

# A Christmas Carol

by Charles Dickens

## Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

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Pages are ordered for double-sided printing.

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#### 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:** accompany, agitate, benevolent, compose, conscious (2), dismal, endeavor, engage, indignant, melancholy, nevertheless, oblige, obliged, recollect, resolve (2), specter, thus, wretched



#### More Vocabulary Printables

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# ANSWER KEY

## Vocabulary Preview

### A Christmas Carol

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

# Vocabulary Preview

## A Christmas Carol

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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_\_

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

1. Will you **accompany** her to the party?
  - A. follow
  - B. precede
  - C. go with
2. She gets **agitated** whenever the topic comes up.
  - A. calm and thoughtful
  - B. gloomy (sad)
  - C. emotionally disturbed
3. She thinks of herself as a **benevolent** dictator.
  - A. ruthless
  - B. kind
  - C. calm
4. Before entering the interview room, she took a few deep breaths to **compose** herself and steady his nerves.
  - A. adjust
  - B. calm
  - C. delay
5. She is **conscious** and alert, but very weak.
  - A. out of pain
  - B. awake
  - C. medically stable
6. She is **environmentally conscious**.
  - A. aware and concerned
  - B. oppressed
  - C. destructive
7. When she graduated from college the job market was **dismal**.
  - A. especially good
  - B. promising but unusual
  - C. terrible or depressing
8. I will **endeavor** to finish by Friday.
  - A. not be able
  - B. promise
  - C. try
9. At the time, she was **engaged** in a research project at Stanford.
  - A. a candidate
  - B. involved
  - C. promised to marry
10. She was **indignant**, but she agreed to be searched when they accused her of shoplifting.
  - A. annoyed at something unjust
  - B. surprised at the unexpected
  - C. defensive about being suspected
11. This weather makes me **melancholy**. I can't wait for spring,
  - A. happy
  - B. sad
  - C. feel like singing
12. She loves him. **Nevertheless**, she is determined to stop seeing him unless he stops drinking.
  - A. also
  - B. despite that
  - C. in addition

13. I didn't want to help, but I felt obliged because of our family connections.
- A. required to
  - B. interested
  - C. sad
14. I'd be obliged if you could help me lift this.
- A. surprised
  - B. grateful
  - C. paying
15. I don't recollect her name, but I'd recognize her.
- A. pronounce properly
  - B. spell properly
  - C. remember
16. I resolved to never drink again.
- A. was forced
  - B. was encouraged
  - C. firmly decided
17. She is testing my resolve to keep a good attitude.
- A. determination
  - B. ability
  - C. optimism
18. A country where drought brings with it the specter of famine.
- A. false threat
  - B. memory
  - C. frightening possibility
19. Having betrayed her thus, he was not surprised when she broke up with him.
- A. in an odd way
  - B. in the usual way
  - C. in that way
20. The photograph showed poor people in a wretched village in East Africa.
- A. irresponsible
  - B. in terrible condition
  - C. foolish or thoughtless

## Vocabulary in Context

### A Christmas Carol

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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_\_ Score \_\_\_\_\_ / 20

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

- 1 The door of Scrooge's counting-house was open that he might keep his eye upon his clerk, who in a **dismal** little cell beyond, a sort of tank, was copying letters.
  - A. small
  - B. unimportant
  - C. gloomy
- 2 ... a few of us are **endeavouring** to raise a fund to buy the Poor some meat and drink, and means of warmth.
  - A. considering
  - B. forgetting
  - C. trying
- 3 Scrooge took his **melancholy** dinner in his usual melancholy tavern;
  - A. uplifting or happy
  - B. sad or depressing
  - C. with music
- 4 Quite satisfied, he closed his door, and locked himself in; double-locked himself in, which was not his custom. **Thus** secured against surprise, he took off his cravat; put on his dressing-gown and slippers, and his nightcap; and sat down before the fire to take his gruel.
  - A. in an odd way
  - B. in the usual way
  - C. in that way
- 5 Again the **spectre** raised a cry, and shook its chain and wrung its shadowy hands.
  - A. child
  - B. prisoner
  - C. ghost
- 6 The common welfare was my business; charity, mercy, forbearance, and **benevolence**, were, all, my business.
  - A. honesty and directness
  - B. kindness or generosity
  - C. tireless efforts
- 7 ...he scrambled out of bed, and groped his way to the window. He was **obliged** to rub the frost off with the sleeve of his dressing-gown before he could see anything;
  - A. required
  - B. seen
  - C. twisted
- 8 I am much **obliged** to you. I thank you fifty times. Bless you!
  - A. not well known
  - B. grateful or indebted
  - C. seemingly foolish
- 9 They have no **consciousness** of us.
  - A. awareness
  - B. fear
  - C. love
- 10 He felt that he was restored to **consciousness** in the right nick of time, for the especial purpose of holding a conference with the second messenger despatched to him through Jacob Marley's intervention.
  - A. being in charge
  - B. wakefulness
  - C. a rightful place
- 11 Scrooge's former self, now grown a young man, came briskly in, **accompanied** by his fellow-'prentice.
  - A. slowed
  - B. carried
  - C. escorted

- 12 But scorning rest, upon his reappearance, he instantly began again, though there were no dancers yet, as if the other fiddler had been carried home, exhausted, on a shutter, and he were a bran-new man **resolved** to beat him out of sight, or perish.
- A. determined
  - B. happy
  - C. afraid
- 13 But nothing doubting that to whomsoever they applied they had some latent moral for his own improvement, he **resolved** to treasure up every word he heard, and everything he saw; and especially to observe the shadow of himself when it appeared.
- A. turned
  - B. considered
  - C. decided
- 14 A very, very brief time, and you will dismiss the **recollection** of it, gladly, as an unprofitable dream, from which it happened well that you awoke.
- A. thought
  - B. experience
  - C. memory
- 15 The noise in this room was perfectly tumultuous, for there were more children there, than Scrooge in his **agitated** state of mind could count;
- A. tired and sleepy
  - B. gloomy (sad)
  - C. emotionally upset
- 16 "More shame for him, Fred!" said Scrooge's niece, **indignantly**.
- A. anger at something unjust
  - B. surprised at the unexpected
  - C. in a suitable (fitting) manner
- 17 "A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to the old man, whatever he is!" said Scrooge's nephew. "He wouldn't take it from me, but may he have it, **nevertheless**."
- A. for free
  - B. anyway
  - C. in time
- 18 From the foldings of its robe, it brought two children; **wretched**, abject, frightful, hideous, miserable.
- A. small
  - B. unfortunate
  - C. foolish
- 19 The mother and her daughters were **engaged** in sewing.
- A. planning to marry
  - B. involved
  - C. confused
- 20 Poor Bob sat down in it, and when he had thought a little and **composed** himself, he kissed the little face.
- A. wrote or created
  - B. calmed or settled
  - C. rinsed or cleaned

# ANSWER KEY

## Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	C	dismal	Used 5 times in this book.
2	C	endeavor	Used 6 times in this book.
3	B	melancholy	Used 4 times in this book.
4	C	thus ( <i>as in: betrayed her thus</i> )	High-utility academic word; used 4 times in this book.
5	C	specter	Used 12 times in this book.
6	B	benevolent	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this book.
7	A	oblige ( <i>as in: I am obliged by law.</i> )	Used 3 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
8	B	obliged ( <i>as in: I'm much obliged for your kindness</i> )	2 meanings in this book.
9	A	conscious ( <i>as in: environmentally conscious</i> )	Used 8 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
10	B	conscious ( <i>as in: conscious after the operation</i> )	2 meanings in this book.
11	C	accompany ( <i>as in: accompany on the journey</i> )	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this book.
12	A	resolve ( <i>as in: Her resolve weakened.</i> )	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
13	C	resolve ( <i>as in: I resolved to stop drinking.</i> )	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
14	C	recollect	High-utility academic word; used 4 times in this book.
15	C	agitate	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this book.
16	A	indignant	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
17	B	nevertheless	High-utility academic word
18	B	wretched	Used 5 times in this book.
19	B	engage ( <i>as in: engage in conversation</i> )	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
20	B	compose ( <i>as in: compose myself</i> )	High-utility academic word