

The Last Lecture

by Randy Pausch

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: analytical, crucial, diagnose, enable, focus (2), frugal, however (2), hypothesis, legacy, mentor, optimistic, parody, perspective (2), positive (2), pragmatic, tenure



More Vocabulary Printables

verbalworkout.com

(all resources free)

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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

Vocabulary Preview

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

1. We have a numbers-tested, **analytical** approach to advertising.
 - A. logical and systematic
 - B. creative and artistic
 - C. loud and aggressive
2. The information is **crucial** to making a good decision.
 - A. helpful
 - B. very important
 - C. more than is needed
3. What was her **diagnosis**?
 - A. identification of an illness
 - B. treatment for the illness
 - C. major symptom
4. Modern smartphones **enable** people to work from almost anywhere.
 - A. require
 - B. allow
 - C. remind
5. This week, I'm **focusing** on finishing my research paper.
 - A. concentrating
 - B. depending
 - C. getting help
6. The **focus** of this class is classic American Literature.
 - A. hardest part
 - B. area where attention is concentrated
 - C. prerequisite (understanding required to enroll)
7. She was raised with **frugal** habits and always orders tap water to drink at a restaurant.
 - A. health-promoting
 - B. money-saving
 - C. environmentally-conscious
8. 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
9. **However** we get there, the main thing is to be absolutely sure we're not late.
 - A. whatever way
 - B. even if in a non-standard manner
 - C. to whatever degree
10. He **hypothesized** the existence of Pluto before its discovery.
 - A. fantasized
 - B. theorized
 - C. disbelieved
11. Her parents left her a small **legacy**.
 - A. inheritance
 - B. meal
 - C. "todo" list

12. The famous professor mentored her during her years in graduate school.
- A. graded essays by
 - B. personally advised
 - C. lectured to
13. She keeps telling me her chances of dying in a car accident are 1 in 150, but I keep telling her that's too optimistic if she drives after drinking.
- A. hopeful
 - B. gloomy
 - C. simplistic
14. It's the funniest parody on YouTube.
- A. skit using understatement
 - B. exaggeration of somebody's style
 - C. jokes by a comedian
15. Also, try to see it from her perspective before you make up your mind.
- A. timeframe
 - B. education level
 - C. way of looking at things
16. Attending a funeral helps me to put life into perspective and to separate the important things from those that are less important.
- A. a sensible view
 - B. a positive view
 - C. a limited view
17. Volunteering had a positive impact on the whole neighborhood.
- A. good or beneficial
 - B. harmful or damaging
 - C. minor and unnoticed
18. I appreciate your positive attitude.
- A. patient
 - B. open-minded
 - C. optimistic
19. Successful politicians are pragmatists. Compromise is built into the system.
- A. practical
 - B. personable
 - C. busy
20. Tenure encourages academic freedom by protecting professors from being fired without a strong reason.
- A. a temporary work contract
 - B. a period of unpaid leave
 - C. the right to permanent employment

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 *Each day, I ride my bike around my neighborhood, getting exercise **crucial** for my health.*
 - A. natural
 - B. very important
 - C. more than is needed
- 2 *If we had to vanish tomorrow, what would we want as our **legacy**?*
 - A. something left behind
 - B. the act of taking something on as one's own
 - C. something that helps clarify or demonstrate
- 3 *At the time, I already had been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer, but I was **optimistic**.*
 - A. expecting the best; or focusing on the good part of things
 - B. in a manner of accepting something as true (without proof)
 - C. relating separately to the people or things just mentioned
- 4 *I had little interest in giving a discourse on, say, my insights into how I coped with the disease, or how it gave me new **perspectives**.*
 - A. things that help clarify or demonstrate
 - B. things designed to stop something else
 - C. ways of seeing or thinking about things
- 5 *And just to keep things in **perspective**, from the "Some-Things-Never-Change" department, an unrequited crush from high school wrote to wish me well and gently reminded me why I was way too nerdy for her back then (also letting slip that she'd gone on to marry a real doctor).*
 - A. a sensible view of a situation
 - B. made by taking on as one's own
 - C. relating to the chest (thorax)
- 6 *I thought hard about how I defined myself: as a teacher, a computer scientist, a husband, a father, a son, a friend, a brother, a **mentor** to my students.*
 - A. to gradually destroy or change the purpose of something -- such as a government, institution, or rule
 - B. someone who guides and advises another who is less experienced; or the act of providing such guidance
 - C. a beam, bracket, or other structure supported only on one side; or to support something in that manner
- 7 *Maybe it was a symbol of the balance in my life between aspiration and **pragmatism**.*
 - A. concern with practical matters
 - B. doubt (that something is true)
 - C. between daylight and darkness
- 8 *In fact, over time, my bedroom became the **focal** point of her house tour when anyone came to visit.*
 - A. computer code that performs a specific task
 - B. place where attention is concentrated
 - C. the act of taking something on as one's own
- 9 *I'd say that to students as a reminder not to **focus** on little issues, while ignoring the major ones.*
 - A. concentrate
 - B. make one's home in; or live in; or stay (in a place)
 - C. a real estate loan; or pledging something for a loan
- 10 *My parents were **frugal**.*
 - A. sensible and careful
 - B. avoided waste
 - C. not demonstrative of
- 11 *And so I asked lots of data-seeking questions, and found myself **hypothesizing** along with my doctors.*
 - A. controlling in advance (how something will turn out)
 - B. proposing reasonable, but unproven, ideas
 - C. holding together (connecting or uniting) or wrapping

- 12 *She knew that my cancer **diagnosis** was grim.*
 A. identification (as in identifying an illness)
 B. a period of time when someone exhibits unusual behavior
 C. the act or process of stopping something from happening
- 13 *Even as a **tenured** professor who could afford something better, I lived in a \$450-a-month attic apartment with a fire-escape walkup.*
 A. the characteristic of being excessively unhappy and unsociable
 B. of a concept or idea not associated with any specific instance
 C. successful (having been granted the right to keep a job as long as desired)
- 14 *We were in the basket of the balloon, and the odds of the basket hitting the train were small. **However**, there was certainly a risk that the giant balloon itself (called "the envelope") would fall onto the tracks when we hit the ground.*
 A. though (used to connect contrasting ideas)
 B. in keeping with or in agreement with what was just stated
 C. therefore (for that reason)
- 15 ***However** they wanted to throw those lights on the tree was fine by me.*
 A. in whatever way
 B. starts fighting
 C. starts (a fire)
- 16 *We recognized that there were things we could do that might help the outcome in **positive** ways...and we did them.*
 A. good or beneficial
 B. not representative
 C. impossible to find
- 17 *It pains him to see patients who are having a tough day healthwise and assume it's because they weren't **positive** enough.*
 A. unable to get closer to
 B. not sensible or careful
 C. optimistic (focusing on good things)
- 18 *IV – ENABLING THE DREAMS OF OTHERS*
 A. being a sign of
 B. making possible
 C. moving downward
- 19 *"Hip" people love **parodies**.*
 A. expresses personal artistic ideas or feelings while performing (or performing to) someone else's work
 B. humorous, exaggerated imitations of things done to mock or make fun of them
 C. gradually destroys or changes the purpose of something -- such as a government, institution, or rule
- 20 *She may diplomatically tell them some of the things that made me exasperating; my overly **analytical** approach to life, my insistence (too often) that I know best.*
 A. relating to logical examination to improve understanding
 B. the state or degree of being pessimistic or disagreeable
 C. related to the natural world (life, air, water, land...)

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	B	crucial	High-utility academic word; used 8 times in this book.
2	A	legacy	High-utility academic word; used 4 times in this book.
3	A	optimistic	High-utility academic word; used 15 times in this book.
4	C	perspective (<i>as in: Look at it from her perspective</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
5	A	perspective (<i>as in: Keep it in perspective</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
6	B	mentor	High-utility academic word; used 6 times in this book.
7	A	pragmatic	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
8	B	focus (<i>as in: The focus of our study is...</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
9	A	focus (<i>as in: Turn your focus to question #2.</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
10	B	frugal	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
11	B	hypothesis (<i>as in: a study to test her hypothesis</i>)	High-utility academic word
12	A	diagnose	Used 11 times in this book.
13	C	tenure (<i>as in: she was granted tenure</i>)	Used 11 times in this book.
14	A	however (<i>as in: However, complications may...</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
15	A	however (<i>as in: However you do it, get it done!</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
16	A	positive (<i>as in: had a positive effect</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
17	C	positive (<i>as in: a positive attitude</i>)	Used 6 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
18	B	enable	High-utility academic word; used 9 times in this book.
19	B	parody	Used 3 times in this book.
20	A	analytical	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.