

Vanity Fair

by William Makepeace Thackeray

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 from the Resources menu.

PRE-READING ACTIVITY

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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: amiable, condescending, dismal, gaunt, impetuous, interpret (2), odious, opera, patronage, prodigious, prudent, remonstrate, subsequent, swindle, trifle, trifle with, utmost, yield (2)



More Vocabulary Printables

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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

Vanity Fair

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

Vocabulary Preview

Vanity Fair

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

1. It was an **amiable** gathering of old friends.
 - A. friendly
 - B. rare
 - C. emotional
2. She tried to sound supportive, but her advice came across as **condescending**.
 - A. acting superior
 - B. harmful or unhelpful
 - C. sounding uninformed
3. When she graduated from college the job market was **dismal**.
 - A. especially good
 - B. promising but unusual
 - C. terrible or depressing
4. Don Quixote looked **gaunt** and tired.
 - A. very worried
 - B. very thin
 - C. very bored
5. She made an **impetuous** purchase, buying the car without test-driving it first.
 - A. impulsive
 - B. cautious
 - C. wealthy
6. She will stand to his left and **interpret** his speech into sign language.
 - A. refute (prove false)
 - B. elaborate upon
 - C. translate
7. How will a court **interpret** the word *careless* if there is a lawsuit?
 - A. understand
 - B. insist on
 - C. ignore
8. The poll tax was designed as a particularly **odious** violation of civil rights.
 - A. extremely devious
 - B. harmful and hidden
 - C. extremely dislikable
9. We're going to the **opera** this evening.
 - A. musical theater performance
 - B. outdoor sporting event
 - C. casual dinner gathering
10. Guiteau was insane and assassinated President Garfield because he believed Garfield cheated him out of a political **patronage** job. He thought he was owed the job for giving a speech encouraging others to vote for Garfield.
 - A. civil service
 - B. high-ranking and high-paying
 - C. favor for political support
11. The young pianist showed **prodigious** talent at her very first recital.
 - A. carefully practiced
 - B. barely noticeable
 - C. remarkably great

12. Courage is dangerous without prudence.
- A. good sense
 - B. good purpose
 - C. good support
13. The lawyers will remonstrate that we're starting without a written agreement, but we trust each other.
- A. promise
 - B. protest
 - C. explain
14. The results of the initial investigation were unclear, but a subsequent investigation concluded that she used good judgment.
- A. thorough
 - B. official
 - C. following
15. Scammers often swindle people through fake phone calls.
- A. warn or protect
 - B. pay back fully
 - C. cheat or defraud
16. Don't waste my time with trifling matters.
- A. other's
 - B. future
 - C. unimportant
17. The European Parliament refuses to be trifled with.
- A. treated without respect
 - B. argued with
 - C. negotiated with
18. She handled the fragile artifact with the utmost care.
- A. least
 - B. usual
 - C. greatest
19. The experiment yielded data that raised a new set of questions.
- A. produced
 - B. destroyed
 - C. slowed down
20. After the scandal, she yielded to public pressure and resigned her position.
- A. added
 - B. gave in
 - C. produced

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 *He had been to the **Opera**, and knew the merits of the principal actors, preferring Mr. Kean to Mr. Kemble.*
 - A. a musical play with orchestra in which most of the dialogue is sung (or the art form that consists of such musicals; or describing something as related to that art form)
 - B. a person with or something related to an eating disorder in which overeating is followed by guilt and unhealthy attempts at correction -- especially self-induced vomiting
 - C. the act of forcing into an undesired activity or situation -- such as legally sentencing someone to punishment OR the act of finding guilty -- especially in court
- 2 *And I dare say she thought of the dress she was to wear as bridesmaid, and of the presents which she should make to her nice little sister-in-law, and of a **subsequent** ceremony in which she herself might play a principal part, &c.*
 - A. able to take on or adopt
 - B. the state of being awake
 - C. following something else
- 3 *Osborne said to his friend's **remonstrances**, when they quitted the invalid, leaving him under the hands of Doctor Gollop.*
 - A. acts of stopping a battle or fight
 - B. arguments in protest or opposition
 - C. a central open spaces in buildings
- 4 *Great **Gaunt** Street.*
 - A. not having the characteristic of or relating to bouncing back light/heat/sound...
 - B. very thin and bony -- often from hunger or as though having been worn to the bone
 - C. able to qualify for regular payments that permit having an income without working
- 5 *She has a halt in her gait, red hair, and a **trifling** obliquity of vision.*
 - A. moving out of an interacting position; or stopping
 - B. canceling or annulling a formal ruling or contract
 - C. something of small importance; or a small quantity
- 6 *Don't **trifle with** her affections, you Don Juan!*
 - A. treat thoughtlessly or without respect
 - B. beyond the permitted boundary or limit
 - C. injured muscles or tendons of the back
- 7 *I'm hanged if I'll stand your airs of superiority and infernal pity and **patronage**.*
 - A. belief in a single God
 - B. lowest legal hourly pay
 - C. support or favor given
- 8 *As George entered the house, old John Sedley was passing out of the banker's parlour, looking very **dismal**.*
 - A. irrelevant or unimportant
 - B. important or significant
 - C. depressing or gloomy
- 9 *He was most affectionate in his inquiries regarding that **amiable** relative.*
 - A. friendly, agreeable, and likable
 - B. important, serious, or dangerous
 - C. not clear or easily identifiable
- 10 *A stranger was administering her medicines—a stranger from the country—an **odious** Miss ...—tears choked the utterance of the dame de compagnie, and she buried her crushed affections and her poor old red nose in her pocket handkerchief.*
 - A. the degree to which something is able to change or is different
 - B. not trustworthy, or improper, or attracting unwelcome attention
 - C. extremely unpleasant, disgusting, dislikable, or worthy of hate

- 11 For Rebecca had determined, and very **prudently**, we think, to fly.
- with good sense and caution
 - in a strongly biased manner
 - in a manner that challenges
- 12 He *pranced off to engage the lodgings with all the **impetuosity** of love.*
- impulsiveness (the trait of acting suddenly without much thought)
 - a ceiling designed to affect noise -- typically to decrease noise
 - a person (often a writer or artist) living an unconventional life
- 13 *It was quite enough to have been **swindled** by the father.*
- prepared food in a way that keeps it from spoiling
 - supported by providing money or other economic aid
 - tricked or cheated someone -- usually to get money
- 14 *She adorned her person with her **utmost** skill to please the Conqueror, and exhibited all her simple accomplishments to win his favour.*
- not real
 - allowing
 - greatest
- 15 *He wiped his pale face with a large yellow bandanna pocket-handkerchief that was **prodigiously** scented.*
- in a way that suppresses (prevents something or decreases its development)
 - a trance-like state of focused concentration and heightened suggestibility
 - enormously; or with a magnitude or degree that is far beyond what is usual
- 16 *She did not even **condescend** to come back and say good-bye to Amelia.*
- do something considered beneath her position or dignity
 - utter obscenities or profanities; or to speak disrespectfully of something considered sacred
 - have a sense that something bad will happen; or act as a sign that something bad will happen
- 17 *The patronage and kindness of these ladies was very uncomfortable to Amelia, but she bore it meekly enough, for her nature was to **yield**; and, besides, the carriage and its splendours gave little Georgy immense pleasure.*
- produce or give
 - stop (something from happening)
 - think deeply or carefully about
- 18 *A hundred times on the point of **yielding**, she had shrunk back from a sacrifice which she felt was too much for her.*
- showing, demonstrating, determining, or causing acceptance
 - giving in, giving up, or giving way (easily moved or soft)
 - placing trust (in someone) by talking about private things
- 19 *He was the **interpreter** for the party; having a good military knowledge of the German language, and he and the delighted George fought the campaigns of the Rhine and the Palatinate.*
- people who criticize or condemn
 - someone who extensively damages
 - someone who translates language
- 20 *And she heard Beaumoris's laugh ringing on the stair and knew quite well how to **interpret** his hilarity.*
- to understand or explain something in a particular way
 - excessively examine in an attempt to better understand
 - become less drunk (or get completely past drunkenness)

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	A	opera	Used 53 times in this book.
2	C	subsequent	High-utility academic word; used 20 times in this book.
3	B	remonstrate	Used 11 times in this book.
4	B	gaunt	Used 103 times in this book.
5	C	trifle (<i>as in: a trifling matter</i>)	Used 15 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
6	A	trifle with (<i>as in: trifle with her affections</i>)	Used 3 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
7	C	patronage	Used 11 times in this book.
8	C	dismal	Used 30 times in this book.
9	A	amiable	Used 31 times in this book.
10	C	odious	Used 41 times in this book.
11	A	prudent	High-utility academic word; used 27 times in this book.
12	A	impetuous (<i>as in: an impetuous decision</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 11 times in this book.
13	C	swindle	Used 13 times in this book.
14	C	utmost	Used 32 times in this book.
15	C	prodigious	Used 46 times in this book.
16	A	condescending	High-utility academic word; used 29 times in this book.
17	A	yield (<i>as in: will yield valuable data</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
18	B	yield (<i>as in: yield to pressure</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
19	C	interpret (<i>as in: interpret Spanish to English</i>)	Used 8 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
20	A	interpret (<i>as in: her interpretation of the data</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.