

Volpone

by Ben Jonson

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: acquaint, advocate, avarice, censure, delude, devise, dissemble, dowry, feigned, forbearance, impudent, loath, malice, melancholy, patron, perpetual, profess, revere, scarcity, vary



More Vocabulary Printables

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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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

Vocabulary Preview

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

- One of the objectives in my literature class is to **acquaint** my students with different cultures.
 - make surprised
 - make a list for
 - make familiar
- The company needs a good **advocate** to represent them in trial in Scotland.
 - lawyer
 - sympathetic witness
 - expert witness
- She was doomed to an empty life motivated by **avarice**.
 - selfishness
 - greed
 - laziness
- In spite of the **censure** of her colleagues, she believed she had done the right thing.
 - criticism
 - anger
 - disinterest
- Do not **delude** yourself into thinking one late apology fixes everything.
 - praise
 - protect
 - deceive
- This may be our last chance to **devise** a compromise that will save the peace.
 - consider
 - create
 - save
- She's doing what she can to change the subject and **dissemble**.
 - change reality
 - disguise the truth
 - re-think beliefs
- Dowries** are common in that culture.
 - extended-families living together
 - payment to a husband upon marriage
 - large families
- He **feigned** surprise when his coworkers shouted 'Happy Birthday!'
 - faked
 - expected
 - shared
- I appreciate your **forbearance**.
 - patience or tolerance
 - financial loan
 - family concerns
- Her **impudent** reply to the manager shocked everyone in the meeting.
 - thoughtfully kind
 - disrespectfully bold
 - extremely quiet
- Though they **loath** to admit it, there are serious divides splitting the party.
 - are eager
 - are reluctant
 - are excited

13. Words can be like baseball bats when used maliciously against someone who is sensitive.
- A. carelessly
 - B. mockingly
 - C. evilly
14. This weather makes me melancholy. I can't wait for spring.
- A. happy
 - B. sad
 - C. feel like singing
15. A wealthy patron donated millions to fund young artists in the city.
- A. critic
 - B. supporter
 - C. neighbor
16. He has a perpetual fear of forgetting important deadlines.
- A. joyful
 - B. constant
 - C. secret
17. He continued to profess his innocence after the trial ended.
- A. doubt quietly
 - B. forget entirely
 - C. declare openly
18. She reveres nature and all that is natural.
- A. dislikes and avoids
 - B. deeply respects
 - C. thoroughly enjoys
19. Work is scarce in the region.
- A. easily found
 - B. extremely hard
 - C. in short supply
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 NAN: *'Cause here the delight of each sex thou canst vary?*
 - A. influence opinion
 - B. differ; or change
 - C. show or represent
- 2 *How he should worship'd be, and reverenced;*
 - A. disagreed
 - B. regarded with feelings of deep respect and admiration
 - C. separated
- 3 *the great and learned advocate*
 - A. lawyer
 - B. aka natural right -- a right that is naturally due because of human nature and the natural condition
 - C. a powerful stimulant drug that increases activity in the brain and nervous system -- often addictive
- 4 MOS: *You shall live, Still, to delude these harpies.*
 - A. stop interacting; or stop having interest
 - B. treating thoughtlessly or without respect
 - C. deceive (convince to have a false belief)
- 5 MOS: *Without a partner, sir; confirm'd this morning: The wax is warm yet, and the ink scarce dry Upon the parchment.*
 - A. the state of not being aware or concerned about something
 - B. a state similar to sleep where one is unaware of anything
 - C. in short supply OR barely or hardly (by a small margin)
- 6 MOS: *And then they do it by experiment; For which the law not only doth absolve them, But gives them great reward: and he is loth To hire his death, so.*
 - A. says (or makes a sound) with the voice
 - B. reluctant or unwilling to do something
 - C. moves into position to work; or starts
- 7 *What a rare punishment Is avarice to itself!*
 - A. arousing or inspiring again
 - B. excessive desire for wealth
 - C. pessimism or unpleasantness
- 8 *Feels not his gout, nor palsy; feigns himself Younger by scores of years, flatters his age With confident belying it, hopes he may, With charms, like Aeson, have his youth restored: And with these thoughts so battens, as if fate Would be as easily cheated on, as he, And all turns air!*
 - A. pretends (makes a pretense of)
 - B. selects (on a computer screen)
 - C. finds, searches, or researches
- 9 *You seem To be a gentleman, of ingenuous race:—I not profess it, but my fate hath been To be, where I have been consulted with, In this high kind, touching some great men's sons, Persons of blood, and honour.*
 - A. trade
 - B. delay
 - C. claim
- 10 *Get you a cittern, lady Vanity, And be a dealer with the virtuous man; Make one: I'll but protest myself a cuckold, And save your dowry.*
 - 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. in some societies, money or property given by a woman's family to the husband at marriage
 - or less formally: money or property a bride brings to a marriage
 - 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 *You are unequal to me, and however, Your sentence may be righteous, yet you are not That, ere you know me, thus proceed in **censure**: St. Mark bear witness 'gainst you, 'tis inhuman.*
- harsh or formal criticism
 - find, search, or research
 - being a boundary or limit
- 12 *LADY P: Made you **acquainted**, what an ample dowry The knowledge of these things would be unto you, Able, alone, to get you noble husbands At your return: and you thus to neglect it!*
- not having taken power or responsibility
 - compensated for a loss; or paid a reward
 - familiar with OR a friend or associate
- 13 *VOLP: Oh, Rid me of this my torture, quickly, there; My madam, with the everlasting voice: The bells, in time of pestilence, ne'er made Like noise, or were in that **perpetual** motion!*
- having the characteristics of a *monk* (often inclined toward self-denial)
 - continuing forever without change; or occurring so frequently it seems constant
 - about things beyond the physical world, such as existence, reality, or the soul
- 14 *I will buy some slave Whom I will kill, and bind thee to him, alive; And at my window hang you forth: **devising** Some monstrous crime, which I, in capital letters, Will eat into thy flesh with aquafortis, And burning corsives, on this stubborn breast.*
- making strips of hair lighter in color
 - coming up with (inventing or creating)
 - requiring (obligating) to do something
- 15 *Forbear, foul ravisher,*
- refrain (hold back) from acting
 - the ability to take on or adopt
 - where attention is concentrated
- 16 *Since you provoke me with your **impudence**, And laughter of your light land-syren here, Your Sporus, your hermaphrodite— PER: What's here?*
- an artists performance of another artist's work that expresses the performer's feelings or ideas about the work
 - improperly bold or disrespectful -- especially toward someone who is older or considered to be of higher status
 - soccer player who typically play in the middle third of the field and who assists with both defense and offense
- 17 *LADY P: I hope you have not the **malice** to remember A gentlewoman's passion.*
- not adjusting a lens to create a clear image
 - the quality of lacking exactness or accuracy
 - the desire to hurt others or see them suffer
- 18 *—Perhaps he doth **dissemble**!*
- change reality
 - hide or disguise the truth without outright lying
 - re-think beliefs
- 19 *Go home, and use the poor sir Pol, your knight, well, For fear I tell some riddles; go, be **melancholy**.*
- relating to the outside
 - a sad feeling or manner
 - about (but not exactly)
- 20 *now his **patron**'s dead*
- someone who speaks in an ambiguous manner that does not clearly express an opinion or decision
 - supporter
 - someone with delusions of grandeur (the belief that they are much more important than they are)

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	B	vary	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this play.
2	B	revere	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this play.
3	A	advocate (<i>as in: an advocate in court</i>)	Used 18 times in this play; 2 meanings in this play.
4	C	delude	Used 5 times in this play.
5	C	scarcity	High-utility academic word; used 5 times in this play.
6	B	loath	Used 6 times in this play.
7	B	avarice	Used 2 times in this play.
8	A	feigned	Used 6 times in this play.
9	C	profess	Used 7 times in this play.
10	B	dowry	Used 3 times in this play.
11	A	censure	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this play.
12	C	acquaint	Used 5 times in this play.
13	B	perpetual	High-utility academic word; used 6 times in this play.
14	B	devise (<i>as in: devise a plan</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 4 times in this play.
15	A	forbearance	Used 5 times in this play.
16	B	impudent	Used 7 times in this play.
17	C	malice	High-utility academic word; used 4 times in this play.
18	B	dissemble	Used 3 times in this play.
19	B	melancholy	Used 4 times in this play.
20	B	patron (<i>as in: a patron of the arts</i>)	Used 26 times in this play.