The fake article was written to attract attention and **deceive** readers.
A. entertain
B. attract
C. lie to or mislead
5. The con artist used clever **deception** to trick wealthy investors.
A. kindness
B. trickery
C. praise
6. We share the **domestic** chores.
A. household
B. everyday
C. work-related
7. She made an **impetuous** purchase, buying the car without test-driving it first.
A. impulsive
B. cautious
C. wealthy
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. The official **inquiry** has ended, but the press continues to ask questions.
A. story
B. statement
C. investigation
10. Jefferson used *a wall* as a **metaphor** to describe the separation of church and state.
A. clever strategy
B. exaggeration
C. figure of speech
11. A desire for religious freedom was their **motive** for leaving England.
A. excuse
B. technique
C. reason
12. She arrived in an **ostentatious** stretch limo.
A. expensive
B. long
C. showy

13. The billionaire's **philanthropy** supported hospitals around the world.
- A. selfish hoarding
 - B. charitable giving
 - C. loud boasting
14. The treaty helped **reconcile** the two countries after years of conflict.
- A. delayed progress or slowed down
 - B. celebrated a shared history
 - C. made peace or restored friendship
15. He **refuted** the argument.
- A. avoided
 - B. complained about
 - C. argued against
16. He is the most intolerable **scoundrel** on the face of the earth.
- A. person without moral principles
 - B. apparently reasonable, but unproven
 - C. without pattern or planning
17. We were **speculating** as to whether a president would have to resign after that kind of scandal.
- A. hoping
 - B. thoughtfully guessing
 - C. demonstrating concern
18. She is not **susceptible** to emotional arguments that are not supported statistically.
- A. good at performing
 - B. easily influenced by
 - C. likely to get sick
19. I find it relaxing to wash the holiday dishes, but she finds it **tedious**.
- A. stressful
 - B. punishing
 - C. boring
20. His **vulgar** jokes embarrassed everyone at the formal dinner party.
- A. stale
 - B. crude
 - C. clever

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 Oh! there is no use **speculating** on that subject.
 - A. aka analyzing -- analyzing based upon a theory of psychiatry
 - B. thinking or guessing
 - C. making a decision or voicing an opinion by formal group vote
- 2 Cecily, who addresses me as her uncle from **motives** of respect that you could not possibly appreciate, lives at my place in the country under the charge of her admirable governess, Miss Prism.
 - A. social events or ceremonies
 - B. things that cause suffering
 - C. reasons for doing something
- 3 And as a high moral tone can hardly be said to **conduce** very much to either one's health or one's happiness, in order to get up to town I have always pretended to have a younger brother of the name of Ernest, who lives in the Albany, and gets into the most dreadful scrapes.
 - A. contribute (to a result)
 - B. include consideration of
 - C. struggle or disagreement
- 4 A man who marries without knowing Bunbury has a very **tedious** time of it.
 - A. sensible and careful
 - B. not demonstrative of
 - C. boring
- 5 Personally, darling, to speak quite **candidly**, I don't much care about the name of Ernest.
 - A. with honesty and directness
 - B. in a strongly biased manner
 - C. in a manner that challenges
- 6 While I am making these **inquiries**, you, Gwendolen, will wait for me below in the carriage.
 - A. social events or ceremonies
 - B. reasons for doing something
 - C. questions or investigations
- 7 [Jack looks **indignantly** at him, and leaves the room.]
 - A. angered at something unjust or wrong
 - B. with surprise as something unexpected
 - C. with acceptance of something undesired as unavoidable
- 8 I spoke **metaphorically**.
 - A. in a manner not appearing dangerous, but actually very harmful over time OR treacherously (in a dangerous manner due to trickery or from hidden or unpredictable risks)
 - B. in a manner that is related to relating to existentialism -- a philosophical movement that assumes each person is free to determine what is essential in their existence
 - C. using a figure of speech
- 9 I myself am peculiarly **susceptible** to draughts.
 - A. the quality of feeling angry or unhappy about having to accept something not liked
 - B. easily influenced or harmed

or:

capable of being treated in a particular way

 - C. an argument attributed to one's opponent that is weaker than their actual argument
- 10 It's pleasant, is it not, to see so perfect a **reconciliation**?
 - A. relating to logical examination of something to better understand it
 - B. lack of interest; or the process of stopping interaction or interest
 - C. two people making up (to bring into agreement)

- 11 You young **scoundrel**, Algy, you must get out of this place as soon as possible.
- A. someone without moral principles
 - B. the condition of being different
 - C. important, serious, or dangerous
- 12 What an **impetuous** boy he is!
- A. impulsive (acting suddenly without much thought)
 - B. most important; or person that is most important
 - C. tending to have exceedingly unfavorable opinions
- 13 I don't quite like women who are interested in **philanthropic** work.
- A. unable to find
 - B. helping others
 - C. representative
- 14 **neglect** his domestic duties
- A. relating to the home or family
 - B. small quantity or indication
 - C. reason (for doing something)
- 15 Disloyalty would be as impossible to him as **deception**.
- A. someone bound to serve another without pay -- such as a slave or serf
 - B. the act of lying to or misleading someone; or something that misleads
 - C. the degree to which something can change to fit a different situation
- 16 Do you **allude** to me, Miss Cardew, as an entanglement?
- A. select (on a computer screen)
 - B. to make an indirect reference
 - C. consume or destroy completely
- 17 I can see no possible defence at all for your **deceiving** a brilliant, clever, thoroughly experienced young lady like Miss Fairfax.
- A. influencing opinion
 - B. continuing to exist
 - C. lying or misleading
- 18 It is very **vulgar** to talk about one's business.
- A. increasing reason or general desire to do something
 - B. in bad taste (unsophisticated or crude)
 - C. the state of being unaware of one's mental activity
- 19 Algernon is an extremely, I may almost say an **ostentatiously**, eligible young man.
- A. in a manner that is supposed (rather than known to be so)
 - B. not in a manner that is able to be promised or guaranteed
 - C. in a manner intended to attract notice and impress others
- 20 They savour ... views that I have completely **refuted** in four of my unpublished sermons.
- A. was attractive or desirable
 - B. not wanting to do something
 - C. disproved or argued against

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	B	speculate (<i>as in: don't know, but I'll speculate</i>)	Used 4 times in this play.
2	C	motive (<i>as in: What is her motive?</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this play.
3	A	conducive	High-utility academic word
4	C	tedious	Used 3 times in this play.
5	A	candid (<i>as in: your candid opinion</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 5 times in this play.
6	C	inquiry	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this play.
7	A	indignant	High-utility academic word; used 8 times in this play.
8	C	metaphor	Used 3 times in this play.
9	B	susceptible	Used 2 times in this play.
10	C	reconcile (<i>as in: reconciled their differences</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this play.
11	A	scoundrel	Used 2 times in this play.
12	A	impetuous (<i>as in: an impetuous decision</i>)	High-utility academic word
13	B	philanthropy	Used 2 times in this play.
14	A	domestic (<i>as in: domestic happiness</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 4 times in this play.
15	B	deception	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this play.
16	B	allude	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this play.
17	C	deceive	Used 3 times in this play.
18	B	vulgar	Used 4 times in this play.
19	C	ostentatious	High-utility academic word
20	C	refute	High-utility academic word