

The Death of Ivan Ilych

by Leo Tolstoy

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), agony, conjecture, contradict, deception, decorum, exasperated, external, however (2), incessant, magistrate, morose, opium, propriety, rectify, superfluous, torment, yield



More Vocabulary Printables

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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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#	KEY
1	B
2	C
3	C
4	B
5	A
6	B
7	B
8	C
9	B
10	A
11	C
12	B
13	C
14	C
15	A
16	B
17	C
18	C
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. She had **acute** appendicitis.
 - A. minor
 - B. bad
 - C. gradual
2. Birds tend to have **acute** vision.
 - A. colorless
 - B. poor
 - C. excellent
3. She cried out in **agony**.
 - A. sudden surprise
 - B. intense anger
 - C. intense suffering
4. It is important to distinguish between **conjecture** and fact.
 - A. fantasy
 - B. theory
 - C. popularity
5. Does the sentence **contradict** what is said in the previous paragraph?
 - A. disagree with
 - B. reinforce
 - C. expand upon
6. The con artist used clever **deception** to trick wealthy investors.
 - A. kindness
 - B. trickery
 - C. praise
7. The judge expected **decorum** in the courtroom.
 - A. loud celebration
 - B. proper behavior
 - C. careless disorder
8. My little brother can be **exasperating**. He's always testing his boundaries.
 - A. very active
 - B. endearing (lovable)
 - C. greatly annoying
9. **External** pressure from competitors forced the company to lower its prices.
 - A. located inside
 - B. coming from outside
 - C. happening before
10. 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
11. **However** safe we make it, there will always be risk.
 - A. on-the-other-hand
 - B. in addition
 - C. no matter how

12. Night and day we live with the incessant noise of the city.
- A. loud
 - B. continuous
 - C. pleasant
13. The magistrate set bail at \$10,000.
- A. attorney
 - B. queen or king
 - C. judge
14. She's been morose and unsociable.
- A. angry
 - B. frustrated
 - C. unhappy
15. The illegal trade of opium has been a major source of conflict in some regions.
- A. a powerful narcotic
 - B. a powerful herbal remedy
 - C. a powerful cooking additive
16. She was known for losing all sense of propriety once she had a few drinks.
- A. humility
 - B. appropriate behavior
 - C. delaying gratification
17. We are working to rectify the accounts and send refunds to everyone who was overbilled.
- A. calculate
 - B. understand
 - C. correct
18. Everyone liked the idea. The arguments I prepared to support it were superfluous.
- A. appreciated
 - B. important
 - C. unnecessary
19. Bullies made his school days a constant torment he could not escape.
- A. severe suffering
 - B. great enjoyment
 - C. simple confusion
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 His post had been kept open for him, but there had been **conjectures** that in case of his death Alexeev might receive his appointment, and...
 - A. controls in advance (how something will turn out)
 - B. opinions based on inconclusive evidence
 - C. things or characteristics that are bad or harmful
- 2 A vigorous, resolute Church Reader, in a frock-coat, was reading something in a loud voice with an expression that precluded any **contradiction**.
 - A. something (typically a statement) that disagrees with itself; or (more rarely) the act of disagreeing
 - B. something made of the brownish metal with the same name -- such as a sculpture or a third place medal
 - C. nerve cells running from the base of the skull to the lower back and enclosed by vertebrae in adults
- 3 He did not look once at the dead man, did not **yield** to any depressing influence, and was one of the first to leave the room.
 - A. select (on a computer screen)
 - B. give in, give way, or give up
 - C. an involuntary vomiting spasm
- 4 Such was the Privy Councillor and **superfluous** member of various superfluous institutions, Ilya Epimovich Golovin.
 - A. the quality of being sensible and careful
 - B. without purpose, job, or natural activity
 - C. more than is needed, desired, or required
- 5 as an examining **magistrate**, Ivan Ilych felt that everyone without exception, even the most important and self-satisfied, was in his power
 - A. someone who shows
 - B. people who attack
 - C. judge
- 6 His wife, without any reason – *de gaiete de coeur* as Ivan Ilych expressed it to himself – began to disturb the pleasure and **propriety** of their life.
 - A. dreamlike state of altered consciousness
 - B. socially correct or appropriate behavior
 - C. someone who is intolerant and prejudiced
- 7 He only required of it those conveniences – dinner at home, housewife, and bed – which it could give him, and above all that propriety of **external** forms required by public opinion.
 - A. certain
 - B. outside
 - C. various
- 8 after a stumble, his life was regaining its due and natural character of pleasant lightheartedness and **decorum**.
 - A. the best or most important
 - B. proper manners and conduct
 - C. harsh and unfair treatment
- 9 He could not, **however**, be blamed for that, and Ivan Ilych still obeyed his orders implicitly and at first derived some comfort from doing so.
 - 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)
- 10 But **however** much he pondered he found no answer.
 - 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

- 11 *But as soon as he had any unpleasantness with his wife, any lack of success in his official work, or held bad cards at bridge, he was at once **acutely** sensible of his disease.*
- A. in a continuing manner -- especially despite difficulties or opposition
 - B. in a manner that shows bad taste (crude, offensive, or unsophisticated)
 - C. sharply
- 12 *The pain again grew more **acute**, but he did not stir and did not call.*
- A. gradually getting worse
 - B. sharp
 - C. only superficial
- 13 *it should have been clear to him that this **exasperation** with circumstances and people aggravated his illness, and that he ought therefore to ignore unpleasant occurrences.*
- A. relative amount
 - B. in disagreement
 - C. great annoyance
- 14 *The pain in his side oppressed him and seemed to grow worse and more **incessant***
- A. poor ability to make a decision
 - B. continuous
 - C. non-traditional or non-standard
- 15 *He looked **morosely** at her.*
- A. in a manner that is not attractive or desirable
 - B. in an excessively unhappy and unsociable manner
 - C. unhappily
- 16 *He was given **opium** and hypodermic injections of morphine, but this did not relieve him.*
- A. a powerful narcotic
 - B. a powerful herbal remedy
 - C. a powerful cooking additive
- 17 *What **tormented** Ivan Ilych most was the deception, the lie, which for some reason they all accepted, that he was not dying*
- A. caused great mental suffering
 - B. not altered in an unnatural or untrue way
 - C. consented reluctantly; or suffered defeat
- 18 *This had to be **rectified**, but it was impossible to do so.*
- A. selected (on a computer screen)
 - B. took up or received into heaven
 - C. corrected or made right
- 19 *why must I die and die in **agony**?*
- A. size or dimension
 - B. circular movement
 - C. a state with intense suffering
- 20 *All you have lived for and still live for is falsehood and **deception**, hiding life and death from you.*
- A. someone bound to serve another without pay -- such as a slave or serf
 - B. the act of lying to or misleading someone; or something that misleads
 - C. the degree to which something can change to fit a different situation

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	B	conjecture	Used 2 times in this book.
2	A	contradict	High-utility academic word; used 4 times in this book.
3	B	yield (<i>as in: yield to pressure</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this book.
4	C	superfluous	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
5	C	magistrate	Used 11 times in this book.
6	B	propriety	Used 9 times in this book.
7	B	external	Used 3 times in this book.
8	B	decorum	Used 10 times in this book.
9	A	however (<i>as in: However, complications may...</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
10	C	however (<i>as in: However much she tried...</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
11	C	acute (<i>as in: acute sense of smell</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
12	B	acute (<i>as in: acute pain</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
13	C	exasperated	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this book.
14	B	incessant	Used 4 times in this book.
15	C	morose	Used 2 times in this book.
16	A	opium	Used 4 times in this book.
17	A	torment	Used 7 times in this book.
18	C	rectify (<i>as in: rectify the error</i>)	Used 3 times in this book.
19	C	agony	Used 6 times in this book.
20	B	deception	High-utility academic word; used 7 times in this book.