

The Pianist

by Wladyslaw Szpilman

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

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.

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: accord (2), agitate, apathy, appropriate (2), belligerent, census, diabolical, indignant, inhabitant, intellectual (2), intersperse, irony, irrevocable, monotonous, optimistic, socialism, torment



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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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

Vocabulary Preview

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

1. She dresses in **accordance** with the latest fashions.
 - A. opposition
 - B. keeping
 - C. ignorance
2. After the fight, he turned himself in of his own **accord**.
 - A. own fear
 - B. own safety
 - C. own mind
3. She gets **agitated** whenever the topic comes up.
 - A. calm and thoughtful
 - B. gloomy (sad)
 - C. emotionally disturbed
4. Until she learned to motivate herself, **apathy** led to bad grades.
 - A. lack of interest
 - B. lack of ability
 - C. distraction
5. The movie is not **appropriate** for young children.
 - A. bad
 - B. good
 - C. funny
6. She **appropriated** my idea as her own.
 - A. built
 - B. bought
 - C. took
7. She likes to make people lose their cool by starting **belligerent** political arguments.
 - A. hostile or combative
 - B. clever or intelligent
 - C. ridiculous or absurd
8. It is difficult to count all the homeless when performing the **census**.
 - A. voter survey
 - B. population count
 - C. tax audit
9. She was frightened by the **diabolical** expression on his face.
 - A. angry
 - B. evil
 - C. crazy
10. She was **indignant**, but she agreed to be searched when they accused her of shoplifting.
 - A. annoyed at something unjust
 - B. surprised at the unexpected
 - C. defensive about being suspected
11. The **inhabitants** of the village were very friendly.
 - A. tourists
 - B. residents
 - C. visitors
12. Einstein's **intellectual** achievements and originality have made the word *Einstein* synonymous with *genius*.
 - A. related to intelligence
 - B. related to science
 - C. related to physics

13. Adam Smith was a leading intellectual of his time.
- A. a highly intuitive person who practices self-expression through art
 - B. a highly educated person interested in learning and exploring ideas
 - C. a person most concerned with experiences of the senses
14. In the garden, she decided to intersperse the roses with a variety of wildflowers to create a vibrant and colorful display.
- A. mix
 - B. replace
 - C. substitute
15. Ironically, her strongest supporters undermined her popularity through their extremism.
- A. when what happens is exactly what usually happens
 - B. when what happens is very different than what might be expected
 - C. when what happens is very fitting for the situation
16. If you agree to the terms, you give them irrevocable permission to share your comments with others on their site.
- A. easy to reverse later
 - B. unable to be undone
 - C. needing court approval
17. The study indicates that traffic accidents from falling asleep increase on long, straight, monotonous roads.
- A. dark
 - B. narrow
 - C. boring
18. She keeps telling me her chances of dying in a car accident are 1 in 150, but I keep telling her that's too optimistic if she drives after drinking.
- A. hopeful
 - B. gloomy
 - C. simplistic
19. Societies calling themselves socialist range from Western-style democracies to dictatorships.
- A. with an economic system that has a complete absence of political authority
 - B. with an economic system based on government control of all important companies
 - C. with an economic system based on private ownership of property and businesses
20. Bullies made his school days a constant torment he could not escape.
- A. severe suffering
 - B. great enjoyment
 - C. simple confusion

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 *Life, although so unimportant, had none the less forced me to overcome my **apathy** and seek some way of earning a living,*
 - A. lack of both interest and enthusiasm
 - B. poor ability to make a decision
 - C. non-traditional or non-standard
- 2 *They stood by lamp-posts, by the walls of buildings and in the road, heads raised, **monotonously** whimpering that they were hungry.*
 - A. in a manner that does not change
 - B. in a manner that deserves praise
 - C. lacking in variety and/or boring
- 3 *Only incorrigible **optimists** had still cherished the delusion that Poland's determined stance would deter Hitler at the last moment.*
 - A. people who expect the best; or who focus on the good part of things
 - B. DNA sequences or units of heredity that influence biological traits
 - C. bases with a pH of greater than 7 (so they will dissolve in water)
- 4 *There was also hopeless confusion in the corridors of the centre, where a mood of **belligerent** self-confidence prevailed.*
 - A. combative (eager to fight)
 - B. related to intelligence -- such as requiring, appealing to, or possessing intelligence
 - C. (adjective) designed to stop something OR (noun) something that stops something else
- 5 *Initially they were conducted clumsily, as if the perpetrators felt ashamed of this new means of **tormenting** people, and they had not had any practice anyway.*
 - A. causing great mental or physical suffering
 - B. is most powerful, important, or noticeable
 - C. providing evidence that proves or supports
- 6 *Jews were to do two years' labour in concentration camps where we would receive '**appropriate** social education', to cure us of being 'parasites on the healthy organism of the Aryan peoples'.*
 - A. excessive
 - B. suitable (fitting)
 - C. inadequate
- 7 *In exactly the same way, Germany shifted the borders of the European countries it had subdued, **appropriating** province after province;*
 - A. analyzing
 - B. eliminating
 - C. taking (seizing)
- 8 *In his view an **intellectually** creative person must do physical labour in order to assess his own capabilities properly, and so he did his quota of work, although it interrupted his studies.*
 - A. in a manner that relates to intelligence
 - B. in a manner that is sensible and careful
 - C. done in a manner that cannot be defended
- 9 *When they had finished, they stationed themselves a few paces away on the pavement, drew their pistols, and Thwick-Thwick shouted, '**Intellectuals**, fall out!'*
 - A. believers in the religious movement started by Joseph Smith, especially the beliefs and practices of Latter-day Saints
 - B. highly educated people
 - C. members of the 1960's counterculture associated with long hair, illegal drugs, casual sex, and opposition to violence.

- 10 They were all in an **agitated** state, running back and forth like animals put into a cage and not yet used to it.
- concentrated, look at, or paid attention to
 - thought carefully and made a judgment about
 - not calm; or stirred up (often emotionally)
- 11 You can dream of that world if you have the time and inclination; however, if you don't think of it, it will not force itself on your notice of its **own accord**.
- the achievement of 3 positive feats in a sport
 - tropical viral disease transmitted by a mosquito
 - own mind -- voluntarily (without anyone asking)
- 12 According to the rumours, the resettlement 'action' was to start on Sunday night.
- idiom meaning "won the day"
 - as stated by; or in agreement with
 - U.S. history: pre-Civil War period
- 13 Apart from these everyday occupations, however, Zyskind was an idealistic **socialist**.
- relating to an artistic movement pioneered by Pablo Picasso and Georges Braque that featured surfaces of geometrical planes to depict three-dimensional organic forms
 - a person who wants an economic system based on government ownership or control of all important companies -- with the ideal of equal benefits to all people
 - relating to the 20th century movement of artists and writers who used impossible or unlikely images to represent unconscious thoughts and dreams
- 14 We were horrified and **indignant**.
- angered at something unjust or wrong
 - surprised as something unexpected
 - accepted of something undesired as unavoidable
- 15 'Are you getting the place ready for our concert on Saturday yet?' I asked.
He looked at me as if he didn't know what I was talking about. Then his face showed **ironic** sympathy for my ignorance of the events that had given a completely different turn to the fate of the ghetto. 'You really think we'll still be alive on Saturday?' he enquired,
- exceedingly funny (resulting in uncontrollable laughter); or exhibiting excessive, uncontrollable emotion
 - when what happens is very different than what might be expected
 - a mental disorder characterized by alternating episodes of major depression and abnormally elevated mood
- 16 I was aware of being torn **irrevocably** from everything that had made up my life until now.
- separately in the specified order
 - in a manner that cannot be undone
 - in the manner of an investigation
- 17 The street might have been swept clean: doors were locked or left wide open in the buildings from which all the **inhabitants** had been taken.
- things accepted as true (without proof)
 - people (who live in a particular place)
 - things designed to stop something else
- 18 We discussed how I was to be fed and how I should manage about the **census** when it took place next day.
- someone who expresses disapproval
 - an official count of a population
 - purpose, job, or natural activity
- 19 The rifle fire was **interspersed** with the louder explosions of hand grenades -- or if artillery had been brought into action perhaps I was hearing shells.
- to place something at irregular intervals in something else; or to mix two things irregularly
 - light-emitting diode -- a semiconductor device that emits light when current flows through it
 - doors divided in such a fashion that the bottom half may remain shut while the top half opens
- 20 What other **diabolical** things have they devised?
- related to the spreading of a disease to another part of the body
 - evil; very bad; or cruel and clever (like something of the devil)
 - relating to a surface rather than to anything deep or penetrating

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	A	apathy	Used 3 times in this book.
2	C	monotonous	Used 7 times in this book.
3	A	optimistic	High-utility academic word; used 7 times in this book.
4	A	belligerent	Used 2 times in this book.
5	A	torment	Used 9 times in this book.
6	B	appropriate (<i>as in: it is appropriate</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
7	C	appropriate (<i>as in: appropriate from their culture</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
8	A	intellectual (<i>as in: intellectual stimulation</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
9	B	intellectual (<i>as in: She is an intellectual.</i>)	Used 4 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
10	C	agitate	High-utility academic word; used 12 times in this book.
11	C	accord (<i>as in: done of her own accord</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
12	B	accord (<i>as in: according to, or in accord with</i>)	Used 3 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
13	B	socialism	Used 9 times in this book.
14	A	indignant	High-utility academic word; used 7 times in this book.
15	B	irony (<i>as in: situational irony</i>)	Used 3 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
16	B	irrevocable	Used 2 times in this book.
17	B	inhabitant	Used 9 times in this book.
18	B	census	Used 4 times in this book.
19	A	intersperse	Used 2 times in this book.
20	B	diabolical	Used 2 times in this book.