

1984

Part 1 Chapters 1–5

by George Orwell

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Practice words: advocating, continuity, current, denouncing, dismay, dutifully, implicate, justification, perceived, swallow

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 · Part 1 Chapters 1–5 · Victory Mansions and the Ministry of Truth

Section 2 · Part 1 Chapters 6–8 · The diary and the prole districts

Section 3 · Part 2 Chapters 1–5 · A message in the corridor

Section 4 · Part 2 Chapters 6–10 · O'Brien makes contact with Winston

Section 5 · Part 3 Chapters 1–2 · A cell in the Ministry of Love

Section 6 · Part 3 Chapters 3–6 · The three stages of reintegration

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. She spent the whole meeting **advocating** for a later start time.

- A. taking careful notes on
- B. arguing in support of
- C. asking questions about

2. A few old traditions gave the town a sense of **continuity**.

- A. a shared local pride
- B. a friendly atmosphere
- C. an unbroken link over time

3. He felt a sharp **current** when he touched the frayed cord.

- A. a quick burst of heat
- B. a flow of electricity
- C. a faint vibration

4. The senator spent the evening **denouncing** his rival's new plan.

- A. carefully explaining
- B. closely examining
- C. publicly condemning

5. A wave of **dismay** passed over the crowd when the flight was canceled.

- A. alarmed distress
- B. restless impatience
- C. mild confusion

6. She **dutifully** answered every letter her aunt sent.

- A. out of obligation
- B. without any mistakes
- C. in a great hurry

7. One careless email could **implicate** the whole department.

- A. burden with weeks of extra paperwork
- B. show to be involved in wrongdoing
- C. alert to a possible security risk

8. The manager offered no **justification** for the sudden change.

- A. a good reason
- B. a formal apology
- C. a clear warning

9. He **perceived** at once that the two stories did not match.

- A. guessed without any proof
- B. announced to the others
- C. came to realize

10. Voters will not **swallow** another promise like that one.

- A. accept without question
- B. wait patiently for
- C. remember for very long

Reading Helpers

(Not quizzed — helpful for this text.)

striking — sounding the hour — and thirteen means the 24-hour clock

Newspeak — the Party's deliberately impoverished official language, designed to make rebellious thought impossible by removing the words for it

truncheon — a short, thick club carried as a weapon, especially by police

doublethink — holding two contradictory beliefs at once and accepting both

prole — short for proletarian: one of the working masses, outside the Party

Thoughtcrime — the offense of merely thinking what the Party forbids

ANSWER KEY

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

Vocabulary in Context

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____ Score _____ / 10

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

1 “Even at the best of times it was seldom working, and at present the electric current was cut off during daylight hours.”

As used in the passage, the word ‘current’ most nearly means...

- A. a flow of electric power
- B. a general trend or tendency
- C. the present moment in time

2 “... he was advocating freedom of speech, freedom of the Press, freedom of assembly, freedom of thought ...”

From the advocacy of these freedoms, it can reasonably be inferred that...

- A. such freedoms are denied there
- B. he supports the Party’s rule
- C. he already enjoys those freedoms

3 “And with good reason, for hardly a week passed in which *The Times* did not carry a paragraph describing how some eavesdropping little sneak – ‘child hero’ was the phrase generally used – had overheard some compromising remark and denounced its parents to the Thought Police.”

The author most likely includes the phrase ‘child hero’ in order to...

- A. show that informing is honored
- B. praise the children’s courage
- C. suggest the parents were guilty

4 “But so long as he uttered it, in some obscure way the continuity was not broken. It was not by making yourself heard but by staying sane that you carried on the human heritage.”

The excerpt’s claim about continuity primarily functions to...

- A. insist that he must be heard
- B. explain why unheard acts matter
- C. admit that his cause is lost

5 “Tragedy, he perceived, belonged to the ancient time, to a time when there was still privacy, love, and friendship, and when the members of a family stood by one another without needing to know the reason.”

As it is used in the passage, the word ‘perceived’ most nearly suggests that...

- A. he is guessing without evidence
- B. he is repeating a known fact
- C. he is realizing this as he thinks

6 “A sudden hot sweat had broken out all over Winston’s body. His face remained completely inscrutable. Never show dismay!”

The passage most strongly suggests that Winston’s dismay...

- A. is plain on his face to anyone
- B. is real but deliberately hidden
- C. has not yet taken hold of him

7 “Very occasionally some person whom you had believed dead long since would make a ghostly reappearance at some public trial where he would implicate hundreds of others by his testimony before vanishing, this time forever.”

From the witness who would implicate hundreds, it can reasonably be inferred that...

- A. the accused are proven innocent
- B. the trials create new suspects
- C. the witness is later set free

8 “After all, what justification is there for a word which is simply the opposite of some other word? A word contains its opposite in itself.”

The excerpt’s question about justification primarily functions to...

- A. show such words are ancient
- B. show such words are precise
- C. show such words are needless

9 “‘Good,’ said Syme abstractedly, without looking up from his strip of paper. ‘Of course we can’t afford to take chances,’ agreed Winston dutifully.”

In the passage, Winston is characterized as...

- A. openly contradicting Parsons
- B. eager for the man to be shot
- C. agreeing without meaning it

10 “It appeared that there had even been demonstrations to thank Big Brother for raising the chocolate ration to twenty grammes a week. And only yesterday, he reflected, it had been announced that the ration was to be reduced to twenty grammes a week. Was it possible that they could swallow that, after only twenty-four hours? Yes, they swallowed it.”

Which choice best describes the narrator’s attitude toward the public here?

- A. contempt for their easy belief
- B. admiration for their loyalty
- C. sympathy for their small ration

ANSWER KEY

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#	KEY	NOTE
1	A	Most students know 'current' only as an adjective meaning 'present-day', and the words 'at present' sit in this very sentence – worth naming that trap aloud before students choose.
2	A	
3	A	The excerpt's own words fight each other – 'eavesdropping little sneak' against 'child hero'. Point out that the flattering phrase is what the Party calls the act, not what the narrator thinks of it.
4	B	
5	C	
6	B	
7	B	
8	C	
9	C	
10	A	The figurative sense is the lesson: a claim taken in whole, without chewing. A student who reads 'swallow' literally will miss that the sentence is about belief, not eating.

Teacher Context: Part 1 Chapters 1–5

Winston Smith, a minor Party functionary in Airstrip One, is introduced through Victory Mansions, the telescreen, the Two Minutes Hate, and his work falsifying records at the Ministry of Truth. He begins a secret diary, an act of thoughtcrime, and lunches with Syme, who is at work on the Newspeak dictionary. The break after Chapter 5 closes the novel's expository opening, before the diary entries turn to memory.