

Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance

by Robert M. Pirsig

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: analogy, analytical, context, continuity, dilemma, empirical, entity, establish (2), evaluate, hypothesis, metaphysical, objective, phenomenon, rational, refute, rhetoric, subjective, thesis (2)



More Vocabulary Printables

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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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

Vocabulary Preview
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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

1. An **analogy** can make a complex problem seem simpler by comparing it to a similar situation.
 - A. comparison of similar things
 - B. summary of key arguments
 - C. list of opposite traits
2. We have a numbers-tested, **analytical** approach to advertising.
 - A. logical and systematic
 - B. creative and artistic
 - C. loud and aggressive
3. There was a thread of **continuity** in my nightmares.
 - A. impossibility
 - B. consistency
 - C. danger
4. Maya faced a **dilemma**: tell the truth and hurt her friend, or stay silent.
 - A. hard choice
 - B. simple task
 - C. lucky break
5. **Empirical** studies provide inputs for our formulas, but the formulas themselves are largely based upon intuitive values.
 - A. theoretical
 - B. creative
 - C. measured
6. The corporation is treated as a separate legal **entity** from its owners.
 - A. type of legal document
 - B. form of financial debt
 - C. distinct thing or being
7. Which word choice would help to **establish** a serious tone.
 - A. avoid
 - B. create
 - C. increase
8. The sixth paragraph (lines 67-68) is primarily concerned with **establishing** the contrast between men and masculine traits.
 - A. minimizing
 - B. exaggerating
 - C. showing
9. I'm **evaluating** job options.
 - A. considering
 - B. creating
 - C. avoiding
10. He **hypothesized** the existence of Pluto before its discovery.
 - A. fantasized
 - B. theorized
 - C. disbelieved
11. The story raises **metaphysical** questions about whether the soul can exist apart from the body.
 - A. about daily expenses
 - B. about reality's nature
 - C. about legal procedure

12. There were lots of rumors, but no **objective** evidence.
- A. done by an expert
 - B. important
 - C. fact-based
13. She quoted him **out of context**.
- A. in a misleading manner
 - B. in a convincing manner
 - C. in a respectful manner
14. The **phenomenon** was first noticed by Marie Curie.
- A. thing of interest
 - B. thing that is growing
 - C. thing that is hidden
15. Let's try to ignore how upset we are for a moment and think about this **rationally**.
- A. in a hurried manner
 - B. in a creative manner
 - C. in a reasonable manner
16. He **refuted** the argument.
- A. avoided
 - B. complained about
 - C. argued against
17. Students analyzed the senator's rhetoric before writing their essays.
- A. persuasive language
 - B. family history
 - C. voting record
18. Whether a painting is beautiful is a **subjective** judgment.
- A. based on exact numbers
 - B. required by official rules
 - C. based on personal views
19. What is the **thesis** of your paper.
- A. format
 - B. theory
 - C. grammatical voice
20. Her **thesis** studies how social media has made the country more divisive.
- A. class
 - B. research paper
 - C. organization

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 *There is a silence and a break in the **continuity**.*
 - A. translation
 - B. consistency
 - C. storyteller
- 2 *Also, to arrive in the Rocky Mountains by plane would be to see them in one kind of **context**, as pretty scenery.*
 - A. the setting or situation in which something occurs
 - B. the act of interacting or getting interested again
 - C. an image (seen on a mirror or other shiny surface)
- 3 *Not everyone understands what a completely **rational** process this is, this maintenance of a motorcycle.*
 - A. very large
 - B. related to
 - C. based on using reason
- 4 *In other words, what is the scientific **empirical** basis of causation itself?*
 - A. having the ability to change for different situations
 - B. not concerned with what others might think of oneself
 - C. based on experience or observation rather than theory
- 5 *I remember reading this for the first time and remarking about the **analytic** craftsmanship displayed.*
 - A. relating to logical examination of something to better understand it
 - B. lack of interest; or the process of stopping interaction or interest
 - C. any of a large variety of proteins the body uses to fight infections
- 6 *It's **analogous** to the kind of hang-up Sir Isaac Newton had when he wanted to solve problems of instantaneous rates of change.*
 - A. similar in some respect
 - B. unable to get closer to
 - C. not sensible or careful
- 7 *What you're supposed to do in most freshman-**rhetoric** courses is to read a little essay or short story, discuss how the writer has done certain little things to achieve certain little effects, and then have the students write an imitative little essay or short story to see if they can do the same little things.*
 - A. study of the technique and rules for using language effectively -- especially to persuade
 - B. the quality of being very bad (deserving no respect)
 - C. the state or degree of being optimistic or agreeable
- 8 *Phaedrus' second **metaphysical** phase was a total disaster.*
 - A. having the characteristics of a monk (often inclined toward self-denial)
 - B. about things beyond the physical world, such as existence, reality, or the soul
 - C. the quality of holding something back or holding others down through oppression
- 9 *Such a student, the demonstrator **hypothesized**, would go to his first class, get his first assignment and probably do it out of habit.*
 - A. not examined in an attempt to improve understanding
 - B. proposed a seemingly reasonable, but unproven, idea
 - C. moved again into position to work; or started again
- 10 *At the end of the quarter the students were asked to write an essay **evaluating** the system.*
 - A. thinking carefully and making a judgment about
 - B. returning to an undesirable previous condition
 - C. moving back and forth; or being unsure or weak
- 11 *He was able to get away with this because logical **refutation** required more talent than any of the students had.*
 - A. Nazi organization for children aged 10 to 18
 - B. found a condition or substance to be present
 - C. evidence or argument that something is false

- 12 *He regarded himself as the fixed **entity**, not the pilgrimage or the mountain, and thus wasn't ready for it.*
- A. the act of taking someone up or receiving someone in heaven
 - B. an agreement to marry; or relating to an agreement to marry
 - C. person, organization, or anything with a separate existence
- 13 *What Phaedrus had been presented with by the faculty of the English department of Montana State College was an ancient logical construct known as a **dilemma**.*
- A. a situation in which a difficult choice must be made between imperfect alternatives
 - B. connected by blood or marriage; or a plant or animal related by origin or grouping
 - C. relating to the south Asian Muslim republic that is the fifth most populous country
- 14 *Or, he could take the right horn, and refute the idea that **subjectivity** implies "anything you like."*
- A. having the characteristics of a "sycophant" (someone who tries to flatter or please those in authority to gain personal advantage)
 - B. removes something that was caught by something else; or separates or smooths things that were twisted together in a confusing mass
 - C. the quality or degree of being influenced by personal belief, feelings, or preferences (rather than being based purely upon fact)
- 15 *The knife of subjectivity-and-objectivity had cut Quality in two and killed it as a working concept.*
- A. growth hormone -- a hormone produced by the anterior pituitary gland that promotes growth in humans
 - B. "spiritually renews" in a Christian ceremony OR initiates or purifies by a challenging experience
 - C. understanding based on facts without the influence of personal feelings or preferences
- 16 *It's proper to begin with the regular facts, but after a rule is **established** beyond all doubt, the facts in conformity with it become dull because they no longer teach us anything new.*
- A. accepted someone's membership through a special procedure such as a ceremony and/or period of instruction and/or test
 - B. examined an issue, got opinions by asking specific questions; and/or asked people for political support individually
 - C. demonstrated or proved
- 17 *He described how a second wave of crystallization, guided by analogies to **established** mathematics, produced what he later named the "Theta-Fuchsian Series."*
- A. persuaded someone to want something (often sex or love) by tempting with something desired
 - B. generally accepted
 - C. not having a relationship whereby a change in one thing helps predict a change in another
- 18 *It would take quite a University to accept a doctoral **thesis** in which the candidate refused to define his central term.*
- A. an agent that works against a bacterial infection that is typically contracted through a puncture wound with a dirty object
 - B. research paper
 - C. main character of Mark Twain's classic novel about Huck and Jim's journey down the Mississippi River to find freedom (1884)
- 19 *He said he wasn't sure, but the **thesis** on Quality appeared to turn into an anti-Aristotelian thesis.*
- A. the state or degree of being able to be taken on as one's own
 - B. theory
 - C. not trustworthy with secrets, and/or conspicuous or obtrusive
- 20 *The success of Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance seems the result of this culture-bearing **phenomenon**.*
- A. something that exists or happened -- often of special interest
 - B. something that was once small, but is getting very large
 - C. something important that is hard to see or sense

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	B	continuity	Used 12 times in this book.
2	A	context	High-utility academic word; used 20 times in this book.
3	C	rational (<i>as in: rational behavior</i>)	Used 80 times in this book.
4	C	empirical	High-utility academic word; used 10 times in this book.
5	A	analytical	High-utility academic word; used 23 times in this book.
6	A	analogy	High-utility academic word; used 16 times in this book.
7	A	rhetoric	High-utility academic word; used 86 times in this book.
8	B	metaphysical	Used 20 times in this book.
9	B	hypothesis (<i>as in: a study to test her hypothesis</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 52 times in this book.
10	A	evaluate	High-utility academic word; used 15 times in this book.
11	C	refute	High-utility academic word; used 9 times in this book.
12	C	entity	High-utility academic word; used 21 times in this book.
13	A	dilemma	High-utility academic word; used 17 times in this book.
14	C	subjective	Used 28 times in this book.
15	C	objective (<i>as in: an objective viewpoint</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
16	C	establish (<i>as in: establish that there is a need</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
17	B	establish (<i>as in: establish a positive tone</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
18	B	thesis (<i>as in: her Master's thesis</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
19	B	thesis (<i>as in: the thesis of her editorial</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
20	A	phenomenon	High-utility academic word; used 17 times in this book.