

Notes from the Underground

by Fyodor Dostoyevsky

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

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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: acute (2), attain, consequence (2), contempt, contemptible, despise, direct (2), however (2), hysteria, loathe, malignant, scoundrel, subjugate, sublime, superfluous, wretched



More Vocabulary Printables

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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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

Vocabulary Preview
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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

1. She had **acute** appendicitis.
A. minor
B. bad
C. gradual
2. Birds tend to have **acute** vision.
A. colorless
B. poor
C. excellent
3. They hope to **attain** effective law and order in the region before withdrawing troops.
A. openly oppose
B. carefully describe
C. successfully gain
4. Her job prospects are hindered as a **consequence** of the conviction.
A. result
B. unimportant part
C. important part
5. It is the most **consequential** tax legislation in decades.
A. unethical
B. important
C. harmful
6. He was impolite. She pretended not to notice except that she treated him with **contempt**.
A. great annoyance
B. lack of respect
C. impatience
7. She is a **contemptible** liar.
A. good (at pretending)
B. deserving no respect
C. unreliable
8. She **despises** his lifestyle.
A. admires
B. wants
C. hates
9. She is easy to work with. She is **direct** in her communications and expectations.
A. straightforward
B. considerate
C. humble
10. The judge **directed** the jury to ignore the question.
A. asked
B. ordered
C. understood
11. I hope to take the ACT just once. However, I will take it early, so there is time to study and take it again if my scores aren't high enough.
A. but
B. also
C. and

12. However safe we make it, there will always be risk.
- A. on-the-other-hand
 - B. in addition
 - C. no matter how
13. The worst legislation is passed when voters are whipped into a state of hysteria.
- A. uncontrollable emotion
 - B. extreme anger
 - C. complete confusion
14. I loathe that man. He ruined my life.
- A. fear
 - B. avoid
 - C. hate
15. Malignant rumors spread through social media damaged her reputation.
- A. insignificant or unimportant
 - B. harmful or evil
 - C. beneficial or helpful
16. He is the most intolerable scoundrel on the face of the earth.
- A. person without moral principles
 - B. apparently reasonable, but unproven
 - C. without pattern or planning
17. The Taliban wants total subjugation to their religious law.
- A. body temperature that is dangerously low
 - B. forced submission
 - C. gullibility (being too willing to believe)
18. We found a sublime seaside bed and breakfast.
- A. wonderful
 - B. shabby
 - C. old
19. Everyone liked the idea. The arguments I prepared to support it were superfluous.
- A. appreciated
 - B. important
 - C. unnecessary
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

Notes from the Underground

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____ Score _____ / 20

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

- 1 My room is a **wretched**, horrid one in the outskirts of the town.
 - A. not easily identified
 - B. miserable or very bad
 - C. exactness or accuracy
- 2 And the worst of it was, and the root of it all, that it was all in accord with the normal fundamental laws of over-acute consciousness, and with the inertia that was the **direct** result of those laws, and that consequently one was not only unable to change but could do absolutely nothing.
 - A. clear, straightforward, or to the point
 - B. the state or degree of being very large
 - C. meticulousness (care for small details)
- 3 Even if I were to ask the **director** himself to be my second tomorrow, he would be bound to consent, if only from a feeling of chivalry, and to keep the secret!
 - A. a doctor who tests eyesight and provides glasses or contact lenses to improve vision
 - B. to guide, aim, or manage -- such as actions, attention, speech, a project or company
 - C. someone who polishes something and makes it shiny; or someone who improves something
- 4 Thus it would follow, as the result of acute consciousness, that one is not to blame in being a **scoundrel**; as though that were any consolation to the scoundrel once he has come to realise that he actually is a scoundrel.
 - A. someone without moral principles
 - B. the condition of being different
 - C. important, serious, or dangerous
- 5 It may be an **acutely** conscious mouse, yet it is a mouse,
 - A. in a continuing manner -- especially despite difficulties or opposition
 - B. in a manner that shows bad taste (crude, offensive, or unsophisticated)
 - C. highly perceptive in some area
- 6 ...it showed itself in **acute** depression.
 - A. gradually getting worse
 - B. severe with a rapid onset
 - C. only superficial
- 7 In that case, of course, people are not spiteful in silence, but moan; but they are not candid moans, they are malignant moans, and the **malignancy** is the whole point.
 - A. the process of thinking carefully and making a judgment about something
 - B. harmful or evil

in medicine: harmful growth as with a cancerous tumor

- C. the act of finding fault and telling others; or a description of faults
- 8 It is **loathsome** to remember it all, but it was loathsome even then.
 - A. not aware of something
 - B. consistent or the same
 - C. disgusting or very bad
- 9 I exercise myself in reflection, and **consequently** with me every primary cause at once draws after itself another still more primary, and so on to infinity.
 - A. resultantly (as a result)
 - B. despite that (used to connect contrasting ideas)
 - C. even though -- used to connect contrasting ideas
- 10 He always thought me of no **consequence** whatever; his behaviour to me, though not quite courteous, was tolerable.
 - A. translates
 - B. importance
 - C. sticks out

- 11 *The day after tomorrow, at the latest, you will begin **despising** yourself for having knowingly deceived yourself.*
A. opposing (struggling against each other)
B. examining in detail to better understand
C. disliking strongly and looking down upon
- 12 *...I love all that is "**sublime** and beautiful."*
A. admirably wonderful
B. mirror back (an image)
C. create dramatic change
- 13 *We sometimes choose absolute nonsense because in our foolishness we see in that nonsense the easiest means for **attaining** a supposed advantage.*
A. moving into position to work; or starting
B. saying (or making a sound) with the voice
C. gaining or reaching something with effort
- 14 *But when all that is explained and worked out on paper (which is perfectly possible, for it is **contemptible** and senseless to suppose that some laws of nature man will never understand), then certainly so-called desires will no longer exist.*
A. the quality or degree of not being straightforward
B. deserving no respect (worthless or of bad quality)
C. aka analytic -- relating to a theory of psychiatry
- 15 *I was not drunk—but what is one to do—depression will drive a man to such a pitch of **hysteria**?*
A. a state of excessive, uncontrollable emotion
B. Nazi organization for children aged 10 to 18
C. found a condition or substance to be present
- 16 *But I could not **subjugate** all of them; my friend was not at all like them either, he was, in fact, a rare exception.*
A. abundant or plentiful
B. force into submission
C. to strongly criticize
- 17 *Owing to its rarity, perhaps, any external event, **however** trivial, always made me feel as though some radical change in my life were at hand.*
A. people who are good at or spend much time studying, thinking, and reasoning
B. aka analysis -- psychiatric treatment; or a theory of psychiatric treatment
C. regardless of how
- 18 *She could not, **however**, have been called a beauty, though she was tall, strong-looking, and well built.*
A. a word used to connect contrasting ideas as when using *though, in spite of that, in contrast, nevertheless*, etc.
B. in keeping with or in agreement with what was just stated
C. therefore (for that reason)
- 19 *I recalled, too, that during those two hours I had not said a single word to this creature, and had, in fact, considered it utterly **superfluous**; in fact, the silence had for some reason gratified me.*
A. the quality of being sensible and careful
B. without purpose, job, or natural activity
C. more than is needed, desired, or required
- 20 *...a stare more than severe, utterly **contemptuous**.*
A. not tending to find fault
B. with intense dislike and disrespect
C. able to be disagreed with

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	B	wretched	Used 10 times in this book.
2	A	direct (<i>as in: gave a direct answer</i>)	High-utility academic word; 3 meanings in this book.
3	B	direct (<i>as in: direct a question; or direct a film</i>)	High-utility academic word; 3 meanings in this book.
4	A	scoundrel	Used 10 times in this book.
5	C	acute (<i>as in: acute sense of smell</i>)	Used 4 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
6	B	acute (<i>as in: acute pain</i>)	Used 9 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
7	B	malignant	Used 6 times in this book.
8	C	loathe	Used 21 times in this book.
9	A	consequence (<i>as in: a direct consequence of</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
10	B	consequence (<i>as in: of little consequence</i>)	Used 4 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
11	C	despise	Used 17 times in this book.
12	A	sublime (<i>as in: she is sublime</i>)	Used 17 times in this book.
13	C	attain	High-utility academic word; used 13 times in this book.
14	B	contemptible	Used 7 times in this book.
15	A	hysteria	Used 11 times in this book.
16	B	subjugate	Used 5 times in this book.
17	C	however (<i>as in: However much she tried...</i>)	Used 3 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
18	A	however (<i>as in: However, complications may...</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
19	C	superfluous	High-utility academic word; used 4 times in this book.
20	B	contempt (<i>as in: feels contempt towards her</i>)	Used 14 times in this book.