

Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?

by Edward Albee

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: abstract (2), antagonist, condescending, deduction, deride, disdain, disparage, feigned, hideous, incredulous, loathe, malleable, motivate, pathetic, pragmatic, preoccupied, propensity, resignation, vehement



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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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

1. She struggles with **abstract** reasoning.
 - A. pressured
 - B. theoretical
 - C. concrete
2. The room is decorated with **abstract** art.
 - A. seemingly real (like a photograph)
 - B. colorful
 - C. not imitating objects of nature
3. In the book, *Harry Potter*, Voldemort is Harry's **antagonist**.
 - A. partner
 - B. friend
 - C. enemy
4. She tried to sound supportive, but her advice came across as **condescending**.
 - A. acting superior
 - B. harmful or unhelpful
 - C. sounding uninformed
5. After **deductions** for taxes and health insurance, her take-home pay was significantly less than her gross salary.
 - A. amounts subtracted
 - B. extra bonuses
 - C. salary increments
6. She **derided** him as *hormone-ravaged*.
 - A. whispered about
 - B. sympathized with
 - C. made fun of
7. She has nothing but **disdain** for the notion that common people can regulate their own lives better than she can.
 - A. lack of respect
 - B. humility
 - C. intense anger
8. The victors write the history and **disparage** their enemies.
 - A. criticize
 - B. defeat
 - C. erase from history
9. He **feigned** surprise when his coworkers shouted 'Happy Birthday!'
 - A. faked
 - B. expected
 - C. shared
10. He had a **hideous** scar running from his forehead to his jaw.
 - A. barely noticeable
 - B. extremely ugly
 - C. perfectly healed
11. At first, she was **incredulous**--thinking the report was in error.
 - A. worried
 - B. confused
 - C. without belief

12. I **loathe** that man. He ruined my life.
- A. fear
 - B. avoid
 - C. hate
13. As a young apprentice, she was **malleable** and eager to learn, quickly adapting to the styles of different chefs in the kitchen.
- A. flexible
 - B. inexperienced
 - C. inexpensive
14. She is **motivated** by a sincere desire to help others.
- A. driven
 - B. slowed
 - C. stopped
15. The shabby room struck her as extraordinarily **pathetic**.
- A. annoying
 - B. common
 - C. pitiful
16. Successful politicians are **pragmatists**. Compromise is built into the system.
- A. practical
 - B. personable
 - C. busy
17. Her mind was **preoccupied** with thoughts of the upcoming exam, making it hard for her to focus on the movie.
- A. unconcerned
 - B. bored
 - C. distracted
18. As a group, the people with a family history of heart disease have a higher **propensity** to develop the condition themselves.
- A. avoidance
 - B. tendency
 - C. fear
19. She was **resigned** to being embarrassed by her younger brother.
- A. putting a stop
 - B. resistant
 - C. with acceptance
20. The politician's **vehement** speech stirred up strong emotions in the crowd.
- A. calm and composed
 - B. forceful or intense
 - C. highly convincing

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 NICK: (Indicating the **abstract** painting) Who . . . who did the . . . ?
 - A. poor ability to make a decision
 - B. non-traditional or non-standard
 - C. not imitating external reality or objects of nature
- 2 MARTHA: [comparing the subject of biology to that of math] ... Biology's even better. It's less . . . **abstruse**.
GEORGE: **Abstract**.
MARTHA: **ABSTRUSE!** In the sense of *recondite*. (Sticks her tongue out at GEORGE) Don't you tell me words.
 - A. the characteristic of being excessively unhappy and unsociable
 - B. of a concept or idea not associated with any specific instance
 - C. having been granted the right to keep a job as long as desired
- 3 GEORGE: You just finished saying that the things that **motivated** you were the same things that motivated me.
 - A. wanting to do something; or made someone want to do something
 - B. provided investment funds for something -- such as a business
 - C. not viewed in a certain way so as to form a belief or opinion
- 4 GEORGE: Don't you **condescend** to me!
 - A. to treat others as inferior
 - B. utter obscenities or profanities; or to speak disrespectfully of something considered sacred
 - C. have a sense that something bad will happen; or act as a sign that something bad will happen
- 5 GEORGE (**Feigned awe**): Very good!
 - A. pretending to feel
 - B. not hired, occupied, or booked
 - C. developed or changed gradually
- 6 What will become of the tax **deduction**.
 - A. amount subtracted
 - B. the act of stopping a battle or fight
 - C. a short part of a longer written work
- 7 GEORGE (**Resignedly**): Yes, Martha.
 - A. in a manner that uses extreme or violent methods to achieve a political goal
 - B. the state of being worthy of entry -- especially evidence allowable in court
 - C. in a manner indicating that he has accepted something undesired as unavoidable
- 8 GEORGE (**Incredulous**): You're amused?
 - A. not capable of being better understood through detailed examination
 - B. clear, easily noticed, and/or identifiable as different or separate
 - C. unbelieving; or having difficulty accepting something so unexpected
- 9 All imbalances will be corrected, sifted out**propensity** for various diseases will be gone, longevity assured.
 - A. interaction or interest
 - B. tendency or inclination
 - C. a subtle characteristic
- 10 MARTHA: George talks **disparagingly** about the little bugger because . . . well, because he has problems.
 - A. with criticism or in a manner to make the child seem less important
 - B. aka analytically -- in a manner that relates to a theory of psychiatry
 - C. in a manner that impacts the natural world (life, air, water, land...)
- 11 NICK (**Antagonistic**) NoI don't.
 - A. without boundaries or limits
 - B. not good at making decisions
 - C. with opposition or hostility
- 12 NICK (With great **disdain**): I just don't see why you feel you have to subject other people to it.
 - A. lack of respect
 - B. differ; or change
 - C. influence opinion

- 13 Accommodation, **malleability**, adjustment . . . those do seem to be in the order of things, don't they?
- A. to be easily influenced to fit in with surroundings
 - B. the quality of or ability to bounce back light (or more rarely: heat, sound, electromagnetic waves...)
 - C. a medical condition in which there is a tendency to remain in a fixed stuporous state for long periods
- 14 (*With sudden vehemence*) UP YOURS
- A. capability of being taken, given, or otherwise transferred away
 - B. marked by extreme intensity -- especially emotion such as anger
 - C. a chronic mental disorder that leads to violent social behavior
- 15 GEORGE: **Hideous gifts**.
- A. the characteristic of demonstrating something
 - B. extremely ugly, offensive, and/or frightening
 - C. the quality of not being sensible and careful
- 16 *a pragmatic extension of the big dream*
- A. practical -- especially where results triumph over ideal theory
 - B. another battle with the same foe
 - C. describing someone as antisocial
- 17 GEORGE (*Seemingly relaxed and preoccupied, never looking*): Oh, that's nice.
- A. mirrored back (an image)
 - B. quoted (to make a point)
 - C. took up the attention of
- 18 GEORGE: (*Swings around to face hersays, with great loathing*) Noshow him, Marthahe hasn't seen it.
- A. changing through evolution
 - B. stopping a battle or fight
 - C. disgust or intense dislike
- 19 GEORGE (To NICK): Let her go. (MARTHA slumps to the floor in a sitting position) She'll be all right now. MARTHA (**Pathetic**): No; no, he is not dead; he is not dead.
- A. unable to get closer to
 - B. not sensible or careful
 - C. pitiful (arousing pity)
- 20 . . . the one thing I've tried to carry pure and unscathed through the sewer of this marriage; through the sick nights, and the pathetic, stupid days, through the **derision** and the laughter . . .
- A. related to or causing dramatic change; of a supporter of the change
 - B. a series of regularly spaced columns -- typically covered by a roof
 - C. critical disrespect -- typically while laughing at or making fun of

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	C	abstract (<i>as in: abstract art</i>)	High-utility academic word; 3 meanings in this play.
2	B	abstract (<i>as in: abstract thought</i>)	High-utility academic word; 3 meanings in this play.
3	A	motivate	Used 4 times in this play.
4	A	condescending	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this play.
5	A	feigned	Used 5 times in this play.
6	A	deduction (<i>as in: deduction from the bill</i>)	Used about once per 10 books in our high school library
7	C	resignation (<i>as in: accepted it with resignation</i>)	Used 2 times in this play.
8	C	incredulous	Used 7 times in this play.
9	B	propensity	Used about once per 10 books in our high school library
10	A	disparage	High-utility academic word
11	C	antagonist (<i>as in: the antagonist in the film</i>)	High-utility academic word
12	A	disdain	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this play.
13	A	malleable	High-utility academic word
14	B	vehement	Used 2 times in this play.
15	B	hideous	Used 4 times in this play.
16	A	pragmatic	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this play.
17	C	preoccupied	Used 9 times in this play.
18	C	loathe	Used 2 times in this play.
19	C	pathetic (<i>as in: Her pathetic look saddened us.</i>)	Used 4 times in this play.
20	C	deride	Used 4 times in this play.