Zero Day

by David Baldacci

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: algorithm, canvass, commute (2), component, context, environment (2), interrogate, latent, nucleus, positive (2), precise, relevant, treason, ubiquitous, validate, yield (2)

More Vocabulary Printables

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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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

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Vocabulary Preview

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

1. Writing the program code wasn't hard, but specifying the **algorithm** to solve the problem was challenging.
   A. required results
   B. required steps
   C. possible factors

2. Volunteers will **canvass** the neighborhood to gather support for the candidate.
   A. go door-to-door in
   B. set up a stage in
   C. report news from

3. The study shows that the time needed for average **commute** has increased again.
   A. travel to work
   B. permit for construction
   C. jury service

4. The Justice Department strongly opposed the petition, but the President **commuted** the 12-year sentence--cutting it in half.
   A. increased
   B. changed
   C. cut in half

5. Trust is a key **component** of any strong and lasting friendship.
   A. goal
   B. part
   C. result

6. Her lecture is on energy and the **environment**.
   A. global warming
   B. rising sea levels
   C. natural world

7. We create a supportive **environment** where it's safe to take chances.
   A. setting
   B. help desk
   C. insurance policy

8. Officers will **interrogate** the witnesses separately to compare their accounts.
   A. question closely
   B. politely greet
   C. quietly observe

9. A **latent** HPV infection reactivated when her immune system weakened with age.
   A. severe
   B. inactive
   C. common

10. The small reading group became the **nucleus** of a schoolwide book club.
    A. ending
    B. critics
    C. center

11. She quoted him **out of context**.
    A. in a misleading manner
    B. in a convincing manner
    C. in a respectful manner

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12. I'm **positive** our team will win on Friday.
    A. happy
    B. pretty sure
    C. certain

13. Volunteering had a **positive** impact on the whole neighborhood.
    A. good or beneficial
    B. harmful or damaging
    C. minor and unnoticed

14. The detective is talking to all the witnesses to try to determine the **precise** sequence of events.
    A. important
    B. first
    C. exact

15. It is easier to learn things that seem **relevant** to your life.
    A. understandable
    B. repeated
    C. important

16. Benedict Arnold was not captured after he committed **treason**.
    A. committing acts of sabotage
    B. war crimes against civilians
    C. betrayal of one's own country

17. Cycling is **ubiquitous** in the Netherlands.
    A. everywhere
    B. encouraged by law
    C. weather-dependent

18. The test results **validated** her theory about the chemical reaction.
    A. completely contradicted
    B. confirmed the truth of
    C. barely addressed

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 not shed a tear when his brother was court-martialed for* **treason**.
A. easily set on fire
B. untied or released
C. an act of betrayal

2 *But he's been* **positively** *identified, so we know it's him.*
A. without regret
B. with hard work
C. with certainty

3 *I take that as a* **positive** *sign.*
A. good
B. not representative
C. impossible to find

4 *Measurements had been done to all* **relevant** *landmarks and other objects in the rooms.*
A. having the ability to change for different situations
B. not concerned with what others might think of oneself
C. relating in a meaningful way to the issue in question

5 *No, they were* **interrogating** *them.*
A. asking a series of questions of someone
B. making different; or showing difference
C. adjusting a lens to make an image clear

6 *"We need to get the bodies to a refrigerated* **environment** *soon and then have the posts done," said Puller as he stared down at the decomposing bodies.*
A. surrounding conditions
B. way of doing something
C. not easily set on fire

7 *It causes flooding and a host of other* **environmental** *issues, not to mention that blowing the tops off mountains leaves the countryside pretty damn ugly.*
A. the state or degree of being pessimistic or disagreeable
B. relating to logical examination to improve understanding
C. related to the natural world (life, air, water, land...)

8 *Got her* **latent** *on the fridge.*
A. relating to logical examination to improve understanding
B. potentially existing but not presently evident or active
C. the characteristic of tending to think back about things

9 *You've* **canvassed** *the neighbors?*
A. examined an issue, got opinions by asking specific questions; and/or asked people for political support individually
B. accepted someone's membership though a special procedure such as a ceremony and/or period of instruction and/or test
C. (verb) showed, demonstrated, proved, or caused acceptance OR (adjective) proven, known, accepted/trusted/successful

10 *He does this automatically, without really thinking, like a computer executing a tried-and-true* **algorithm**.
A. title for the head of a government body in some countries
B. precise instructions specifying how to solve some problem
C. an unborn child (or other unborn or unhatched vertebrate)

11 *Puller described the situation in staccato sentences containing* **precise** *details and closed the phone.*
A. awake
B. smart
C. accurate

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12 *It was well appointed, with the* ubiquitous *"I Love Me" Wall that was filled with photos of the flag officer and his famous friends.*

A. being present everywhere or all the time
B. without a tendency to be full of thought
C. lacking a tendency to be full of thought

13 *He could be petty and vindictive and callous and unfair, brutal and* unyielding.

A. relating to classical music plays in which most of the dialogue is sung
B. strict, firm, or hard (not giving in, not giving way, or not giving up)
C. rude or unfriendly because of using too few words or moving too quickly

14 *Hiroshima got hit with a thirteen-kiloton* yield *and they only used sixty kilograms of uranium and of that only six hundred milligrams actually reacted; that's about the weight of a dime.*

A. produce or give
B. stop (something from happening)
C. think deeply or carefully about

15 *Matt* commuted *there on Friday and came back on Sunday to go back to work on Monday.*

A. traveled a regular route
B. a non-doctor who assisted a women in childbirth
C. not found guilty or forced into a bad situation

16 *However, there was never any talk of his sentence being* commuted.

A. confirmed
B. exchanged for one that was less severe
C. ended abruptly

17 *Other* components *of the chatter lead us to believe that the target is at least in the vicinity of Drake.*

A. intangible (non-touchable) properties that are the result of creativity (such as patents or trademarks or copyrights)
B. a self-contained part of something that when combined with other parts makes something that is larger or more complex
C. things that are different than others of their type (synonyms could include: adaptations, versions, alternate forms)

18 Validation *was good, but what Puller really wanted was some info that could help him solve the case.*

A. the condition of being made by humans rather than being found in nature
B. give evidence for the truth or value of; or declare as legally approved
C. short for Ku Klux Klan - a white supremacist group in the United States

19 *And if it went* nuclear, *in about fifty-five seconds there would be nothing left of them except vapor.*

A. the quality of inappropriateness in size, amount, or degree
B. the condition of being exclusive to (someone or some group)
C. relating to the central or most important part of something

20 Context*?*

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)

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	C	treason	Used 12 times in this book.
2	C	positive *(as in: I'm absolutely positive!)*	2 meanings in this book.
3	A	positive *(as in: had a positive effect)*	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
4	C	relevant	High-utility academic word; used 10 times in this book.
5	A	interrogate	Used 17 times in this book.
6	A	environment *(as in: her family environment)*	2 meanings in this book.
7	C	environment *(as in: the environmental movement)*	Used 9 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
8	B	latent	High-utility academic word; used 4 times in this book.
9	A	canvass *(as in: canvass the crowd)*	Used 3 times in this book.
10	B	algorithm	Used 3 times in this book.
11	C	precise *(as in: about noon; 12:03 to be precise)*	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
12	A	ubiquitous	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
13	B	yield *(as in: yield to pressure)*	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
14	A	yield *(as in: will yield valuable data)*	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
15	A	commute *(as in: commute from New Jersey)*	Used 5 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
16	B	commute *(as in: commute the sentence)*	2 meanings in this book.
17	B	component	High-utility academic word; used 8 times in this book.
18	B	validate	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
19	C	nucleus	Used 33 times in this book.
20	A	context	High-utility academic word; used 6 times in this book.

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