

The Taming of the Shrew

by William Shakespeare

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: adieu, affable, amorous, beguile, bestow, carouse, chide, countenance (2), cunning, diligent, disdain, dowry, entreat, forswear, heed, pedantic, perish, scorn, shrewd



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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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

Vocabulary Preview
The Taming of the Shrew
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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. He's an **affable** guy with a good sense of humor.
 - A. impulsive or unpredictable
 - B. incapable of being undone
 - C. good natured and sociable
3. She doesn't think of him in an **amorous** way.
 - A. logical or analytical
 - B. light-hearted
 - C. romantic or sexual
4. She was wined, dined, and **beguiled** into signing the contract.
 - A. forced
 - B. tricked
 - C. encouraged
5. Our organization **bestows** honors, awards, and sometimes cash prizes to promising writers.
 - A. shows
 - B. recommends
 - C. gives
6. They were out **carousing** last night.
 - A. working late
 - B. partying loudly
 - C. eating dinner
7. She gently **chides** her friends who run up credit card debt unnecessarily.
 - A. avoids
 - B. celebrates with
 - C. criticizes
8. Her **countenance** grew stern.
 - A. facial expression
 - B. a method of counting
 - C. voice
9. They **countenance** terrorism.
 - A. provide funds for
 - B. show favor for
 - C. discourage
10. The worst mix -- greedy, **cunning**, and without morals.
 - A. stupid and impatient
 - B. clever and deceitful
 - C. strong and cruel
11. A **diligent** detective investigates all clues.
 - A. lazy and careless
 - B. rude and dishonest
 - C. careful and hardworking

12. She has nothing but **disdain** for the notion that common people can regulate their own lives better than she can.
- A. lack of respect
 - B. humility
 - C. intense anger
13. **Dowries** are common in that culture.
- A. extended-families living together
 - B. payment to a husband upon marriage
 - C. large families
14. The students **entreated** the Chinese troops not to use force against peaceful demonstrations.
- A. bribed (with gifts)
 - B. asked earnestly
 - C. threatened
15. She should **forswear** contributions from special interest groups.
- A. make public
 - B. stop (taking)
 - C. take advantage of
16. She didn't **heed** the storm warnings and got caught in the heavy rain.
- A. pass through
 - B. tell others of
 - C. pay attention to
17. Her essay was filled with creative ideas, but it was vulnerable to **pedantic nitpicking**.
- A. of someone too concerned with regional style
 - B. of someone too concerned with statistical studies
 - C. of someone too concerned with book learning
18. We can work together or **perish** separately.
- A. work
 - B. die
 - C. fail
19. That coach **scorns** students who don't have natural ability.
- A. disrespects
 - B. encourages
 - C. trains
20. She watched him with a **shrewd** eye.
- A. nearby
 - B. outside
 - C. smart

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 *I have some sport in hand wherein your **cunning** can assist me much.*
 - A. related to the natural world (life, air, water, land...)
 - B. cleverness
 - C. relating to logical examination to improve understanding
- 2 *she was **beguiled** and surprised*
 - A. protected or kept something as it was
 - B. deceived
 - C. controlled (how something turned out)
- 3 *Gentlemen, importune me no further, For how I firmly am resolv'd you know; That is, not to **bestow** my youngest daughter Before I have a husband for the elder.*
 - A. draw
 - B. quit
 - C. give
- 4 *Petruchio, shall I then come roundly to thee And wish thee to a **shrewd** ill-favour'd wife?*
 - A. exact
 - B. awake
 - C. smart
- 5 *an **affable** and courteous gentleman*
 - A. not able to be translated
 - B. able to be disagreed with
 - C. good natured and sociable
- 6 *A proper stripling, and an **amorous**!*
 - A. logical or analytical
 - B. comprehensive
 - C. romantic or sexual
- 7 *Not her that **chides**, sir, at any hand, I pray.*
 - A. gains advantage from
 - B. boundaries or limits
 - C. scolds or criticizes
- 8 *Sir, I shall not be slack; in sign whereof, Please ye we may contrive this afternoon, And quaff **carouses** to our mistress' health; And do as adversaries do in law, Strive mightily, but eat and drink as friends.*
 - A. surgically interrupts nerve tracts to and from the frontal lobe of the brain
 - B. having fun with others in a noisy manner -- typically while drinking alcohol
 - C. thinks, communicates, or keeps attention on something for a prolonged period
- 9 *to make a bondmaid and a slave of me; that I **disdain***
 - A. disrespect
 - B. differ; or change
 - C. influence opinion
- 10 *Then tell me, if I get your daughter's love, What **dowry** shall I have with her to wife?*
 - A. a powered mechanical device, typically used to fabricate metal components of machines by the selective removal of metal such as cutting, grinding or drilling
 - B. money or property given by a woman's family to the husband at marriage (a cultural custom in that time and place)
 - C. someone who believes in the teaching of Buddha -- that aims to end suffering by ending selfish desire and following a path of wisdom, ethics, and meditation
- 11 *Father, and wife, and gentlemen, **adieu**.*
 - A. goodbye
 - B. hello
 - C. greetings

- 12 *'Twas a commodity lay fretting by you; 'Twill bring you gain, or **perish** on the seas.*
A. move into position to work; or start
B. die, be destroyed, or cease to exist
C. to spread to other parts of the body
- 13 *How fiery and forward our **pedant** is!*
A. someone who makes something appropriate in size, amount, or degree
B. someone who fulfills what they perceive as their highest potential
C. someone too concerned with formal rules, details, or book learning
- 14 *Let us **entreat** you stay till after dinner.*
A. stop fighting
B. ask earnestly
C. make possible
- 15 *You must meet my master to **countenance** my mistress.*
A. return to an undesirable previous condition
B. show favor
C. cancel or annul a formal ruling or contract
- 16 *In **countenance** somewhat doth resemble you.*
A. facial expression
B. the best or most important
C. a secret agreement or plot
- 17 *You **heedless** joltheads and unmanner'd slaves!*
A. capable of thought, self-reflection, and will
B. the characteristic of demonstrating something
C. ignorant or ignoring; or not following advice
- 18 *Nor a musician as I seem to be; But one that **scorn** to live in this disguise For such a one as leaves a gentleman And makes a god of such a cullion: Know, sir, that I am call'd Hortensio.*
A. disrespect or reject as not good enough
B. not answer questions; or block progress
C. move from more general to more specific
- 19 *have you both **forsworn** me?*
A. constraining in some way -- such as tying up, requiring, or obligating
B. renounced
C. the profession of assisting women in childbirth without being a doctor
- 20 *thou seest how **diligent** I am*
A. impossible to find
B. good or beneficial
C. hardworking and careful

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	B	cunning (<i>as in: a cunning thief</i>)	Used 6 times in this play.
2	B	beguile	Used 3 times in this play.
3	C	bestow	Used 3 times in this play.
4	C	shrewd	Used 4 times in this play.
5	C	affable	Used 3 times in this play.
6	C	amorous	Used 3 times in this play.
7	C	chide	Used 4 times in this play.
8	B	carouse	Used 3 times in this play.
9	A	disdain	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this play.
10	B	dowry	Used 7 times in this play.
11	A	adieu	Used 3 times in this play.
12	B	perish	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this play.
13	C	pedantic	Used 32 times in this play.
14	B	entreat	Used 14 times in this play.
15	B	countenance (<i>as in: giving countenance</i>)	2 meanings in this play.
16	A	countenance (<i>as in: a pleasant countenance</i>)	Used 6 times in this play; 2 meanings in this play.
17	C	heed	Used 3 times in this play.
18	A	scorn	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this play.
19	B	forswear (<i>as in: forswear my country of birth</i>)	Used 6 times in this play.
20	C	diligent (<i>as in: she is diligent</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this play.