

Ulysses

Episodes 16–18 (Eumaeus, Ithaca, Penelope)

by James Joyce

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Practice words: antediluvian, circumlocution, egregious, equanimity, hegemony, mendacious, rectitude, redolent, sanguine, taciturn

PRE-READING ACTIVITY

Vocabulary Preview 2

Answer Key — Preview 3

Caution: share only if self-checking

OPTIONAL POST-READING QUIZ

Vocabulary in Context 4

Answer Key — In Context 5

Caution: do not share with students

About the Pre-Reading Activity (open-dictionary; ungraded or completion grade):

Students preview 10 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):

Same words, now in real excerpts from the text, with questions that build reading and analytical skills.

Vocabulary Sections for this Book:

Section 1 · Episodes 1–3 (Telemachus, Nestor, Proteus) · Stephen Dedalus on a Dublin morning

Section 2 · Episodes 4–6 (Calypso, Lotus Eaters, Hades) · Leopold Bloom begins his day

Section 3 · Episodes 7–9 (Aeolus, Lestrygonians, Scylla and Charybdis) · The newspaper office at midday

Section 4 · Episodes 10–12 (Wandering Rocks, Sirens, Cyclops) · Across Dublin in the afternoon

Section 5 · Episodes 13–15 (Nausicaa, Oxen of the Sun, Circe) · Evening on the Dublin shore

Section 6 · Episodes 16–18 (Eumaeus, Ithaca, Penelope) · Bloom and Stephen, late at night

Bold = this section. Other sections are available at verbalworkout.com.



verbalworkout.com

(all resources free)

Vocabulary Preview

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

1. His **antediluvian** phone could not run any modern apps.

- A. cheaply made and flimsy
- B. oddly shaped and bulky
- C. extremely old or outdated

2. She fell into **circumlocution** whenever the topic made her nervous.

- A. long, awkward pauses
- B. nervous stammering and stuttering
- C. roundabout, evasive language

3. The referee's **egregious** mistake cost the team the championship.

- A. outstandingly bad
- B. careless and unintentional
- C. rare and unexpected

4. She faced the bad news with remarkable **equanimity**.

- A. calmness and composure
- B. patience and determination
- C. courage and defiance

5. For decades the empire's **hegemony** shaped politics across the region.

- A. rich cultural traditions
- B. dominance over others
- C. great wealth and luxury

6. No one trusted the **mendacious** witness after the trial.

- A. given to lying
- B. forgetful and unreliable
- C. greedy and self-serving

7. The judge was admired for her **rectitude** both on and off the bench.

- A. moral uprightness
- B. sharp intelligence
- C. tireless energy

8. The kitchen was **redolent** of cinnamon and fresh bread.

- A. warm from the heat of
- B. strongly smelling of
- C. lightly dusted with

9. Despite the setbacks, the coach stayed **sanguine** about the season.

- A. calm and unconcerned
- B. optimistic and confident
- C. firm and unyielding

10. The new student stayed **taciturn** during the noisy class party.

- A. bored and restless
- B. nervous and fidgety
- C. reserved and quiet

Reading Helpers

(Not quizzed — helpful for this text.)

flower of the mountain — Bloom's affectionate name for Molly, linking her with the natural beauty, vitality, and sensuality of her native Gibraltar

ANSWER KEY

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#	KEY
1	C
2	C
3	A
4	A
5	B
6	A
7	A
8	B
9	B
10	C

Vocabulary in Context
Ulysses
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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____ Score _____ / 10

Read each excerpt carefully. Then choose the best answer to each question.

1 “En route to his taciturn and, not to put too fine a point on it, not yet perfectly sober companion ...”

As it is used in the passage, the word “taciturn” most nearly suggests that Bloom’s companion...

- A. is silent and uncommunicative
- B. is tactful and careful with words
- C. is rude and quick to anger

2 “Stephen, that is when the accosting figure came to close quarters, though he was not in an over sober state himself recognised Corley’s breath redolent of rotten cornjuice.”

It can reasonably be inferred that Corley had...

- A. poor personal hygiene
- B. been drinking cheap liquor
- C. eaten a spoiled meal

3 “... boiling swimming cup of a choice concoction labelled coffee on the table and a rather antediluvian specimen of a bun, or so it seemed.”

The author most likely calls the bun “antediluvian” in order to...

- A. stress how stale and old it is
- B. suggest the cafe values tradition
- C. praise the bun’s rich flavor

4 “... he was quite sanguine of success, providing puffs in the local papers could be managed ...”

In the passage, Bloom is characterized as...

- A. anxious about likely failure
- B. indifferent to the outcome
- C. hopeful and confident of success

5 “... tapis in the circumlocution departments with the usual quantity of red tape and dillydallying of effete fogeydom and dunderheads generally.”

The information in the excerpt primarily functions to...

- A. praise efficient government planning
- B. mock bureaucratic delay and evasion
- C. explain a new railway timetable

6 “... rather inclined to poohpooh the suggestion as egregious balderdash ...”

Which choice best describes Bloom’s attitude toward the suggestion?

- A. cautious agreement
- B. sincere admiration
- C. dismissive scorn

7 “What in water did Bloom, waterlover, drawer of water, watercarrier, returning to the range, admire? Its universality: its democratic equality and constancy to its nature in seeking its own level: ... its indisputable hegemony extending in square leagues over all the region below the subequatorial tropic of Capricorn ...”

Which statement is best supported by the passage?

- A. Land and sea are equal in size
- B. Water commands most of the earth
- C. Water is scarce in most regions

8 “Why could he then support that his vigil with the greater equanimity?”

The passage most strongly suggests that Bloom...

- A. fell asleep before the dawn
- B. was distressed by the late hour
- C. could keep calm during his vigil

9 “... metempsychosis (met him pike hoses), alias (a mendacious person mentioned in sacred scripture).”

It can reasonably be inferred that Molly took “alias” to be...

- A. the name of a deceitful person
- B. a holy figure to be admired
- C. a term for an assumed name

10 “Prove that he had loved rectitude from his earliest youth.”

The directive in the excerpt primarily functions to...

- A. assert his lifelong moral integrity
- B. question his religious sincerity
- C. recall a youthful romance

ANSWER KEY

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#	KEY	NOTE
1	A	
2	B	
3	A	Comic hyperbole -- the bun is merely stale, not literally ancient; a vivid hook for 'extremely old.'
4	C	
5	B	
6	C	
7	B	Here 'hegemony' = water's dominance over most of the earth's surface; the dense catechism is praising water.
8	C	
9	A	Character comprehension. The joke is Molly's malapropism -- she glosses 'alias' as if it named a lying person; mendacious = given to lying.
10	A	

Teacher Context: Episodes 16–18 (Eumaeus, Ithaca, Penelope)

Episodes 16–18 are the 'Nostos,' the return home: a late-night cabman's shelter, the question-and-answer homecoming, and Molly Bloom's closing monologue. This is Joyce's complete third part. Section runs to the end of the novel.