

1984

Part 2 Chapters 1–5

by George Orwell

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Practice words: charged, concrete, curious, hypocrites, remote, speculations, suppress, symptom, undermine, yielded

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. The air in the stadium was **charged** with excitement before kickoff.

- A. filled or loaded
- B. mixed or blended
- C. trembling or shaking

2. The detective wanted something **concrete** before making an arrest.

- A. written down and signed
- B. quick and easy to find
- C. solid and clearly real

3. A **curious** silence fell over the room when the lights flickered.

- A. long and uncomfortable
- B. strange and puzzling
- C. sudden and complete

4. She refused to sit with the **hypocrites** at the far table.

- A. people who talk too much
- B. people who fake their virtues
- C. people who follow every rule

5. The chance of snow in July is **remote**.

- A. very unlikely
- B. rarely discussed
- C. hard to measure

6. The crowd offered wild **speculations** about who had won the prize.

- A. arguments about fairness
- B. guesses without proof
- C. complaints without cause

7. She had to **suppress** a laugh during the principal's speech.

- A. blame on someone else
- B. explain to the crowd
- C. hold back or stifle

8. The rattling under the hood was the first **symptom** of engine trouble.

- A. an outward sign of a problem
- B. a noise made by worn parts
- C. a flaw built in at the factory

9. Constant teasing can **undermine** a young player's confidence.

- A. weaken bit by bit
- B. test again and again
- C. shape from the start

10. The old mattress **yielded** under his weight.

- A. shifted to one side
- B. creaked and groaned
- C. gave way when pressed

Reading Helpers

(Not quizzed — helpful for this text.)

memory hole — a wall slot that carries paper straight to the furnace; nothing put in it survives

puritanism — a harsh disapproval of pleasure, especially sexual pleasure

rebel from the waist downwards — someone who rebels only with the body, never with the mind

objective reality — existing in reality whether or not anyone believes in it

mutability — changeable — here, “mutability of the past” means that the past itself can be rewritten

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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

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 “A curious emotion stirred in Winston’s heart. In front of him was an enemy who was trying to kill him: in front of him, also, was a human creature, in pain and perhaps with a broken bone.”

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

- A. sudden and violent
- B. strange and hard to explain
- C. eager to know more

2 “But there was another, wilder possibility that kept raising its head, though he tried vainly to suppress it.”

It can reasonably be inferred that his effort to suppress the possibility...

- A. failed to keep it from returning
- B. was never seriously attempted
- C. succeeded in putting it aside

3 “It was merely one symptom of her revolt against the Party and all its ways, and somehow it seemed natural and healthy, like the sneeze of a horse that smells bad hay.”

The author most likely includes the comparison to a horse’s sneeze in order to...

- A. stress how coarse her words were
- B. suggest the revolt was planned
- C. cast the act as natural, not chosen

4 “He wondered whether after all there was a microphone hidden somewhere near. ... But by degrees the flood of music drove all speculations out of his mind.”

According to the passage, the flood of music drove out of his mind...

- A. his certainty of a hidden microphone
- B. his guesses about being overheard
- C. his delight in the bird’s song

5 “Anything that hinted at corruption always filled him with a wild hope. ... Anything to rot, to weaken, to undermine!”

The passage most strongly suggests that he hoped the Party would...

- A. reform itself over time
- B. be overthrown by open revolt
- C. rot away from the inside

6 “They did not discuss the possibility of getting married. It was too remote to be worth thinking about.”

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

- A. had simply been put off
- B. stood no real chance
- C. was something neither wanted

7 “They rub it into you for years. I dare say it works in a lot of cases. But of course you can never tell; people are such hypocrites.”

Which choice best describes the speaker’s attitude toward the training described?

- A. cynical about professed belief
- B. indifferent to its effects
- C. confident it works on most

8 “It was filled with some kind of heavy, sand-like stuff which yielded wherever you touched it.”

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

- A. gave way under a touch
- B. clung to the fingers
- C. gave off a faint smell

9 “Her voice floated upward with the sweet summer air, very tuneful, charged with a sort of happy melancholy.”

It can reasonably be inferred that her singing...

- A. sounded plainly cheerful
- B. was meant for an audience
- C. carried real feeling

10 “The only evidence is inside my own mind, and I don’t know with any certainty that any other human being shares my memories. Just in that one instance, in my whole life, I did possess actual concrete evidence after the event – years after it.”

The information in the excerpt primarily functions to...

- A. contrast memory with real proof
- B. explain how records get falsified
- C. describe one vivid memory

ANSWER KEY

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#	KEY	NOTE
1	B	'Curious' here describes the emotion, not the person feeling it – the older sense of 'odd' rather than 'inquisitive.' Students who bring in the everyday meaning will read the sentence as being about Winston's nosiness, which reverses the point of the two sentences that follow.
2	A	
3	C	
4	B	
5	C	
6	B	
7	A	The concession 'I dare say it works' is real but immediately withdrawn. 'You can never tell' plus the charge of hypocrisy says people may conform in public and not in private, so apparent success proves nothing – that is what makes the confident option wrong rather than merely unsupported.
8	A	
9	C	'Charged with' is the electrical sense gone figurative – the voice is loaded with feeling the way a wire is loaded with current. Worth noting too that 'happy melancholy' is a deliberate contradiction: the feeling is genuinely mixed, not merely sad.
10	A	

Teacher Context: Part 2 Chapters 1–5

Part Two opens with the dark-haired girl from the Fiction Department slipping Winston a note in a corridor; they contrive meetings in the countryside and then rent the room above Charrington's shop. Winston learns her name is Julia and something of her private rebellions, and Syme disappears. The break after Chapter 5 falls where the affair has settled into routine.