

The Tipping Point

by Malcolm Gladwell

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: acute (2), alternative (2), cognitive, context, correlate, equilibrium, factor, illustrate, implicit (2), innovate, intuition, narrative, premise (2), proportional, tetanus, vary



More Vocabulary Printables

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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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#	KEY
1	B
2	C
3	C
4	A
5	C
6	A
7	C
8	B
9	C
10	C
11	C
12	B
13	B
14	A
15	A
16	A
17	A
18	C
19	A
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 had **acute** appendicitis.
 - A. minor
 - B. bad
 - C. gradual
2. Birds tend to have **acute** vision.
 - A. colorless
 - B. poor
 - C. excellent
3. Can anyone think of a better **alternative**?
 - A. job
 - B. reason
 - C. possibility
4. The Amish lead an **alternative** lifestyle that limits the use of technology.
 - A. non-standard
 - B. oriental or East Asian
 - C. traditional or standard
5. Sleep can affect **cognitive** skills like memory, focus, and problem solving.
 - A. physical
 - B. social
 - C. mental
6. Scientists **correlate** carbon emissions with rising global temperatures.
 - A. associate
 - B. contrast
 - C. replace
7. In the field of economics, market **equilibrium** is achieved when supply meets demand, resulting in stable prices and satisfied consumers.
 - A. conflict
 - B. disparity
 - C. balance
8. In the second paragraph, the narrator's focus shifts from **factors** making her unhappy to identification of possible solutions to her unhappiness.
 - A. things that are unfair
 - B. things (that influence an outcome)
 - C. examples of illnesses
9. The example **illustrates** the belief.
 - A. disproves
 - B. proves
 - C. makes clear
10. Though she did not mention him by name, her comments were clearly an **implicit** criticism of his policies.
 - A. severe (very intense regarding something bad)
 - B. dull (uninteresting and unimpactful)
 - C. understood (without having been directly said)
11. I trust her **implicitly**.
 - A. guardedly
 - B. with concern
 - C. without question

12. Companies must **innovate** quickly to stay ahead of their competitors.
- A. follow old rules
 - B. create new methods
 - C. imitate rivals
13. **Intuitively**, I knew not to trust her.
- A. logically
 - B. instinctively
 - C. conclusively
14. It's an interesting **narrative** about her first year in college.
- A. story
 - B. joke
 - C. theatrical play
15. She quoted him **out of context**.
- A. in a misleading manner
 - B. in a convincing manner
 - C. in a respectful manner
16. Her logic is fine except that it assumes a **false premise**.
- A. something assumed to be true and upon which other things are based
 - B. an ethical or moral principle that discourages certain kinds of action
 - C. idealistic belief that people are good unless corrupted by others
17. The **premise** of the show is that she awakens with amnesia and doesn't know if she is in the country legally.
- A. context (underlying situation)
 - B. something explained by a narrator as part of the introduction
 - C. surprising conclusion
18. This diagram is like a map that draws states **proportional** to their population rather than their geographic size.
- A. with color according
 - B. in order according
 - C. related in size
19. A booster shot is recommended every ten years to protect against **tetanus**.
- A. bacterial infection from puncture wounds
 - B. a sexually transmitted infection
 - C. viral infection from mosquito bites
20. McDonald's menu options **vary** by location.
- A. are consistent
 - B. are different
 - C. are known

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 We assume, **intuitively**, that neighborhoods and social problems decline in some kind of steady progression.
 - A. with suffering in a bad situation for a long time
 - B. known instinctively rather than through reasoning
 - C. in a manner that is sensitive to others' feelings
- 2 When there were 36,000 patient visits a year in the STD clinics of Baltimore's inner city, in other words, the disease was kept in **equilibrium**.
 - A. thought
 - B. payment
 - C. balance
- 3 When it comes to epidemics, though, this **disproportionality** becomes even more extreme: a tiny percentage of people do the majority of the work.
 - A. the condition of being exclusive to (someone or some group)
 - B. having a pH greater than 7 (this is the opposite of acidic)
 - C. the quality of inappropriateness in size, amount, or degree
- 4 It used to be an **acute** infection, something that most people could get treated fairly quickly before they had a chance to infect many others.
 - A. gradually getting worse
 - B. severely negative
 - C. only superficial
- 5 The people who didn't get a buzz from their first cigarette and who found the whole experience so awful that they never smoked again are probably people whose bodies are **acutely** sensitive to nicotine, incapable of handling it in even the smallest doses.
 - A. in a continuing manner -- especially despite difficulties or opposition
 - B. in a manner that shows bad taste (crude, offensive, or unsophisticated)
 - C. sharply (highly)
- 6 The Power of **Context** says that human beings are a lot more sensitive to their environment than they may seem.
 - A. situation or setting
 - B. the act of interacting or getting interested again
 - C. an image (seen on a mirror or other shiny surface)
- 7 One big **factor** is that Bacon is a lot younger than most of them and as a result has made fewer movies.
 - A. job, reservation, booking, or activity
 - B. thing that affects a result or outcome
 - C. something that is made or manufactured
- 8 He divided them up into several groups, and gave all of them a seven-page booklet explaining the dangers of **tetanus**, the importance of inoculation, and the fact that the university was offering free tetanus shots at the campus health center to all interested students.
 - A. bacterial infection typically contracted through a puncture wound with a dirty object
 - B. the doctrine that knowledge is acquired primarily by reason rather than by experience
 - C. suffering from a psychological disorder characterized by excessive distrust of others
- 9 Perhaps no one has done more to **illustrate** the potential of this kind of stickiness engineering, however, than children's educational television, in particular the creators of Sesame Street and, later, the show it inspired, Blue's Clues.
 - A. work or operate
 - B. think carefully
 - C. help make clear
- 10 "We had the most **varied** set of slides we could imagine," said Palmer.
 - A. took on as one's own
 - B. differed; or changed
 - C. began fighting again

- 11 Jennings Bryant, an educational researcher at the University of Alabama, conducted a study of 120 children, comparing the performance of regular Blue's Clues watchers to watchers of other educational shows on a series of **cognitive** tests.
- A. the state of not representing or imitating external reality or the objects of nature
 - B. a solution that is simpler (and often more comprehensive) than most would anticipate
 - C. relating to mental processes like thinking, learning, remembering, and understanding
- 12 [Of an early Sesame Street cartoon episode] The problem, at root, is with the **premise** of the show — the essential joke that Big Bird doesn't want to be known as a big bird. That's the kind of wordplay that a preschooler simply doesn't understand.
- A. the underlying situation
 - B. the quality of accepting what happens without trying to take control or reacting strongly
 - C. baseball: pitches thrown with little spin (so that they move in an unpredictable manner)
- 13 The absolutist approach to fighting drugs proceeds on the **premise** that experimentation equals addiction.
- A. assumption (used to logically build an argument)
 - B. an ethical or moral principle that discourages certain kinds of action
 - C. a controversial idea
- 14 She was making up stories, **narratives**, that explained and organized the things that happened to her.
- A. stories
 - B. battles
 - C. results
- 15 So what does **correlate** with brain size?
- A. to find or have a connection or relationship between two things, such that a change in one helps predict a change in the other
 - B. present something to treat as true in order to advance a discussion or to further investigation even though it might not be true
 - C. remove or suppress anything considered obscene, immoral, or politically unacceptable OR a person who does such suppression
- 16 In the manufacturing realm, they had a hundred and fifty people, and they worked closely together and there was peer pressure about how to be the best and how to be the most **innovative**.
- A. greater than zero
 - B. able to develop good, new ideas
 - C. not demonstrating
- 17 Wegner argues that when people know each other well, they create an **implicit** joint memory system — a transactive memory system — which is based on an understanding about who is best suited to remember what kinds of things.
- A. mental activity of which one is not self-aware
 - B. with the involvement of other people or things
 - C. understood (without having been directly said)
- 18 But we know, **implicitly**, where to go to find the answers to our questions — whether it is up to our spouse to remember where we put our keys or our thirteen-year-old to find out how to work the computer or our mother to find out details of our childhood.
- A. not exactly or accurately
 - B. in a manner like a "monk"
 - C. without question or doubt
- 19 The ads were put on billboards and in "wild postings" on construction-site walls and in **alternative** magazines.
- A. non-traditional
 - B. poor ability to make a decision
 - C. relating to a period of testing
- 20 Suicide stories offer another kind of **alternative**.
- A. a mental disorder characterized by alternating episodes of major depression and abnormally elevated mood
 - B. acts to tendency to engage in acts that resist government authority or attempt to overthrow a government
 - C. possibility

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	B	intuition	High-utility academic word; used 10 times in this book.
2	C	equilibrium	Used 5 times in this book.
3	C	proportional	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
4	B	acute (<i>as in: acute pain</i>)	Used 3 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
5	C	acute (<i>as in: acute sense of smell</i>)	Used 3 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
6	A	context	High-utility academic word; used 45 times in this book.
7	B	factor (<i>as in: It was the deciding factor.</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 23 times in this book.
8	A	tetanus	Used 18 times in this book.
9	C	illustrate (<i>as in: as illustrated by this example</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 5 times in this book.
10	B	vary	High-utility academic word; used 6 times in this book.
11	C	cognitive	Used 3 times in this book.
12	A	premise (<i>as in: the premise of the story</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
13	A	premise (<i>as in: the premise of the argument</i>)	Used 3 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
14	A	narrative (<i>as in: Narrative of the Life of...</i>)	Used 9 times in this book.
15	A	correlate	High-utility academic word; used 5 times in this book.
16	B	innovate	High-utility academic word; used 28 times in this book.
17	C	implicit (<i>as in: not explicitly but implicitly</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
18	C	implicit (<i>as in: I trust her implicitly.</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
19	A	alternative (<i>as in: alternative medicine</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
20	C	alternative (<i>as in: an alternative plan</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.