

To Kill a Mockingbird

by Harper Lee

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Contents & Printing Notes

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: acquit, assume (2), circumstantial evidence, compose (2), congregation, contradict, contrast (2), critic, cross-examination, defendant, engage, Hitler, indicate, persecution, tenet, testify, testimony



More Vocabulary Printables

verbalworkout.com

(all resources free)

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

To Kill a Mockingbird

by Harper Lee

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

Vocabulary Preview

To Kill a Mockingbird

by Harper Lee

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

1. She was **acquitted** of all charges.
 - A. accused
 - B. cleared
 - C. convicted
2. The detective had no concrete evidence, but he began to **assume** the suspect was hiding something based on his evasive answers.
 - A. wonder if
 - B. believe
 - C. prove
3. She thinks the aliens can **assume** human form.
 - A. take on
 - B. sense
 - C. believe
4. The appeals court found that the **circumstantial** evidence was not sufficient for a guilty verdict.
 - A. suggestive
 - B. planted
 - C. proven
5. I use an electronic keyboard to help **compose** music.
 - A. listen to
 - B. play
 - C. write
6. Before entering the interview room, she took a few deep breaths to **compose** herself and steady his nerves.
 - A. adjust
 - B. calm
 - C. delay
7. The **congregation** voted to approve appointment of the new minister.
 - A. people who agree
 - B. people who worship together
 - C. people who meet periodically
8. Does the sentence **contradict** what is said in the previous paragraph?
 - A. disagree with
 - B. reinforce
 - C. expand upon
9. **Contrast** typical underlying beliefs of pro-life and pro-choice supporters.
 - A. study
 - B. compare
 - C. describe
10. There was quite a **contrast** between the styles of the two teachers.
 - A. notable similarity
 - B. covering of all styles
 - C. notable difference
11. The literary **critic** admired the novel's complex characters and insightful exploration of human nature.
 - A. an expert evaluator
 - B. a writer of novels
 - C. someone who reads a lot

12. On **cross-examination**, their expert witness seemed less like an expert.
- A. opposing questions
 - B. important questions
 - C. complex questions
13. The jury did not know the **defendant** had a long criminal history.
- A. person who is on trial
 - B. person who is a witness
 - C. person filing a complaint
14. At the time, she was **engaged** in a research project at Stanford.
- A. a candidate
 - B. involved
 - C. promised to marry
15. Hitler convinced many Germans that they were better than other peoples.
- A. German philosopher during World War II
 - B. German general during World War II
 - C. Nazi dictator during World War II
16. She did not **indicate** which candidate she supports.
- A. hide or disguise
 - B. decide
 - C. express or show
17. In that country people who are gay are **persecuted** by law.
- A. forced to leave
 - B. ignored
 - C. treated badly
18. A central **tenet** of the religion is non-violence and respect of all forms of life.
- A. simplified idea
 - B. principle belief
 - C. opposing idea
19. She **testified** that he struck her.
- A. said
 - B. hid
 - C. lied
20. Before your **testimony**, they will have you solemnly swear to tell *the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth*.
- A. job interview
 - B. statements at a trial
 - C. confession

Vocabulary in Context

To Kill a Mockingbird

by Harper Lee

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____ Score _____ / 20

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

- 1 ...he had thought that up to make me understand he wasn't afraid of Radleys in any shape or form, to **contrast** his own fearless heroism with my cowardice.
A. understand
B. compare
C. shrug off
- 2 As Atticus's fists went to his hips, so did Jem's, and as they faced each other I could see little resemblance between them: Jem's soft brown hair and eyes, his oval face and snug-fitting ears were our mother's, **contrasting** oddly with Atticus's graying black hair and square-cut features, but they were somehow alike.
A. thinking
B. confusing
C. comparing
- 3 One by one, the **congregation** came forward and dropped nickels and dimes into a black enameled coffee can.
A. volunteers
B. church members
C. court audience
- 4 Aunt Alexandra **composed** herself for a two-hour nap and dared us to make any noise in the yard, the neighborhood was resting.
A. wrote or created
B. settled or calmed
C. withdrew
- 5 Mrs. Grace Merriweather had **composed** an original pageant entitled Maycomb County: Ad Astra Per Aspera, and I was to be a ham.
A. calmed
B. read
C. written
- 6 Attentive **critics** of courthouse business, Atticus said they knew as much law as the Chief Justice, from long years of observation.
A. commentators
B. defendants
C. lawyers
- 7 Tate **testified** that her right eye was blackened, that she was beaten around the...
A. said
B. denied
C. showed
- 8 Never, never, never, on **cross-examination** ask a witness a question you don't already know the answer to, was a tenet I absorbed with my baby-food.
A. questioning
B. purpose
C. accident
- 9 Never, never, never, on cross-examination ask a witness a question you don't already know the answer to, was a **tenet** I absorbed with my baby-food.
A. source of confusion
B. important belief
C. nutrient
- 10 It has relied instead upon the **testimony** of two witnesses whose evidence has not only been called into serious question on cross-examination, but has been flatly contradicted by the defendant.
A. judge's statements
B. witness statements
C. lawyer's reasoning

- 11 *It has relied instead upon the testimony of two witnesses whose evidence has not only been called into serious question on cross-examination, but has been flatly **contradicted** by the defendant.*
- A. disagreed with
 - B. confessed
 - C. remembered
- 12 *The **defendant** is not guilty, but somebody in this courtroom is.*
- A. person accused
 - B. defense attorney
 - C. judge
- 13 *We don't know, but there is **circumstantial evidence** to indicate that Mayella Ewell was beaten savagely by someone who led almost exclusively with his left.*
- A. indirect evidence (suggesting, but not proving)
 - B. direct evidence (proving)
 - C. a lot of evidence
- 14 *We don't know, but there is circumstantial evidence to **indicate** that Mayella Ewell was beaten savagely by someone who led almost exclusively with his left.*
- A. disprove
 - B. prove
 - C. suggest
- 15 *"You think they'll **acquit** him that fast?" asked Jem.*
- A. declare "guilty"
 - B. declare "not guilty"
 - C. bring before a court
- 16 *Mrs. Merriweather was one of those childless adults who find it necessary to **assume** a different tone of voice when speaking to children.*
- A. take on
 - B. believe
 - C. hear
- 17 *When Halloween came, I **assumed** that the whole family would be present to watch me perform, but I was disappointed.*
- A. knew
 - B. believed
 - C. hoped
- 18 *Aunt Alexandra got up from the table and swiftly passed more refreshments, neatly **engaging** Mrs. Merriweather and Mrs. Gates in brisk conversation.*
- A. fighting with
 - B. involving
 - C. hiring
- 19 ***Persecution** comes from people who are prejudiced.*
- A. foolish decisions
 - B. ignorance
 - C. unfair treatment
- 20 *But it's okay to hate **Hitler**?*
- A. founder of Ku Klux Klan
 - B. Russian dictator who starved millions
 - C. Nazi dictator who murdered millions

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

To Kill a Mockingbird

by Harper Lee

#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	B	contrast (<i>as in: contrast their writing styles</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
2	C	contrast (<i>as in: there is a contrast</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
3	B	congregation (<i>as in: the congregation voted</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 9 times in this book.
4	B	compose (<i>as in: compose myself</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
5	C	compose (<i>as in: compose a poem</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
6	A	critic (<i>as in: a well-known art critic</i>)	Used about 2 times per 10 books in our high school library.
7	A	testify	Used 8 times in this book.
8	A	cross-examination	Used 6 times in this book.
9	B	tenet	Used about once per 10 books in our high school library
10	B	testimony	Used 8 times in this book.
11	A	contradict	High-utility academic word; used 5 times in this book.
12	A	defendant	Used 15 times in this book.
13	A	circumstantial evidence	Used 3 times in this book.
14	C	indicate	High-utility academic word; used 5 times in this book.
15	B	acquit (<i>as in: she was acquitted</i>)	Used 4 times in this book.
16	A	assume (<i>as in: She assumed a false identity</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
17	B	assume (<i>as in: I assume it's true</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
18	B	engage (<i>as in: engage in conversation</i>)	High-utility academic word; 4 meanings in this book.
19	C	persecution	Used 7 times in this book.
20	C	Hitler (<i>as in: Adolf Hitler</i>)	Used 16 times in this book.