

# The Laughing Man

by J. D. Salinger

## 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:** adamant, anonymous, compassion, competent, cordial, credible, distort, fastidious, hideous, impartial, imply, intuition, liberate, loathe, mediocre, moreover, narrate, nonetheless, ominous, rational



#### More Vocabulary Printables

verbalworkout.com

*(all resources free)*

# ANSWER KEY

## Vocabulary Preview

### The Laughing Man

by J. D. Salinger

---

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

# Vocabulary Preview

## The Laughing Man

by J. D. Salinger

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

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

1. The CEO was **adamant** that the company would not compromise on its commitment to sustainability, even if it meant sacrificing short-term profits.
  - A. willing to change a decision based on new information
  - B. uncertain or hesitant about a decision
  - C. determined not to change a decision
2. Everyone wonders who made the **anonymous** donation.
  - A. nameless
  - B. generous
  - C. surprising
3. It is not enough to be **compassionate**. We must act. It is not enough to act. We must act with intelligence.
  - A. lucky
  - B. sympathetic
  - C. talented
4. She is **competent** on both violin and piano.
  - A. below average
  - B. sufficiently capable
  - C. outstanding
5. The professor greeted each student **cordially** as they entered.
  - A. in a hurried manner
  - B. in a friendly manner
  - C. in a clumsy manner
6. Her story isn't **credible**.
  - A. believable
  - B. long
  - C. short
7. The funhouse mirror **distorted** her reflection, making her head look huge.
  - A. reflected
  - B. improved
  - C. altered
8. She was **fastidious** about keeping her desk perfectly organized.
  - A. careless and disorganized
  - B. loud and outgoing
  - C. extremely attentive to detail
9. He had a **hideous** scar running from his forehead to his jaw.
  - A. barely noticeable
  - B. extremely ugly
  - C. perfectly healed
10. They trusted her to be **impartial**.
  - A. unbiased
  - B. smart
  - C. forgiving
11. She **implied** that she would vote with us.
  - A. hinted
  - B. insisted
  - C. denied

12. Intuitively, I knew not to trust her.
- A. logically
  - B. instinctively
  - C. conclusively
13. She writes to liberate her readers from social conformity.
- A. teach
  - B. free
  - C. instruct
14. I loathe that man. He ruined my life.
- A. fear
  - B. avoid
  - C. hate
15. The restaurant received mediocre reviews, so we chose another place.
- A. truly excellent
  - B. clearly terrible
  - C. only average
16. Many graduates have high college debt. Moreover, too many of them haven't found good-paying jobs.
- A. in contrast to that
  - B. in addition to that
  - C. as a result of that
17. She avoided eye contact as she narrated the story of how she ended up in prison.
- A. told (a story)
  - B. discouraged
  - C. urged strongly
18. The class was hard. It was nonetheless my favorite.
- A. despite that
  - B. because of that
  - C. for that reason
19. With the clouds looking so ominous, I'm afraid there will be a bad storm.
- A. threatening
  - B. huge
  - C. fast-moving
20. Let's try to ignore how upset we are for a moment and think about this rationally.
- A. in a hurried manner
  - B. in a creative manner
  - C. in a reasonable manner

## Vocabulary in Context

### The Laughing Man

by J. D. Salinger

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

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

- 1 *Just in passing, he was an Eagle Scout, an almost-All-America tackle of 1926, and it was known that he had been most **cordially** invited to try out for the New York Giants' baseball team.*
  - A. in a pleasing way
  - B. in a friendly way
  - C. in a skillful way
- 2 *He was an **impartial** and unexcitable umpire at all our bedlam sporting events, a master fire builder and extinguisher, and an expert, uncontentious first-aid man.*
  - A. without favoritism or bias
  - B. the quality of disagreeing
  - C. the quality of being Dutch
- 3 *Once he started **narrating**, our interest never flagged.*
  - A. telling (a story)
  - B. causing suffering
  - C. becoming aware of
- 4 *Moreover, he removed his mask and spoke to them, softly, melodiously, in their own tongues.*
  - A. despite that (used to connect contrasting ideas)
  - B. in addition to what has just been said
  - C. even though -- used to connect contrasting ideas
- 5 *There was a **compassionate** side to the Laughing Man's character that just about drove me crazy.*
  - A. did not find a condition or substance to be present
  - B. feeling or showing sympathy for another's suffering
  - C. to support by providing money or other economic aid
- 6 *For sheer sport, the Laughing Man usually went halfway with them, then vanished, often leaving no even faintly **credible** indication of his escape method.*
  - A. believable as a truth or as a means of accomplishing something
  - B. the characteristic of being excessively unhappy and unsociable
  - C. the condition of continuing or seeming to continue without end
- 7 *Soon the Laughing Man had amassed the largest personal fortune in the world. Most of it he contributed **anonymously** to the monks of a local monastery--*
  - A. without revealing who contributed the money
  - B. in a manner that finds fault
  - C. in a manner that is not good
- 8 *At all costs, stifle my natural **hideous** laughter.*
  - A. the characteristic of demonstrating something
  - B. extremely ugly, offensive, and/or frightening
  - C. the quality of not being sensible and careful
- 9 *There were twenty-five Comanches in the Club, or twenty-five legitimate living descendants of the Laughing Man—all of us circulating **ominously**, and incognito, throughout the city, sizing up elevator operators as potential archenemies, whispering side-of-the-mouth but fluent orders into the ears of cocker spaniels, drawing beads, with index fingers, on the foreheads of arithmetic teachers.*
  - A. threatening (suggestive of, or foreshadowing bad things to come)
  - B. in a manner that serves to help explain or demonstrate something
  - C. in a manner that tests someone or something for a period of time
- 10 *And always waiting, waiting for a decent chance to strike terror and admiration in the nearest **mediocre** heart.*
  - A. without purpose, job, or natural activity
  - B. unable or difficult to meet and talk with
  - C. average or a bit below average in quality

- 11 He shrugged slightly, as much as to **imply**, it seemed to me, that the picture had more or less been planted on him.
- A. suggest (say indirectly)
  - B. struggle or disagreement
  - C. include consideration of
- 12 Then the Chief took over, revealing what had formerly been a well-concealed flair for **incompetence**.
- A. creates, starts, or sets in a place
  - B. inability to do things sufficiently
  - C. not arousing interest or excitement
- 13 He took Mary Hudson aside, just out of earshot of the Comanches, and seemed to address her solemnly, **rationally**.
- A. in a manner that is unlikely to attract attention or cause embarrassment
  - B. in the manner of someone who believes oneself morally superior to others
  - C. reasonable, able to think clearly, or based on logic rather than emotion
- 14 She was wearing a catcher's mitt, her own **adamant** choice.
- A. the characteristic of demonstrating something
  - B. the quality of not being sensible and careful
  - C. determined not to change a decision or belief
- 15 However, the Dufarges had no intention of **liberating** Black Wing, whom they feared and loathed.
- A. getting near
  - B. setting free
  - C. hiring again
- 16 However, the Dufarges had no intention of **liberating** Black Wing, whom they feared and loathed.
- A. took (power or responsibility)
  - B. developed or changed gradually
  - C. detested or intensely disliked
- 17 I had no idea what was going on between the Chief and Mary Hudson (and still haven't, in any but a fairly low, **intuitive** sense), but nonetheless, I couldn't have been more certain that Mary Hudson had permanently dropped out of the Comanche lineup.
- A. the quality of being without boundaries or limits
  - B. known instinctively rather than through reasoning
  - C. suitability; or the degree of having been adapted
- 18 I had no idea what was going on between the Chief and Mary Hudson (and still haven't, in any but a fairly low, intuitive sense), but **nonetheless**, I couldn't have been more certain that Mary Hudson had permanently dropped out of the Comanche lineup.
- A. in spite of that (used to connect contrasting ideas)
  - B. in keeping with or in agreement with what was just stated
  - C. therefore (for that reason)
- 19 As the Dufarges came into range, he suddenly raised his face, gave a terrible laugh, and neatly, even **fastidiously**, regurgitated all four bullets.
- A. in a manner that surpasses others in status, ability, or possession of a notable characteristic
  - B. in a manner like a "rogue" (someone who doesn't behave like others; often dangerous or immoral)
  - C. with careful attention to detail OR with excessive concern for cleanliness or matters of taste
- 20 Omba bowed his own slightly **distorted** head and revealed to his master that the Dufarges had killed Black Wing.
- A. said (or make a sound) with the voice
  - B. genetically changed through evolution
  - C. altered in an unnatural or untrue way

# ANSWER KEY

## Vocabulary in Context

### The Laughing Man

by J. D. Salinger

#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	B	cordial ( <i>as in: a cordial reception</i> )	Used about 2 times per 10 books in our high school library.
2	A	impartial	High-utility academic word
3	A	narrate	Used 2 times in this story.
4	B	moreover	High-utility academic word
5	B	compassion	Used about 10 times per 10 books in our high school library.
6	A	credible	Used about 2 times per 10 books in our high school library.
7	A	anonymous ( <i>as in: an anonymous author</i> )	Used about 7 times per 10 books in our high school library.
8	B	hideous	Used 3 times in this story.
9	A	ominous	Used about 9 times per 10 books in our high school library.
10	C	mediocre	Used about 2 times per 10 books in our high school library.
11	A	imply	High-utility academic word
12	B	competent	High-utility academic word
13	C	rational ( <i>as in: rational behavior</i> )	Used about 8 times per 10 books in our high school library.
14	C	adamant	Used about 5 times per 10 books in our high school library.
15	B	liberate	Used 2 times in this story.
16	C	loathe	Used about 8 times per 10 books in our high school library.
17	B	intuition	High-utility academic word
18	A	nonetheless	Used 2 times in this story.
19	C	fastidious	Used about 2 times per 10 books in our high school library.
20	C	distort	Used about 9 times per 10 books in our high school library.