

# Uncle Vanya

by Anton Chekhov

## Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

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### 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

Answer Key — Preview .....	2	teacher use / self-check only
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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.

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#### 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:** agitate, appalling, audacious, compassion, contradict, conviction, deceive, despise, emancipated, fervent, futile, malice, peasant, posterity, refute, respite, tedious, vulgar, wily, wrest



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# ANSWER KEY

## Vocabulary Preview

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#	KEY
1	C
2	B
3	B
4	B
5	A
6	B
7	C
8	C
9	C
10	C
11	C
12	C
13	C
14	B
15	C
16	A
17	C
18	B
19	B
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 gets **agitated** whenever the topic comes up.
  - A. calm and thoughtful
  - B. gloomy (sad)
  - C. emotionally disturbed
2. She has scheduled a news conference to respond to the **appalling** accusations.
  - A. false
  - B. horrible
  - C. foolish
3. It is an **audacious** plan.
  - A. likely to succeed
  - B. bold and daring
  - C. improperly considered
4. It is not enough to be **compassionate**. We must act. It is not enough to act. We must act with intelligence.
  - A. lucky
  - B. sympathetic
  - C. talented
5. Does the sentence **contradict** what is said in the previous paragraph?
  - A. disagree with
  - B. reinforce
  - C. expand upon
6. 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
7. The fake article was written to attract attention and **deceive** readers.
  - A. entertain
  - B. attract
  - C. lie to or mislead
8. She **despises** his lifestyle.
  - A. admires
  - B. wants
  - C. hates
9. The new law **emancipated** thousands of laborers from forced servitude.
  - A. punished harshly
  - B. trained as servants
  - C. freed from bondage
10. She is a **fervent** admirer.
  - A. distant
  - B. thoughtful
  - C. passionate
11. Their attempt to fix the cracked screen with tape was **futile**.
  - A. simple
  - B. dangerous
  - C. pointless

12. Words can be like baseball bats when used maliciously against someone who is sensitive.
- A. carelessly
  - B. mockingly
  - C. evilly
13. In 1932 a peasant revolt in Su County, China stopped collection of the poppy tax.
- A. city dweller
  - B. young person
  - C. poor farmer
14. She recorded her family history for posterity, hoping her great-grandchildren would one day read it.
- A. personal amusement
  - B. future generations
  - C. academic records
15. He refuted the argument.
- A. avoided
  - B. complained about
  - C. argued against
16. The weekend provided a much-needed respite from her busy school schedule.
- A. break
  - B. continuation
  - C. resumption
17. I find it relaxing to wash the holiday dishes, but she finds it tedious.
- A. stressful
  - B. punishing
  - C. boring
18. His vulgar jokes embarrassed everyone at the formal dinner party.
- A. stale
  - B. crude
  - C. clever
19. Don't underestimate that wily old attorney.
- A. well-connected
  - B. clever
  - C. experienced
20. They wrested power from the old government.
- A. gave
  - B. took
  - C. understood

## Vocabulary in Context

### Uncle Vanya

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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_\_ Score \_\_\_\_\_ / 20

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

- 1 And then, existence is **tedious**, anyway; it is a senseless, dirty business, this life, and goes heavily.
  - A. sensible and careful
  - B. not demonstrative of
  - C. boring or monotonous
- 2 The **peasants** were all lying side by side in their huts, and the calves and pigs were running about the floor among the sick.
  - A. organisms in the early stages of growth prior to birth, hatching, or sprouting; in humans organisms during the first eight weeks of development (prior to the fetal stage)
  - B. members of an artistic movement pioneered by Pablo Picasso and Georges Braque that featured surfaces of geometrical planes to depict three-dimensional organic forms
  - C. used historically or possibly in relation to a very poor country: people of low income, education, and social standing -- especially those who raise crops or livestock
- 3 My mother, the old **maggie**, is still chattering about the **emancipation** of woman, with one eye on her grave and the other on her learned books, in which she is always looking for the dawn of a new life.
  - A. "spiritually renew" in a Christian ceremony OR initiate or purify by a challenging experience
  - B. a sexually transmitted disease that, if treated early, can be completely cured with antibiotics
  - C. the act of being released from slavery or servitude; or (metaphorically) from social restraints
- 4 The Professor sits in his library from morning till night, as usual— "Straining the mind, wrinkling the brow, We write, write, write, Without **respite** Or hope of praise in the future or now."
  - A. a temporary relief from harm or discomfort
  - B. continuation
  - C. resumption
- 5 He **refutes** the very theories which he defended seven years ago.
  - A. learns, discovers, or decides in advance
  - B. compensates for a loss; or pays a reward
  - C. proves or argues that something is false
- 6 There is nothing **appalling** about it.
  - A. telling someone about something
  - B. shockingly terrible or horrible
  - C. commending or praising publicly
- 7 [To her son] You speak as if your former **convictions** were somehow to blame, but you yourself, not they, were at fault
  - A. not working or not operating
  - B. a strong, firmly held belief
  - C. calculates or judges too low
- 8 You all abuse my husband and look on me with **compassion**; you think, "Poor woman, she is married to an old man."
  - A. the taking on or adoption of power or responsibility
  - B. sympathy for another's suffering and wanting to help
  - C. the process of controlling (how something turns out)
- 9 Now I suddenly find myself plunged in this wilderness, condemned to see the same stupid people from morning till night and listen to their **futile** conversation.
  - A. not capable of being better understood through detailed examination
  - B. clear, easily noticed, and/or identifiable as different or separate
  - C. effort that is pointless because it is unproductive or unsuccessful
- 10 You are cultured and intelligent, Ivan, and you surely understand that the world is not destroyed by villains and conflagrations, but by hate and **malice** and all this spiteful tattling.
  - A. not adjusting a lens to create a clear image
  - B. the quality of lacking exactness or accuracy
  - C. the desire to hurt others or see them suffer

- 11 *I hate all that rhetoric of hers, that morality of indolence, that absurd talk about the destruction of the world* —[A pause] *Oh, how I have been deceived!*
- A. told (a story)
  - B. began fighting
  - C. lied or misled
- 12 *Yes, I must confess I am getting vulgar, but then, you see, I am drunk.*
- A. increasing reason or general desire to do something
  - B. showing bad taste (crude, offensive, or unsophisticated)
  - C. the state of being unaware of one's mental activity
- 13 *At such times my audacity and temerity know no bounds.*
- A. act of hiring again
  - B. boldness and daring
  - C. wrong understanding
- 14 *I like life as life, but I hate and despise it in a little Russian country village, and as far as my own personal life goes, by heaven!*
- A. to be overly unhappy and unsociable
  - B. technical: center or concentration
  - C. dislike strongly and look down upon
- 15 [He searches her face with his eyes, and shakes his finger at her] *Oho, you are wily*
- A. sloped
  - B. clever
  - C. steady
- 16 [In great agitation] *Do you hear me*
- A. officially telling someone about something; or something that contains the message
  - B. formula (a mathematical expression that describe a relationship between variables)
  - C. the act of stirring up (emotionally or physically); or a state of emotional unrest
- 17 *Jean, don't contradict Alexander.*
- A. disagree
  - B. subtract
  - C. continue
- 18 [Trying to wrest the revolver from him] *Give it to me; give it to me, I tell you*
- A. protect something or keep it as it is
  - B. obtain with difficult effort or force
  - C. a quick look or partial understanding
- 19 *I have gone through so much in the last few hours that I feel capable of writing a whole treatise on the conduct of life for the instruction of posterity.*
- A. not thinking carefully
  - B. all future generations
  - C. lacks adequate funding
- 20 *I have faith, Uncle, fervent, passionate faith.*
- A. not concerned with what others might think of oneself
  - B. able to make clear with example, diagram, photo, etc.
  - C. characterized by intense emotion or passionate belief

# ANSWER KEY

## Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	C	tedious	Used 3 times in this play.
2	C	peasant	Used 8 times in this play.
3	C	emancipated	Used about 2 times per 10 books in our high school library.
4	A	respite	Used 2 times in this play.
5	C	refute	High-utility academic word
6	B	appalling	Used 3 times in this play.
7	B	conviction ( <i>as in: spoke with conviction</i> )	Used 3 times in this play.
8	B	compassion	Used 3 times in this play.
9	C	futile	Used 3 times in this play.
10	C	malice	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this play.
11	C	deceive	Used 5 times in this play.
12	B	vulgar	Used 2 times in this play.
13	B	audacious	Used about 2 times per 10 books in our high school library.
14	C	despise	Used 3 times in this play.
15	B	wily	Used 2 times in this play.
16	C	agitate	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this play.
17	A	contradict	High-utility academic word
18	B	wrest	Used about 2 times per 10 books in our high school library.
19	B	posterity	Used 2 times in this play.
20	C	fervent	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this play.

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