

Dracula Vocabulary; Chapters 1-4

1. **extreme**- most distant in any direction

*I find that the district he named is in the **extreme** east of the country, just on the borders of three states, Transylvania, Moldavia and Bukovina, in the midst of the Carpathian mountains; one of the wildest and least known portions of Europe.*

2. **prodigious**- great in size, force, extent, or degree

*Then I descended from the side of the coach, as the calèche was close alongside, the driver helping me with a hand which caught my arm in a grip of steel; his strength must have been **prodigious**.*

3. **extraordinary**- highly unusual or exceptional or remarkable

*He petted and soothed them, and whispered something in their ears, as I have heard of horse-tamers doing, and with **extraordinary** effect, for under his caresses they became quite manageable again, though they still trembled.*

4. **obstruct**- shut out from view

*Once there appeared a strange optical effect: when he stood between me and the flame he did not **obstruct** it, for I could see its ghostly flicker all the same.*

5. **imperious**- having or showing arrogant superiority

*How he came there, I know not, but I heard his voice raised in a tone of **imperious** command, and looking towards the sound, saw him stand in the roadway.*

6. **impalpable**- not perceptible to the touch

*As he swept his long arms, as though brushing aside some **impalpable** obstacle, the wolves fell back and back further still.*

7. **Clad**-wearing or provided with clothing

*Within, stood a tall old man, clean shaven save for a long white moustache, and **clad** in black from head to foot, without a single speck of colour about him anywhere.*

8. **intonation**- rise and fall of the voice pitch

*The old man motioned me in with his right hand with a courtly gesture, saying in excellent English, but with a strange **intonation**: "Welcome to my house! Enter freely and of your own will!"*

9. impulsive- characterized by undue haste and lack of thought

The instant, however, that I had stepped over the threshold, he moved impulsively forward, and holding out his hand grasped mine with a strength which made me wince, an effect which was not lessened by the fact that it seemed as cold as ice—more like the hand of a dead than a living man.

10. courteous- characterized by courtesy and gracious good manners

*The light and warmth and the Count's **courteous** welcome seemed to have dissipated all my doubts and fears.*

11. graceful-suggesting taste, ease, and wealth

*My host, who stood on one side of the great fireplace, leaning against the stonework, made a **graceful** wave of his hand to the table, and said: "I pray you, be seated and sup how you please. You will, I trust, excuse me that I do not join you; but I have dined already, and I do not sup."*

12. aquiline- curved down like an eagle's beak

*His face was a strong—a very strong— **aquiline**, with high bridge of the thin nose and peculiarly arched nostrils; with lofty domed forehead, and hair growing scantily round the temples but profusely elsewhere.*

13. profusion- the property of being extremely abundant

*His eyebrows were very massive, almost meeting over the nose, and with bushy hair that seemed to curl in its own **profusion**.*

14. vitality- a healthy capacity for vigorous activity

*The mouth, so far as I could see it under the heavy moustache, was fixed and rather cruel-looking, with peculiarly sharp white teeth; these protruded over the lips, whose remarkable ruddiness showed astonishing **vitality** in a man of his years.*

15. coarse- lacking refinement or cultivation or taste

*Hitherto I had noticed the backs of his hands as they lay on his knees in the firelight, and they had seemed rather white and fine; but seeing them now close to me, I could not but notice that they were rather **coarse**—broad, with squat fingers.*

16. canine-one of the pointed teeth between the incisors and premolars

*The Count smiled, and as his lips ran back over his gums, the long, sharp, **canine** teeth showed out strangely*

17. saturnine- bitter or scornful

*Somehow his words and his look did not seem to accord, or else it was that his cast of face made his smile look malignant and **saturnine**.*

18. salutation-an acknowledgment or expression of good will

*Having answered the Count's **salutation**, I turned to the glass again to see how I had been mistaken.*

19. Vein- a blood vessel that carries blood toward the heart

*We Szekelys have a right to be proud, for in our **veins** flows the blood of many brave races who fought as the lion fights, for lordship.*

20. inspire- serve as the inciting cause of

*Was it not this Dracula, indeed, who **inspired** that other of his race who in a later age again and again brought his forces over the great river into Turkey-land; who, when he was beaten back, came again, and again, and again, though he had to come alone from the bloody field where his troops were being slaughtered, since he knew that he alone could ultimately triumph!*

21. practical- concerned with actual use

*He seemed thoroughly to understand, and went on to ask if there would be any **practical** difficulty in having one man to attend, say, to banking, and another to look after shipping, in case local help were needed in a place far from the home of the banking solicitor.*

22. acumen-shrewdness shown by keen insight

*For a man who was never in the country, and who did not evidently do much in the way of business, his knowledge and **acumen** were wonderful.*

23. bearing- characteristic way of holding one's body

*while Count Dracula was speaking, there was that in his eyes and in his **bearing** which made me remember that I was a prisoner, and that if I wished it I could have no choice.*

24. gruesome- shockingly repellent; inspiring horror

He finished his speech in a **gruesome** way, for he motioned with his hands as if he were washing them.

25. **repulsion**- intense aversion

But my very feelings changed to **repulsion** and terror when I saw the whole man slowly emerge from the window and begin to crawl down the castle wall over that dreadful abyss, face down with his cloak spreading out around him like great wings.

26. **grasp**- hold firmly

I saw the fingers and toes **grasp** the corners of the stones, worn clear of the mortar by the stress of years, and by thus using every projection and inequality move downwards with considerable speed, just as a lizard moves along a wall.

27. **semblance**-an outward appearance that is deliberately misleading

What manner of man is this, or what manner of creature is it in the **semblance** of man?

28. **rage**- a feeling of intense anger

As my eyes opened involuntarily I saw his strong hand grasp the slender neck of the fair woman and with giant's power draw it back, the blue eyes transformed with fury, the white teeth champing with **rage**, and the fair cheeks blazing red with passion.

29. **lurid**- shining with an unnatural red glow

The red light in them was **lurid**, as if the flames of hell-fire blazed behind them.

30. **suave**- agreeable and courteous with a degree of sophistication

Last night the Count asked me in the **suavest** tones to write three letters, one saying that my work here was nearly done, and that I should start for home within a few days, another that I was starting on the next morning from the time of the letter, and the third that I had left the castle and arrived at Bistritz.

31. **hospitality**- kindness in welcoming guests or strangers

See!"—he must have looked at it—"one is from you, and to my friend Peter Hawkins; the other"—here he caught sight of the strange symbols as he opened the envelope, and the dark look came into his face, and his eyes blazed wickedly—"the other is a vile thing, an outrage upon friendship and **hospitality!**

32. **harsh**-disagreeable to the senses

Somewhere high overhead, probably on the tower, I heard the voice of the Count calling in his **harsh**, metallic whisper.

33. **pallor**- unnatural lack of color in the skin

He was either dead or asleep, I could not say which—for the eyes were open and stony, but without the glassiness of death—and the cheeks had the warmth of life through all their **pallor**; the lips were as red as ever.

34. **diabolical**- extremely evil or cruel

He smiled, such a soft, smooth, **diabolical** smile that I knew there was some trick behind his smoothness.

35. **stately**- refined or imposing in manner or appearance

After a pause of a moment, he proceeded, in his **stately** way, to the door, drew back the ponderous bolts, unhooked the heavy chains, and began to draw it open.

36. **triumph**-the exultation of victory

The last I saw of Count Dracula was his kissing his hand to me; with a red light of **triumph** in his eyes, and with a smile that Judas in hell might be proud of.

37. **repletion**- eating until excessively full

He lay like a filthy leech, exhausted with his **repletion**.

38. **mocking**-expressing contempt or ridicule

There was a **mocking** smile on the bloated face which seemed to drive me mad.

39. **satiate**- fill to satisfaction

This was the being I was helping to transfer to London, where, perhaps, for centuries to come he might, amongst its teeming millions, **satiate** his lust for blood, and create a new and ever-widening circle of semi-demons to batten on the helpless.

40. **malice**- the quality of threatening evil

The last glimpse I had was of the bloated face, blood-stained and fixed with a grin of **malice** which would have held its own in the nethermost hell.