

# The Blind Side

by Michael Lewis

## 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 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.

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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:** agile, compensate (2), consensus, establish (2), factor (2), guile, highlight (2), illustrate (2), innovate, loophole, transcript, vengeance, with a vengeance, yield (2)



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# ANSWER KEY

## Vocabulary Preview

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

# Vocabulary Preview

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

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

1. The **agile** cat leapt from the bookshelf to the windowsill without effort.
  - A. large and heavy
  - B. old and tired
  - C. quick and nimble
2. She's not as quick, but she more than **compensates** with extra effort.
  - A. pays
  - B. makes up for it
  - C. spreads confusion
3. They sued for **compensation** for her injury in the accident.
  - A. payment
  - B. a sense of closure
  - C. punishment
4. Moderates in the senate sought to build a consensus between both parties so that the budget could be passed.
  - A. surplus of funds
  - B. general agreement
  - C. decrease in spending
5. Which word choice would help to establish a serious tone.
  - A. avoid
  - B. create
  - C. increase
6. The sixth paragraph (lines 67–68) is primarily concerned with **establishing** the contrast between men and masculine traits.
  - A. minimizing
  - B. exaggerating
  - C. showing
7. In the second paragraph, the narrator's focus shifts from **factors** making her unhappy to identification of possible solutions to her unhappiness.
  - A. things that are unfair
  - B. things (that influence an outcome)
  - C. examples of illnesses
8. Be sure to **factor** the cost of insurance into your decision when you think about buying a car.
  - A. do away with completely
  - B. make very angry or annoy
  - C. include for consideration
9. She had the **guile** to lie directly to his face.
  - A. necessity
  - B. cunning and deceit
  - C. ambition
10. The mayor **highlighted** positive developments in the city.
  - A. encouraged
  - B. searched for
  - C. emphasized
11. It was the **highlight** of our vacation.
  - A. brightest day
  - B. best part
  - C. scariest moment

12. The example illustrates the belief.
- A. disproves
  - B. proves
  - C. makes clear
13. The assembly directions include illustrations to identify each part.
- A. drawings
  - B. coded stickers
  - C. descriptions
14. Companies must innovate quickly to stay ahead of their competitors.
- A. follow old rules
  - B. create new methods
  - C. imitate rivals
15. When income taxes were cut, loopholes were also closed.
- A. differences in tax rates
  - B. local offices
  - C. exceptions to obligations
16. I listened to the podcast and then read the transcript to better understand some of the points.
- A. word-for-word written record
  - B. summary of the main points
  - C. list of vocabulary used
17. Her evolutionary benefit theory of vengeance is supported by studies showing that a person's desire for revenge increases when others see their mistreatment.
- A. fairness
  - B. status
  - C. revenge
18. She threw herself into work with a vengeance.
- A. with reluctance
  - B. with intensity
  - C. with careful thought
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 An Internet search for "Oher" **yielded** nothing on him.
  - A. produced
  - B. was attractive or desirable
  - C. not wanting to do something
- 2 No one invested in Michael Oher, and so he **yielded** no visible returns.
  - A. with rises and falls in pitch
  - B. gave in, gave way, or gave up
  - C. embarrassed or self-conscious
- 3 He had the body control of a ballerina and the **agility** of a basketball player.
  - A. an unsettled state of mind (nervous or uncomfortable)
  - B. a power plant that produces energy by splitting atoms
  - C. ability to move well or think well quickly and easily
- 4 "How can I get their **transcripts**?" asked Hugh.
  - A. word-for-word written record

or:

a copy of the official record of a student's courses and grades

or:

biology: a strand of RNA copied from a DNA template

  - B. powered mechanical devices, typically used to fabricate metal components of machines by the selective removal of metal such as cutting, grinding or drilling
  - C. people who believe in the teaching of Buddha -- that aims to end suffering by ending selfish desire and following a path of wisdom, ethics, and meditation
- 5 In a single play Michael Oher had **established** himself as too rich for the blood of Southern Miss.
  - A. accepted someone's membership though a special procedure such as a ceremony and/or period of instruction and/or test
  - B. examined an issue, got opinions by asking specific questions; and/or asked people for political support individually
  - C. proven
- 6 North Carolina State was the first to offer Justin a football scholarship and, with direct private jet service **established** between Memphis and Raleigh, North Carolina State became, to Michael Oher, an appealing place to play football.
  - A. persuaded someone to want something (often sex or love) by tempting with something desired
  - B. created
  - C. not having a relationship whereby a change in one thing helps predict a change in another
- 7 And left tackle, as guardian of the quarterback's blind side, had become one of the most highly **compensated** jobs in the game.
  - A. paid
  - B. drew
  - C. quit
- 8 And if they had to **compensate** for their left tackle, they created weakness elsewhere, and the game was half-won.
  - A. draw pictures to accompany
  - B. make up for, or adjust for
  - C. learn, discover, or decide

- 9 He's still in an odd place, professionally: the most **innovative** offensive mind of his generation and nobody understands what he's thought up.
- greater than zero
  - new and different
  - not demonstrating
- 10 To a degree coaching can make a quarterback, and it certainly is the most important **factor** for his success.
- job, reservation, booking, or activity
  - thing that affects a result or outcome
  - something that is made or manufactured
- 11 And two days after the game it would occur to them that Chris Doleman or Lawrence Taylor or Bruce Smith hadn't **factored** into the game.
- held together (connected or united) or wrapped
  - moved to a worse or less prestigious situation
  - influenced (a result or outcome)
- 12 Walsh's job, as he saw it, was to create a system that suited Virgil Carter's talents: **guile**, nimbleness, and an ability to throw accurately, as long as he didn't have to throw far.
- prepare food in a way that keeps it from spoiling
  - cunning (shrewdness and cleverness) and deceitful
  - treat as a particular type that is considered bad
- 13 He would become, by general **consensus**, the finest quarterback ever to play the game.
- the quality of being continuous
  - agreement by a group as a whole
  - doubt (that something is true)
- 14 Before the game he showed Michael tapes of the previous year's game, to **illustrate** the nature of the problem.
- work or operate
  - think carefully
  - help make clear
- 15 Before the season Sports **Illustrated** had named him one of the five freshman football players in the country to watch.
- (verb) drew pictures to accompany OR (adjective) accompanied by pictures
  - not justified or explained as an understandable reaction to another action
  - related such that a change in one thing helps predict a change in another
- 16 The season had begun with an act of **vengeance**; it ended with that act of mercy.
- something that stands out
  - something made from parts
  - the act of taking revenge
- 17 He wasn't going to sleep tonight anyway; now he wasn't going to sleep **with a vengeance**.
- available cash
  - with intensity (for sure)
  - very important
- 18 He went looking for a **loophole** and quickly found one: Beginner's Spanish.
- a formal statement of decision or opinion voted on by a group
  - related to a religion founded in Persia in the 6th century BC
  - a gap in a rule, allowing avoidance of the rule's core intent
- 19 But at the very end of the **highlight** reel, Walsh, perversely, had inserted a single negative play: the Doleman sack.
- something made from parts
  - something that stands out
  - large artery of the heart
- 20 This served mainly to **highlight** their near-total confusion.
- an involuntary vomiting spasm
  - exchange, convert, or pay off
  - emphasize (call attention to)

# ANSWER KEY

## Vocabulary in Context

### The Blind Side

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	A	yield ( <i>as in: will yield valuable data</i> )	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
2	B	yield ( <i>as in: yield to pressure</i> )	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
3	C	agile	Used 12 times in this book.
4	A	transcript	Used 14 times in this book.
5	C	establish ( <i>as in: establish that there is a need</i> )	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
6	B	establish ( <i>as in: establish a positive tone</i> )	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
7	A	compensate ( <i>as in: she is generously compensated</i> )	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
8	B	compensate ( <i>as in: she compensates with extra effort</i> )	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
9	B	innovate	High-utility academic word; used 7 times in this book.
10	B	factor ( <i>as in: It was the deciding factor.</i> )	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
11	C	factor ( <i>as in: factor it into your thinking</i> )	2 meanings in this book.
12	B	guile	Used 3 times in this book.
13	B	consensus	Used 2 times in this book.
14	C	illustrate ( <i>as in: as illustrated by this example</i> )	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
15	A	illustrate ( <i>as in: an illustrated children's book</i> )	Used 3 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
16	C	vengeance ( <i>as in: vengeance is mine</i> )	2 meanings in this book.
17	B	with a vengeance ( <i>as in: with a vengeance</i> )	2 meanings in this book.
18	C	loophole	Used 4 times in this book.
19	B	highlight ( <i>as in: highlights of the year</i> )	Used 3 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
20	C	highlight ( <i>as in: highlight the main findings</i> )	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.