

The Overcoat

by Nikolai Gogol

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 via "View / Print / Edit Web
Quiz" on the Resources menu.

PRE-READING ACTIVITY

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OPTIONAL POST-READING QUIZ

Vocabulary in Context	5	
Answer Key — In Context	7	teacher use only

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: adorn, anecdote, apparition, cease, consequence (2), curt, disperse, however (2), inferior, inquire, moreover, nevertheless, omit, recur, ridicule, subordinate, utter, zeal



More Vocabulary Printables

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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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

Vocabulary Preview

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

1. Flowers **adorned** all the tables.
 - A. decorated
 - B. obscured (hid)
 - C. grew under
2. She is good at making a point in an interesting and memorable way with an **anecdote**.
 - A. short true story
 - B. long boring lecture
 - C. detailed research report
3. She saw an **apparition** of the dead man.
 - A. written diary
 - B. video picture
 - C. ghostlike figure
4. The injunction requires that they **cease** all activity on the site.
 - A. stop
 - B. record
 - C. permit
5. Her job prospects are hindered as a **consequence** of the conviction.
 - A. result
 - B. unimportant part
 - C. important part
6. It is the most **consequential** tax legislation in decades.
 - A. unethical
 - B. important
 - C. harmful
7. I tried asking open-ended questions, but all I could get were curt replies.
 - A. angry
 - B. selfish
 - C. short
8. The birds eat the fruit and **disperse** the seeds through the countryside.
 - A. search for
 - B. destroy
 - C. scatter
9. 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
10. **However** safe we make it, there will always be risk.
 - A. on-the-other-hand
 - B. in addition
 - C. no matter how
11. The cheaper headphones sounded **inferior** to the ones she usually used.
 - A. lower in quality
 - B. higher in quality
 - C. equal in value

12. I am here to **inquire** about the job.
- A. answer questions
 - B. ask about
 - C. perform a task
13. Many graduates have high college debt. Moreover, too many of them haven't found good-paying jobs.
- A. in contrast to that
 - B. in addition to that
 - C. as a result of that
14. She loves him. Nevertheless, she is determined to stop seeing him unless he stops drinking.
- A. also
 - B. despite that
 - C. in addition
15. She **omitted** a few details to place herself in a more favorable light.
- A. made up
 - B. exaggerated
 - C. left out
16. It is a **recurring** nightmare.
- A. happening repeatedly
 - B. when least expected
 - C. frightening
17. The other children **ridiculed** him for wearing mismatched socks to school.
- A. warmly praised
 - B. completely ignored
 - C. mocked or made fun of
18. Every officer under the rank of Captain, shall be **subordinate** to the Officer of the Watch in regard to the performance of the duties with which he is charged.
- A. subservient
 - B. in charge of
 - C. considerate
19. The decision was made before I could **utter** an opinion.
- A. say with the voice
 - B. say forcefully
 - C. write carefully
20. We need someone with both zeal and ability.
- A. enthusiasm
 - B. patience
 - C. honesty

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 **However** much the directors and chiefs of all kinds were changed, he was always to be seen in the same place, the same attitude, the same occupation; so that it was afterwards affirmed that he had been born in undress uniform with a bald head.
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
- 2 This, **however**, inspired him with such terror that he ran off with all his might, and therefore did not scan the dead man closely, but only saw how the latter threatened him from afar with his finger.
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)
- 3 And there was something strange in the words and the voice in which they were **uttered**.
A. said (or make a sound) with the voice
B. controlled (how something turned out)
C. genetically changed through evolution
- 4 It is not enough to say that Akakiy laboured with **zeal**: no, he laboured with love.
A. active interest and enthusiasm
B. made by taking on as one's own
C. relating to the chest (thorax)
- 5 **Moreover**, it is impossible to say that no attention was paid to him.
A. despite that (used to connect contrasting ideas)
B. in addition to what has just been said
C. even though -- used to connect contrasting ideas
- 6 Even at the hour when the grey St. Petersburg sky had quite **dispersed**, and all the official world had eaten or dined, each as he could, in accordance with the salary he received and his own fancy;
A. excessively excited
B. nervous or confused
C. scattered or spread
- 7 in a word, at the hour when all officials disperse among the contracted quarters of their friends, to play whist, as they sip their tea from glasses with a kopek's worth of sugar, smoke long pipes, relate at times some bits of gossip which a Russian man can never, under any circumstances, refrain from, and, when there is nothing else to talk of, repeat eternal **anecdotes** about the commandant to whom they had sent word that the tails of the horses on the Falconet Monument had been cut off, when all strive to divert themselves, Akakiy Akakievitch indulged in no kind of diversion.
A. short, true stories
B. sizes or dimensions
C. outward appearances
- 8 You must know that Akakiy Akakievitch's cloak served as an object of **ridicule** to the officials: they even refused it the noble name of cloak, and called it a cape.
A. provide investment funds for something -- such as a business
B. ignore someone's wishes or cause inconvenience or discomfort
C. mock (make fun of); or the language or behavior that does so
- 9 After which he again lifted the general-**adorned** lid with its bit of pasted paper, and having stuffed his nose with snuff, closed and put away the snuff-box, and said finally, "No, it is impossible to mend it; it's a wretched garment!"
A. decorated
B. disagreed
C. postponed

- 10 They bought some very good cloth, and at a reasonable rate too, for they had been considering the matter for six months, and rarely let a month pass without their visiting the shops to **inquire** prices.
- interact again or interest again
 - ask about or look into something
 - genetic change through evolution
- 11 And long after dinner he laughed again when the condition of the "cape" **recurred** to his mind.
- happened again
 - began fighting
 - not translated
- 12 Others were shut, but, **nevertheless**, showed a streak of light the whole length of the door-crack, indicating that they were not yet free of company, and that probably some domestics, male and female, were finishing their stories and conversations whilst leaving their masters in complete ignorance as to their whereabouts.
- in keeping with or in agreement with what was just stated
 - despite that (used to connect contrasting ideas)
 - therefore (for that reason)
- 13 When he told her about the affair, she clasped her hands, and said that he must go straight to the district chief of police, for his **subordinate** would turn up his nose, promise well, and drop the matter there.
- less important or subservient; or to rank as such
 - prepare food in a way that keeps it from spoiling
 - treat as a particular type that is considered bad
- 14 So that at last, for once in his life, Akakiy Akakievitch felt an inclination to show some spirit, and said **curtly** that he must see the chief in person; that they ought not to presume to refuse him entrance; that he came from the department of justice, and that when he complained of them, they would see.
- in a manner that makes uncomfortable (weighs heavily on the senses or spirit)
 - in a manner that is the most exciting or important part of a series of events
 - in a manner that uses few words or is abrupt and perhaps discourteous or rude
- 15 His ordinary converse with his **inferiors** smacked of sternness, and consisted chiefly of three phrases: "How dare you?"
- People who are of lower rank or status
 - things that affect a result or outcome
 - theories on the origin of the universe
- 16 And in **consequence** of such reflections he always remained in the same dumb state, uttering from time to time a few monosyllabic sounds, and thereby earning the name of the most wearisome of men.
- result
 - battle
 - memory
- 17 The watchman said, "It's of no **consequence**," and turned back instantly.
- translates
 - importance
 - sticks out
- 18 A being disappeared who was protected by none, dear to none, interesting to none, and who never even attracted to himself the attention of those students of human nature who **omit** no opportunity of thrusting a pin through a common fly, and examining it under the microscope.
- stop (something from happening)
 - fulfill one's highest potential
 - to exclude or neglect something
- 19 But the most noteworthy point was, that from that day forward the **apparition** of the dead tchinovnik ceased to be seen.
- lacking experience or sophistication
 - a Muslim religious teacher or leader
 - a ghostlike figure or its appearance
- 20 But the most noteworthy point was, that from that day forward the apparition of the dead tchinovnik ceased to be seen.
- stopped or discontinued
 - not taken on or adopted
 - did in a particular way

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	C	however (<i>as in: However much she tried...</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
2	A	however (<i>as in: However, complications may...</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
3	A	utter (<i>as in: utter a complaint</i>)	Used 3 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
4	A	zeal	Used 2 times in this book.
5	B	moreover	High-utility academic word; used 4 times in this book.
6	C	disperse (<i>as in: the crowd dispersed</i>)	Used 2 times in this book.
7	A	anecdote	High-utility academic word
8	C	ridicule	Used 2 times in this book.
9	A	adorn	Used 2 times in this book.
10	B	inquire	Used 3 times in this book.
11	A	recur	Used 3 times in this book.
12	B	nevertheless	High-utility academic word; used 4 times in this book.
13	A	subordinate	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
14	C	curt	Used 2 times in this book.
15	A	inferior	Used 4 times in this book.
16	A	consequence (<i>as in: a direct consequence of</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
17	B	consequence (<i>as in: of little consequence</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
18	C	omit	High-utility academic word
19	C	apparition (<i>as in: a headless apparition</i>)	Used 4 times in this book.
20	A	cease	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.