

The Idiot

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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OPTIONAL POST-READING QUIZ

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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: amiable, candid, consequence (2), contrary, contrary to, conviction, deceive, haughty, impetuous, impudent, malice, melancholy, on the contrary, patronage, recollect, reproach, repugnant, sacrilege, wretched



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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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#	KEY
1	A
2	A
3	A
4	B
5	B
6	C
7	A
8	B
9	C
10	B
11	A
12	B
13	C
14	B
15	C
16	C
17	B
18	C
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. It was an **amiable** gathering of old friends.
 - A. friendly
 - B. rare
 - C. emotional
2. My **candid** opinion is that their team is much better than ours, but an upset isn't impossible.
 - A. honest
 - B. expert
 - C. tactful
3. Her job prospects are hindered as a **consequence** of the conviction.
 - A. result
 - B. unimportant part
 - C. important part
4. It is the most **consequential** tax legislation in decades.
 - A. unethical
 - B. important
 - C. harmful
5. She just said it to be **contrary**.
 - A. self-important
 - B. disagreeable
 - C. funny
6. We will not allow members to act **contrary** to our code of ethics.
 - A. without understanding
 - B. prior to creating
 - C. in opposition to
7. I will not pay you for the work. **On the contrary**, I may sue you for damages.
 - A. not only that (strengthening denial of payment)
 - B. in spite of that (even though not paying)
 - C. regardless of that (unrelated to not paying)
8. 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
9. The fake article was written to attract attention and **deceive** readers.
 - A. entertain
 - B. attract
 - C. lie to or mislead
10. She has that **haughty**, rich and entitled attitude.
 - A. wealthy
 - B. arrogant
 - C. optimistic
11. She made an **impetuous** purchase, buying the car without test-driving it first.
 - A. impulsive
 - B. cautious
 - C. wealthy

12. Her **impudent** reply to the manager shocked everyone in the meeting.
- A. thoughtfully kind
 - B. disrespectfully bold
 - C. extremely quiet
13. Words can be like baseball bats when used **maliciously** against someone who is sensitive.
- A. carelessly
 - B. mockingly
 - C. evilly
14. This weather makes me **melancholy**. I can't wait for spring.
- A. happy
 - B. sad
 - C. feel like singing
15. Guiteau was insane and assassinated President Garfield because he believed Garfield cheated him out of a political **patronage** job. He thought he was owed the job for giving a speech encouraging others to vote for Garfield.
- A. civil service
 - B. high-ranking and high-paying
 - C. favor for political support
16. I don't **recollect** her name, but I'd recognize her.
- A. pronounce properly
 - B. spell properly
 - C. remember
17. Don't **reproach** yourself for things beyond your control.
- A. congratulate
 - B. criticize
 - C. accept honor for
18. His **repugnant** behavior at the party made everyone want to go home early.
- A. warmly welcomed
 - B. highly amusing
 - C. deeply offensive
19. Many people considered it **sacrilege** to joke loudly inside the sacred temple.
- A. respect for old customs
 - B. fear of religious rules
 - C. disrespect for the sacred
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

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____ Score _____ / 20

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

- 1 Why, I can get him sent off to Siberia for that alone, if I like; it's **sacrilege**.
 - A. person, organization, or anything with a separate existence
 - B. the process or result of learning, discovering, or deciding
 - C. disrespect of something others consider important or sacred
- 2 "Oh, that **wretched** donkey again, I see!" cried the lady.
 - A. not easily identified
 - B. miserable or very bad
 - C. exactness or accuracy
- 3 I felt how lovely it was, but the loveliness weighed upon me somehow or other, and made me feel **melancholy**.
 - A. relating to the outside
 - B. a sad feeling or manner
 - C. about (but not exactly)
- 4 Then she took to helping him without leave; and he saw how valuable her assistance was to him, and did not drive her away again; **on the contrary**, he occasionally gave her the remnants of his dinner, bread and cheese.
 - A. an expression used to intensify denial of an idea
 - B. an expression used to introduce a creative idea
 - C. an expression used to introduce a statement that might be thought impolite
- 5 Lizabetha Prokofievna, who disliked Varvara, although she had a great respect for her mother, was much annoyed by this sudden intimacy, and put it down to the general "**contrariness**" of her daughters, who were "always on the lookout for some new way of opposing her."
 - A. likely to change
 - B. disagreeableness
 - C. able to be found
- 6 We sometimes have strange, impossible dreams, **contrary to all the laws of nature**.
 - A. decisive defeat
 - B. produce or show
 - C. in opposition to
- 7 His whole appearance gave one the idea of **impudence**; his dress was shabby.
 - A. an artists performance of another artist's work that expresses the performer's feelings or ideas about the work
 - B. improperly bold or disrespectful -- especially toward someone who is older or considered to be of higher status
 - C. soccer player who typically play in the middle third of the field and who assists with both defense and offense
- 8 Varia did not try to look **amiable**, and kept her gloomy expression.
 - A. friendly, agreeable, and likable
 - B. important, serious, or dangerous
 - C. not clear or easily identifiable
- 9 If I reckoned on that I should certainly be **deceived**, for I am still too weak in mind and character.
 - A. told (a story)
 - B. began fighting
 - C. lied or misled
- 10 if he is to be under special **patronage**, I withdraw my claws.
 - A. belief in a single God
 - B. lowest legal hourly pay
 - C. support or favor given

- 11 A painful **recollection** flashed into his mind.
A. battle
B. result
C. memory
- 12 And Rogojin burst out laughing, this time with unconcealed **malice**, as though he were glad that he had been able to find an opportunity for giving vent to it.
A. not adjusting a lens to create a clear image
B. the quality of lacking exactness or accuracy
C. wanting to see others suffer
- 13 But after all he is half justified; publicity is the lawful right of every man; **consequently**, Burdovsky is not excepted.
A. resultantly (as a result)
B. despite that (used to connect contrasting ideas)
C. even though -- used to connect contrasting ideas
- 14 Forgive me all my absurdity of just now, which, of course, meant nothing, and could not have the slightest **consequence**.
A. translates
B. importance
C. sticks out
- 15 You all hate Burdovsky because his behaviour with regard to his mother is shocking and **repugnant** to you; do you not?
A. related to
B. very large
C. disgusting
- 16 I **reproach** myself bitterly for it sometimes.
A. move into position to work; or start
B. criticize
C. to spread to other parts of the body
- 17 Well, I affirm that my reader is wrong again, for my **convictions** have nothing to do with my sentence of death.
A. not working or not operating
B. a strong, firmly held belief
C. calculates or judges too low
- 18 *with the most childlike* **candour**
A. honesty and directness
B. lacks adequate funding
C. lowers moral standards
- 19 She too, had passionate desires, but they were persistent rather than **impetuous**.
A. impulsive (acting suddenly without much thought)
B. most important; or person that is most important
C. tending to have exceedingly unfavorable opinions
- 20 Aglaya raised her head **haughtily**.
A. in a manner that is clear, so it is easily understood
B. condescendingly (in a superior or self-important manner)
C. in a manner that is able to be promised or guaranteed

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	C	sacrilege	Used 7 times in this book.
2	B	wretched	Used 34 times in this book.
3	B	melancholy	Used 23 times in this book.
4	A	on the contrary (<i>as in: on the contrary</i>)	Used 27 times in this book; 4 meanings in this book.
5	B	contrary (<i>as in: a contrary personality</i>)	4 meanings in this book.
6	C	contrary to (<i>as in: contrary to</i>)	4 meanings in this book.
7	B	impudent	Used 17 times in this book.
8	A	amiable	Used 20 times in this book.
9	C	deceive	Used 38 times in this book.
10	C	patronage	Used 6 times in this book.
11	C	recollect	High-utility academic word; used 49 times in this book.
12	C	malice	High-utility academic word; used 20 times in this book.
13	A	consequence (<i>as in: a direct consequence of</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
14	B	consequence (<i>as in: of little consequence</i>)	Used 4 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
15	C	repugnant	Used 4 times in this book.
16	B	reproach	Used 40 times in this book.
17	B	conviction (<i>as in: spoke with conviction</i>)	Used 37 times in this book.
18	A	candid (<i>as in: your candid opinion</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 21 times in this book.
19	A	impetuous (<i>as in: an impetuous decision</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 4 times in this book.
20	B	haughty	High-utility academic word; used 20 times in this book.
