

# Hard Times

by Charles Dickens

## Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

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### 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.

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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 (2), accord (2), assent, consequence (2), disparity, eminent, entreat, incline, inclined, melancholy, mistrust, parliamentary, pretense, remonstrate, reproach, retort, vagabond



#### More Vocabulary Printables

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# ANSWER KEY

## Vocabulary Preview

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| #  | KEY |
|----|-----|
| 1  | C   |
| 2  | B   |
| 3  | B   |
| 4  | C   |
| 5  | C   |
| 6  | A   |
| 7  | B   |
| 8  | C   |
| 9  | A   |
| 10 | B   |
| 11 | C   |
| 12 | A   |
| 13 | B   |
| 14 | B   |
| 15 | A   |
| 16 | B   |
| 17 | B   |
| 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. Will you **accompany** her to the party?
  - A. follow
  - B. precede
  - C. go with
2. Anyone who plays a musical instrument is encouraged to come to tryouts to **accompany** the choir.
  - A. enjoy
  - B. perform with
  - C. help evaluate
3. She dresses in **accordance** with the latest fashions.
  - A. opposition
  - B. keeping
  - C. ignorance
4. After the fight, he turned himself in of his own **accord**.
  - A. own fear
  - B. own safety
  - C. own mind
5. The singer **assented** to the request for an encore.
  - A. declined or refused
  - B. dislike or resented
  - C. consented or agreed
6. Her job prospects are hindered as a **consequence** of the conviction.
  - A. result
  - B. unimportant part
  - C. important part
7. It is the most **consequential** tax legislation in decades.
  - A. unethical
  - B. important
  - C. harmful
8. The **disparity** in access to education between urban and rural areas is a significant issue.
  - A. improvement
  - B. agreement
  - C. difference
9. Despite her **eminent** status in the art world, she remained humble and approachable.
  - A. respected and well-known
  - B. newly acquired
  - C. barely noticed
10. The students **entreated** the Chinese troops not to use force against peaceful demonstrations.
  - A. bribed (with gifts)
  - B. asked earnestly
  - C. threatened
11. I was **inclined** to laugh, but I overcame the urge.
  - A. disinclined
  - B. afraid
  - C. tending
12. The boat ramp has a steep **incline**.
  - A. slope
  - B. price
  - C. danger

13. This weather makes me **melancholy**. I can't wait for spring.
- A. happy
  - B. sad
  - C. feel like singing
14. Years of broken promises taught the team to **mistrust** anything he said.
- A. not remember
  - B. not trust
  - C. not question
15. Despite the success of the United States, most new democracies choose a **parliamentary** or hybrid form of government because of the political instability and authoritarianism associated with the many Latin American countries that have chosen a presidential system.
- A. government in which the legislature selects the leader
  - B. government in which the military selects the leader
  - C. government in which the court selects the leader
16. The country maintains a **pretense** of a free press.
- A. strong presence
  - B. false appearance
  - C. diverse presence
17. The lawyers will **remonstrate** that we're starting without a written agreement, but we trust each other.
- A. promise
  - B. protest
  - C. explain
18. Don't **reproach** yourself for things beyond your control.
- A. congratulate
  - B. criticize
  - C. accept honor for
19. She **retorted**, "Takes one to know one."
- A. quickly replied
  - B. insulted back
  - C. joyfully laughed
20. After losing everything, he lived as a **vagabond** for nearly five years.
- A. wealthy landowner
  - B. wandering drifter
  - C. settled farmer

# 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 This always pleased the **eminently** practical friend.
  - A. with high standing
  - B. with strong desire
  - C. in a sloped manner
- 2 'Now, to think of these **vagabonds**,' said he, 'attracting the young rabble from a model school.'
  - A. shows fear by positioning the body as though afraid of being hit
  - B. a person who wanders from town to town with no fixed home or job
  - C. degrades (decreases) the purity, quality, or status of something
- 3 He stopped just as his **eminently** practical friend, still **accompanied** by the two young culprits, entered the room.
  - A. made possible
  - B. got closer to
  - C. joined
- 4 ...Mr. E. W. B. Childers, so justly celebrated for his daring vaulting act as the Wild Huntsman of the North American Prairies; in which popular performance, a diminutive boy with an old face, who now **accompanied** him, assisted as his infant son:
  - A. not controlled
  - B. performed with
  - C. began fighting
- 5 her brother sulkily **remonstrated**.
  - A. selected (on a computer screen)
  - B. argued in protest or opposition
  - C. took up or received into heaven
- 6 'Well known,' **assented** Mr. Sleary, rolling his loose eye.
  - A. campaigned or worked for a cause that was passionately believed to be important
  - B. became less intense, less severe, or less active -- perhaps went away entirely
  - C. to express agreement -- especially with a statement or proposal to do something
- 7 'By **Parliamentary**, this morning.
  - A. relating to a form of democracy where the chief executive is selected by and answerable to and the legislature
  - B. a condition where the body cannot properly regulate blood sugar levels because doesn't use insulin effectively
  - C. post-traumatic stress disorder -- an anxiety disorder that can develop after exposure to traumatic experiences
- 8 he had sometimes seen a shade of **melancholy** on her blessed face, that smote him with remorse and despair.
  - A. relating to the outside
  - B. sadness
  - C. about (but not exactly)
- 9 There is some **disparity** in your respective years, but in your means and positions there is none; on the contrary, there is a great suitability.
  - A. result or predictable value
  - B. the highest-ranking manager
  - C. a difference between things
- 10 He could not make up his mind how to do that, or what the **consequences** of the step might be.
  - A. results (things that will happen because)
  - B. battles
  - C. desires
- 11 Then why doesn't she choose, when I tell her of what **consequence** it is?
  - A. translates
  - B. importance
  - C. sticks out

- 12 Mr. Harthouse **inclined** his head in assent,  
A. bent  
B. told (a story)  
C. lied or misled
- 13 Mrs. Sparsit *was in good spirits, and inclined to be conversational.*  
A. not capable of being suffered through (or put up with)  
B. the degree to which something can be solved or settled  
C. in the mood
- 14 *He was very quick upon her with this* **retort**.  
A. quickly reply  
B. make possible  
C. stop fighting
- 15 *I never made a* **pretence** *to him or you that I loved him.*  
A. a general feeling of not being as good as others  
B. pretending act  
C. the act, process, or instance of telling a story
- 16 *I do not* **reproach** *you, father, I make no complaint.*  
A. move into position to work; or start  
B. criticize  
C. to spread to other parts of the body
- 17 *Let me* **entreat** *you, for your own sake and for hers, to be more quiet.*  
A. stop fighting  
B. ask  
C. make possible
- 18 *...on account of most people being judged according to the company they keep.*  
A. idiom meaning "won the day"  
B. based upon (in keeping with)  
C. U.S. history: pre-Civil War period
- 19 *by his coming back of his own* **accord**, *and showing himself innocent*  
A. the achievement of 3 positive feats in a sport  
B. tropical viral disease transmitted by a mosquito  
C. own mind (voluntarily without anyone forcing him to)
- 20 *'It goes against me,' Rachael answered, in a gentler manner, 'to mistrust any one; but when I am so* **mistrusted** *— when we all are — I cannot keep such things quite out of my mind.*  
A. fruit cooked with sugar (like jam)  
B. didn't trust or have confidence in  
C. past-tense of the verb *lead*

# ANSWER KEY

## Vocabulary in Context

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| #  | KEY | WORD                                                  | NOTE                                                    |
|----|-----|-------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| 1  | A   | eminent                                               | High-utility academic word; used 16 times in this book. |
| 2  | B   | vagabond                                              | Used 8 times in this book.                              |
| 3  | C   | accompany (as in: accompany on the journey)           | High-utility academic word; 3 meanings in this book.    |
| 4  | B   | accompany (as in: accompanied her in the performance) | High-utility academic word; 3 meanings in this book.    |
| 5  | B   | remonstrate                                           | Used 9 times in this book.                              |
| 6  | C   | assent                                                | Used 10 times in this book.                             |
| 7  | A   | parliamentary                                         | Used 6 times in this book.                              |
| 8  | B   | melancholy                                            | Used 13 times in this book.                             |
| 9  | C   | disparity                                             | Used 7 times in this book.                              |
| 10 | A   | consequence (as in: a direct consequence of)          | High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.    |
| 11 | B   | consequence (as in: of little consequence)            | 2 meanings in this book.                                |
| 12 | A   | incline (as in: on an incline or incline his head)    | High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.    |
| 13 | C   | inclined (as in: I'm inclined to)                     | High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.    |
| 14 | A   | retort (as in: quick retort)                          | Used 15 times in this book.                             |
| 15 | B   | pretense                                              | Used 12 times in this book.                             |
| 16 | B   | reproach                                              | Used 12 times in this book.                             |
| 17 | B   | entreat                                               | Used 12 times in this book.                             |
| 18 | B   | accord (as in: according to, or in accord with)       | Used 17 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.    |
| 19 | C   | accord (as in: done of her own accord)                | 2 meanings in this book.                                |
| 20 | B   | mistrust                                              | Used 12 times in this book.                             |