

# The Merchant of Venice

by William Shakespeare

## 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:** adieu, allay, beseech, bestow, commend, devise, dismay, entreat, forfeit, malice, notwithstanding, obscure (2), peril, render, repent, revere, scarcity, scorn, spurn



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# ANSWER KEY

## Vocabulary Preview

### The Merchant of Venice

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

**Vocabulary Preview**  
**The Merchant of Venice**  
by William Shakespeare

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

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

1. We waved **adieu** to our friends at the train station.
  - A. goodbye
  - B. hello
  - C. greetings
2. It does little to **allay** Israeli fears.
  - A. increase
  - B. distract from
  - C. reduce
3. She closed the prayer by **beseeking** God to grant them wisdom and patience.
  - A. asking
  - B. demanding
  - C. instructing
4. Our organization **bestows** honors, awards, and sometimes cash prizes to promising writers.
  - A. shows
  - B. recommends
  - C. gives
5. I **commend** her dedication.
  - A. praise
  - B. envy
  - C. miss
6. This may be our last chance to **devise** a compromise that will save the peace.
  - A. consider
  - B. create
  - C. save
7. Hope was replaced by **dismay**.
  - A. satisfaction
  - B. faith
  - C. sorrow
8. The students **entreated** the Chinese troops not to use force against peaceful demonstrations.
  - A. bribed (with gifts)
  - B. asked earnestly
  - C. threatened
9. The team was half an hour late and had to **forfeit** the game.
  - A. rush through
  - B. give up as lost
  - C. re-schedule
10. Words can be like baseball bats when used **maliciously** against someone who is sensitive.
  - A. carelessly
  - B. mockingly
  - C. evilly
11. The budget was approved, **notwithstanding** the loud protests from the opposition.
  - A. in spite of
  - B. as a result of
  - C. in addition to
12. Our view was **obscured** by the smoke.
  - A. enhanced
  - B. blocked
  - C. made frightening

13. The jungle became **obscure** as the sun set.
- A. scary
  - B. dark or dingy
  - C. cold
14. The journalist's investigation put her in great **peril**.
- A. fame
  - B. danger
  - C. weariness
15. I received an invoice for \$100 for services **rendered**.
- A. to be performed
  - B. described in writing
  - C. provided or supplied
16. She said the U.S. should **repent** for the sins of fossil fuels.
- A. reimburse
  - B. apologize
  - C. suffer
17. She **reveres** nature and all that is natural.
- A. dislikes and avoids
  - B. deeply respects
  - C. thoroughly enjoys
18. Work is **scarce** in the region.
- A. easily found
  - B. extremely hard
  - C. in short supply
19. That coach **scorns** students who don't have natural ability.
- A. disrespects
  - B. encourages
  - C. trains
20. She **spurned** both major parties in the last election.
- A. joined
  - B. rejected
  - C. founded

## Vocabulary in Context

### The Merchant of Venice

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

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

- 1 *do them reverence*
  - A. lack of respect
  - B. respect and admiration
  - C. agreement with
- 2 *The brain may **devise** laws for the blood, but a hot temper leaps o'er a cold decree; such a hare is madness the youth, to skip o'er the meshes of good counsel the cripple.*
  - A. stop (something from happening)
  - B. come up with (invent or create)
  - C. think deeply or carefully about
- 3 *You say so: You that did void your rheum upon my beard, And foot me as you **spurn** a stranger cur Over your threshold; moneys is your suit.*
  - A. find, search, or research
  - B. reject as not good enough
  - C. being a boundary or limit
- 4 *I say, To buy his favour, I extend this friendship; If he will take it, so; if not, **adieu**; And, for my love, I pray you wrong me not.*
  - A. goodbye
  - B. hello
  - C. greetings
- 5 *Come on; in this there can be no **dismay**; My ships come home a month before the day.*
  - A. make someone want to do something
  - B. walk in an awkward, shuffling way
  - C. sadness, disappointment, or worry
- 6 *My conscience says 'No; take heed, honest Launcelot, take heed, honest Gobbo' or, as aforesaid, 'honest Launcelot Gobbo, do not run; **scorn** running with thy heels.'*
  - A. disrespect or reject as not good enough
  - B. not answer questions; or block progress
  - C. move from more general to more specific
- 7 *His master and he, saving your worship's reverence, are **scarce** cater-cousins— LAUNCELOT.*
  - A. the state of not being aware or concerned about something
  - B. a state similar to sleep where one is unaware of anything
  - C. in short supply OR barely or hardly (by a small margin)
- 8 *And then to scape drowning thrice, and to be in **peril** of my life with the edge of a feather-bed; here are simple 'scapes.*
  - A. useful
  - B. danger
  - C. allows
- 9 *I beseech you, sir, go:*
  - A. ask strongly or beg
  - B. demand strongly or order
  - C. warn strongly or fearfully
- 10 *...in the **obscure** grave.*
  - A. select (on a computer screen)
  - B. dark
  - C. an involuntary vomiting spasm
- 11 *In law, what plea so tainted and corrupt  
But, being season'd with a gracious voice,  
**Obscures** the show of evil?*
  - A. makes different; or shows difference
  - B. hides
  - C. changes to fit a different situation

- 12 *Why, I am sure, if he forfeit, thou wilt not take his flesh:*  
A. lies or deceives  
B. loses by not paying  
C. dies from shame
- 13 *be moderate; allay thy ecstasy; In measure rain thy joy; scant this excess; I feel too much thy blessing; make it less, For fear I surfeit!*  
A. genetic change through evolution  
B. interact again or interest again  
C. reduce the intensity of; or calm
- 14 *Then I'll repent, and wish for all that, that I had not kill'd them.*  
A. pray for better understanding  
B. feel regret for having done something wrong  
C. have a meeting to discuss
- 15 *Shylock, the world thinks, and I think so too,  
That thou but leadest this fashion of thy malice  
To the last hour of act; and then, 'tis thought,  
Thou'lt show thy mercy and remorse, more strange  
Than is thy strange apparent cruelty;*  
A. wanting to help others  
B. wanting to be left alone  
C. wanting to see others suffer
- 16 *This letter from Bellario doth commend a young and learned doctor to our court.*  
A. express a favorable opinion  
B. express an unfavorable opinion  
C. deny knowledge of
- 17 *we do pray for mercy, and that same prayer doth teach us all to render the deeds of mercy.*  
A. interpret  
B. ask  
C. give
- 18 *Sir, I entreat you home with me to dinner.*  
A. take  
B. ask  
C. sing
- 19 *Silence bestows that virtue on it, madam.*  
A. requires  
B. gets (as an honor or gift)  
C. gives
- 20 ANTONIO: *I am the unhappy subject of these quarrels.*  
PORTIA: *Sir, grieve not you; you are welcome notwithstanding.*  
A. despite what was just said  
B. in addition to what was just said  
C. as a result of what was just said

# ANSWER KEY

## Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	B	revere	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this play.
2	B	devise ( <i>as in: devise a plan</i> )	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this play.
3	B	spurn	Used 3 times in this play.
4	A	adieu	Used 6 times in this play.
5	C	dismay	Used 3 times in this play.
6	A	scorn	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this play.
7	C	scarcity	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this play.
8	B	peril	Used 3 times in this play.
9	A	beseech	Used 7 times in this play.
10	B	obscure ( <i>as in: was obscure, but now bright</i> )	2 meanings in this play.
11	B	obscure ( <i>as in: it obscured my view</i> )	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this play.
12	B	forfeit	Used 12 times in this play.
13	C	allay	Used 2 times in this play.
14	B	repent	Used 4 times in this play.
15	C	malice	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this play.
16	A	commend ( <i>as in: I commend her work</i> )	Used 7 times in this play.
17	C	render ( <i>as in: rendered service or a verdict</i> )	High-utility academic word; 3 meanings in this play.
18	B	entreat	Used 5 times in this play.
19	C	bestow	Used 4 times in this play.
20	A	notwithstanding	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this play.