

Typical American

by Gish Jen

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: analytical, belated, blithe, chagrin, communism, diligent, down payment, immigrate, indifferent, lament, mortgage, muse, nonchalant, ponder, precede, profound, recollect, resignation (2), tenure



More Vocabulary Printables

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(all resources free)

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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

Vocabulary Preview

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

1. We have a numbers-tested, **analytical** approach to advertising.
 - A. logical and systematic
 - B. creative and artistic
 - C. loud and aggressive
2. She sent a **belated** thank-you note after realizing she had forgotten.
 - A. written proudly
 - B. sent late
 - C. kept secret
3. She was her usual unworried, **blithe** self.
 - A. carefree and happy
 - B. sleepy
 - C. busy and distracted
4. The state cut education funding, much to the **chagrin** of our school board.
 - A. ignorance
 - B. surprise
 - C. disappointment
5. Marx's writings on communism inspired revolutions across many countries in the 1900s.
 - A. free market trade
 - B. collective ownership
 - C. religious reform
6. A **diligent** detective investigates all clues.
 - A. lazy and careless
 - B. rude and dishonest
 - C. careful and hardworking
7. They'll give us a lower interest rate if we can pay a larger down payment.
 - A. monthly payment
 - B. insurance fee
 - C. upfront cash payment
8. At that time, most of the people who immigrated to the United States came from Latin America and Asia.
 - A. relocated
 - B. exported goods
 - C. visited
9. She was **indifferent** to his anger.
 - A. without interest
 - B. with fear
 - C. with anger
10. We **lamented** our sad circumstances.
 - A. made worse
 - B. improved
 - C. expressed grief about
11. The site has a **mortgage** payment calculator that calculates the loan payment based on the interest rate and length of the loan.
 - A. unsecured loan
 - B. real estate loan
 - C. credit card loan

12. Let me **muse** on it on a while and I'll get back to you.
- A. research
 - B. think
 - C. ask
13. How could she be so **nonchalant** about making him suffer?
- A. dishonest
 - B. unconcerned
 - C. happy
14. We **pondered** our fate.
- A. thought about
 - B. feared for
 - C. actively changed
15. In English, most adjectives **precede** the noun they modify.
- A. follow
 - B. describe
 - C. go before
16. It was a **profound** spiritual experience that changed her life.
- A. intense
 - B. common
 - C. traditional
17. I don't **recollect** her name, but I'd recognize her.
- A. pronounce properly
 - B. spell properly
 - C. remember
18. She said that if I don't **resign**, I will be fired.
- A. do better
 - B. quit
 - C. renew an agreement
19. She was **resigned** to being embarrassed by her younger brother.
- A. putting a stop
 - B. resistant
 - C. with acceptance
20. **Tenure** encourages academic freedom by protecting professors from being fired without a strong reason.
- A. a temporary work contract
 - B. a period of unpaid leave
 - C. the right to permanent employment

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 *The third week, however, what could happen even to the cleverest, most **diligent**, most upright of scholars ... happened to him.*
 - A. impossible to find
 - B. good or beneficial
 - C. hardworking
- 2 *"Our plans," she lamented.*
 - A. was abundant or plentiful
 - B. thought -- possibly aloud
 - C. expressed grief or regret
- 3 *He hoped that the **Communists** would prove unable to hold the country.*
 - A. subatomic particles with negative charge that are found in all atoms and that act as the primary carrier of electricity
 - B. people who support an economic system that abolishes private ownership of property with the goal of a classless society
 - C. people who suffer from psychosis (any severe mental disorder in which contact with reality is lost or highly distorted)
- 4 *Forgot the **immigration** office?*
 - A. the act of coming to live in a new country; or indication that something is related to that act
 - B. "spiritually renew" in a Christian ceremony OR initiate or purify by a challenging experience
 - C. a sexually transmitted disease that, if treated early, can be completely cured with antibiotics
- 5 *It was just before sunset, a time of day when the sun stared **blithely** across the kitchen, instead of studying the floor.*
 - A. in a carefree and happy manner -- often unaware of or ignoring something that should be of concern
 - B. in an inactive manner (accepting what happens without trying to take control or reacting strongly)
 - C. in a manner that is not appropriate or different than would be expected in size, amount, or degree
- 6 *Belatedly he began to register some specifics.*
 - A. in a manner that does not change
 - B. after the expected or usual time
 - C. in a manner that deserves praise
- 7 *"You should try it," she said, **nonchalant**, though in one way, she was taken aback too.*
 - A. sensible and careful
 - B. calmly (unconcerned; or as though unconcerned)
 - C. sincerity (realness)
- 8 *It was as if, once she'd **resigned** herself to her new world, something had taken her over -- a drive to make it hers.*
 - A. to be or to become used to (adapted to and with an expectation of)
 - B. showed something -- such as demonstrated, expressed, or represented
 - C. accepted something undesired as unavoidable or the lesser of evils
- 9 *Ralph started another list, What It Would Mean If Old Chao Were To Have To **Resign** In Shame.*
 - A. draw
 - B. to quit a job or position
 - C. rule
- 10 *Still Theresa **mused** all night, and the next day too.*
 - A. was abundant or plentiful
 - B. thought (reflected deeply) on a subject
 - C. expelled or gotten rid of
- 11 *Who could believe, though, that in a few months she'd be like Janis, distinctly **preceded** wherever she went?*
 - A. wrongly understood
 - B. influenced opinion
 - C. went or was before

- 12 A real estate agent had convinced them that they shouldn't do anything until Ralph had **tenure**; otherwise they might find themselves "overcommitted."
- A. a temporary work contract
 - B. a period of unpaid leave
 - C. the right to keep a job as long as desired
- 13 Anyway, they had no money for a "down payment."
- A. two successive lines of poetry; usually rhymed
 - B. the main building (or buildings) of government
 - C. a partial payment made at the time of purchase
- 14 A **mortgage** is a big commitment.
- A. to concentrate, look at; or the act of concentration
 - B. a real estate loan; or pledging something for a loan
 - C. enter another's property without right or permission
- 15 Ralph swallowed, **chagrined**.
- A. prepared food in a way that keeps it from spoiling
 - B. supported by providing money or other economic aid
 - C. made to feel embarrassed, disappointed, or annoyed
- 16 Now she **pondered** her image with seriousness.
- A. thought deeply or carefully about
 - B. was overly unhappy and unsociable
 - C. not limited or without boundaries
- 17 Theresa came home to find Helen lost in a panoply of **analytical** tools, all laid out on the kitchen table.
- A. relating to logical examination to improve understanding
 - B. the state or degree of being pessimistic or disagreeable
 - C. related to the natural world (life, air, water, land...)
- 18 This his ear, his neck, his elbow seemed to **recollect**.
- A. disagree
 - B. subtract
 - C. remember
- 19 [regarding how things look:] But of course it was easy to be **indifferent** about them herself when she could count on Helen to spruce things up. Now she longed for a set of white frilly curtains.
- A. unconcerned (without interest)
 - B. likely to change
 - C. able to be found
- 20 Ralph burst with pride when Grover was paper-trained; and when he'd shrunk the paper down and moved it successfully outside, he felt such a **profound** sense of accomplishment that all his organs seemed to relax and settle.
- A. of greatest intensity or emotional depth
 - B. without a tendency to be full of thought
 - C. lacking a tendency to be full of thought

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	C	diligent (<i>as in: she is diligent</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 4 times in this book.
2	C	lament	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this book.
3	B	communism	Used 12 times in this book.
4	A	immigrate	Used 4 times in this book.
5	A	blithe	Used 3 times in this book.
6	B	belated	Used 4 times in this book.
7	B	nonchalant	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this book.
8	C	resignation (<i>as in: accepted it with resignation</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
9	B	resignation (<i>as in: submitted her resignation</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
10	B	muse (<i>as in: her musings</i>)	Used 5 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
11	C	precede	High-utility academic word; used 4 times in this book.
12	C	tenure (<i>as in: she was granted tenure</i>)	Used 30 times in this book.
13	C	down payment	Used 3 times in this book.
14	B	mortgage	Used 9 times in this book.
15	C	chagrin	Used 3 times in this book.
16	A	ponder	Used 5 times in this book.
17	A	analytical	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
18	C	recollect	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this book.
19	A	indifferent	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this book.
20	A	profound (<i>as in: profound sadness</i>)	Used 5 times in this book.