

An Enemy of the People

by Henrik Ibsen

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

| | | |
|----------------------------|---|-------------------------------|
| 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: brandish, censure, conscience, conscientious, conviction, dispose, doctrine, emancipated, impetuous, infernal, monopoly, nevertheless, opportune, pagan, persistent, plebeian, prudent, refute, specimen, subordinate



More Vocabulary Printables

verbalworkout.com

(all resources free)

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

An Enemy of the People

by Henrik Ibsen

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

Vocabulary Preview

An Enemy of the People

by Henrik Ibsen

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

1. She **brandished** the gun in his direction.
 - A. fired
 - B. waved aggressively
 - C. pointed to the floor
2. In spite of the **censure** of her colleagues, she believed she had done the right thing.
 - A. criticism
 - B. anger
 - C. disinterest
3. I will vote as my **conscience** demands.
 - A. sense of right and wrong
 - B. memory of past events
 - C. fear of public ridicule
4. I try to hire employees who are **conscientious**.
 - A. smart
 - B. attractive
 - C. careful
5. She stood up in class with total **conviction** and said, "I believe animals deserve to be treated kindly, no matter what."
 - A. raised voice
 - B. firm belief
 - C. shaky voice
6. You have a tight **deadline**, but the entire company is at your **disposal**.
 - A. command
 - B. mercy
 - C. office
7. She **challenges** accepted **doctrine**.
 - A. champions
 - B. authority
 - C. beliefs
8. The new law **emancipated** thousands of laborers from forced servitude.
 - A. punished harshly
 - B. trained as servants
 - C. freed from bondage
9. She made an **impetuous** purchase, buying the car without test-driving it first.
 - A. impulsive
 - B. cautious
 - C. wealthy
10. That **infernal** alarm clock kept going off every five minutes.
 - A. annoying
 - B. expensive
 - C. antique
11. Critics warned that the tech giant's **monopoly** over online search could limit innovation and competition.
 - A. minor stake
 - B. shared market
 - C. complete control

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. With concern raised by the recent tragedy, this is an opportune time to introduce the legislation.
- A. difficult
 - B. favorable
 - C. unfavorable
14. The museum displayed pagan statues from ancient Europe.
- A. highly religious
 - B. ancient political
 - C. non-mainstream religious
15. The persistent rain finally stopped after flooding streets for a full week.
- A. quickly ending
 - B. continuing steadily
 - C. suddenly starting
16. She dismissed his taste in movies as plebeian, preferring obscure foreign films.
- A. wealthy or powerful
 - B. ordinary or unsophisticated
 - C. secretive or mysterious
17. Courage is dangerous without prudence.
- A. good sense
 - B. good purpose
 - C. good support
18. He refuted the argument.
- A. avoided
 - B. complained about
 - C. argued against
19. The collection includes specimens from all over the world.
- A. insects
 - B. examples
 - C. shells
20. Every officer under the rank of Captain, shall be subordinate to the Officer of the Watch in regard to the performance of the duties with which he is charged.
- A. subservient
 - B. in charge of
 - C. considerate

Vocabulary in Context

An Enemy of the People

by Henrik Ibsen

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____ Score _____ / 20

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

- 1 *It seems to me that this would be the most **opportune** moment.*
 - A. not relating to practice or belief that is long-established or was previously long-established
 - B. favorable circumstances for a particular purpose -- especially the circumstance of good timing
 - C. relating to a residential area located near the outer edge of a city where it isn't as crowded
- 2 *And all that **infernal** weak tea wash that he pours into himself!*
 - A. very bad; or very annoying; or characteristic of hell or the underworld
 - B. relating to classical music plays in which most of the dialogue is sung
 - C. strict, firm, or hard (not giving in, not giving way, or not giving up)
- 3 *Believe me, before long we shall all be **pagans**.*
 - A. instances of having found a condition or substance to be present
 - B. ceilings designed to affect noise -- typically to decrease noise
 - C. an offensive term for people who follow non-mainstream religions
- 4 *I have investigated the matter most **conscientiously**.*
 - A. in a manner that is not attractive or desirable
 - B. in an excessively unhappy and unsociable manner
 - C. in a manner that is careful to do what is right
- 5 *Yes—and in my opinion a journalist incurs a heavy responsibility if he neglects a favourable opportunity of **emancipating** the masses—the humble and oppressed.*
 - A. making gestures (hand or body movements) while speaking or to express something
 - B. surgically interrupting nerve tracts to and from the frontal lobe of the brain
 - C. releasing from slavery or servitude; or (metaphorically) from social restraints
- 6 *A capable physician ought to know what measures to take—he ought to be capable of preventing injurious influences or of remedying them if they become obviously **persistent**.*
 - A. tendency to be direct in a disagreeable, insensitive manner
 - B. continuing -- especially despite difficulties or opposition
 - C. the degree or quality of being exactly vertical or straight
- 7 *You have no conception what an amount of harm you do yourself by your **impetuosity**.*
 - A. impulsiveness (the trait of acting suddenly without much thought)
 - B. a ceiling designed to affect noise -- typically to decrease noise
 - C. a person (often a writer or artist) living an unconventional life
- 8 *So it will be necessary for you to **refute** them publicly.*
 - A. find, search, or research
 - B. being a boundary or limit
 - C. disprove or argue against
- 9 *But as a **subordinate** member of the staff of the Baths, you have no right to express any opinion which runs contrary to that of your superiors.*
 - A. less important or subservient; or to rank as such
 - B. prepare food in a way that keeps it from spoiling
 - C. treat as a particular type that is considered bad
- 10 *And every **prudent** man too, I hope?*
 - A. sensible and careful
 - B. not demonstrative of
 - C. sincerity (realness)
- 11 *—they have tried to degrade me, to make a coward of me, to force me to put personal interests before my most sacred **convictions**.*
 - A. not working or not operating
 - B. a strong, firmly held belief
 - C. calculates or judges too low

- 12 From it you will see that the main result of the Medical Officer's proposals—apart from their constituting a vote of **censure** on the leading men of the town—would be to saddle the ratepayers with an unnecessary expenditure of at least some thousands of pounds.
- harsh or formal criticism
 - find, search, or research
 - being a boundary or limit
- 13 I propose to raise a revolution against the lie that the majority has the **monopoly** of the truth.
- in a manner that tries to obtain a result through gentle and careful effort -- often gently persuading
 - in the manner of someone who consumes more than they should -- especially eating and drinking too much
 - complete control over a product, service, or resource -- usually by a single person, company, or group
- 14 But truths as aged as that are always worn frightfully thin, and **nevertheless** it is only then that the majority recognises them and recommends them to the community as wholesome moral nourishment.
- in keeping with or in agreement with what was just stated
 - despite that (used to connect contrasting ideas)
 - therefore (for that reason)
- 15 That is, the **doctrine** you have inherited from your forefathers and proclaim thoughtlessly far and wide—the doctrine that the public, the crowd, the masses, are the essential part of the population—that they constitute the People—that the common folk, the ignorant and incomplete element in the community, have the same right to pronounce judgment and to, approve, to direct and to govern, as the isolated, intellectually superior personalities in it.
- a substance that stimulates the production of antibodies to protect against a disease
 - an economic system where most decisions are made through voluntary buying and selling
 - a belief (or system of beliefs or principles) accepted as authoritative by some group
- 16 My brother Peter is every bit as **plebeian** as anyone that walks in two shoes— (laughter and hisses) Peter Stockmann.
- related to the branch of medicine that deals with the diseases of women -- especially those of the reproductive organs
 - of or belonging to common people -- often implying a lack of refinement
- or:
- an ordinary citizen of ancient Rome
- the quality of being characterized by fantastic imagery, or combinations of things and events that don't go together
- 17 Bookcases and cabinets containing **specimens**, line the walls.
- males, females, or various trans categories
 - examples regarded as typical of their class
 - jobs, reservations, bookings, or activities
- 18 A good **conscience**, too, I hope.
- feeling or appraisal of having personally behaved in a morally right or wrong manner
 - a complex carbohydrate that is the chief constituent of all plant tissues and fibers
 - not planning to kill a person, but then intentionally killing in the heat of passion
- 19 Dr. Stockmann (**brandishing** the umbrella).
- thinking carefully and making a judgment about
 - waving something or exhibiting it aggressively
 - returning to an undesirable previous condition
- 20 Luckily I shall have all my time at my **disposal**; because I have been dismissed from the Baths, you know.
- command
 - the taking on or adoption of power or responsibility
 - the process of controlling (how something turns out)

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

An Enemy of the People

by Henrik Ibsen

| # | KEY | WORD | NOTE |
|----|-----|--------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | B | opportune | Used 3 times in this play. |
| 2 | A | infernal | Used 5 times in this play. |
| 3 | C | pagan | Used 4 times in this play. |
| 4 | C | conscientious | Used 3 times in this play. |
| 5 | C | emancipated | Used 4 times in this play. |
| 6 | B | persistent | High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this play. |
| 7 | A | impetuous (<i>as in: an impetuous decision</i>) | High-utility academic word |
| 8 | C | refute | High-utility academic word |
| 9 | A | subordinate | High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this play. |
| 10 | A | prudent | High-utility academic word; used 6 times in this play. |
| 11 | B | conviction (<i>as in: spoke with conviction</i>) | Used 2 times in this play. |
| 12 | A | censure | High-utility academic word |
| 13 | C | monopoly | High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this play. |
| 14 | B | nevertheless | High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this play. |
| 15 | C | doctrine | Used 3 times in this play. |
| 16 | B | plebeian | Used 2 times in this play. |
| 17 | B | specimen | Used 4 times in this play. |
| 18 | A | conscience | Used 6 times in this play. |
| 19 | B | brandish | Used 2 times in this play. |
| 20 | A | dispose (<i>as in: disposed the troops along...</i>) | Used 3 times in this play. |