

Brave New World

Chapters 1–3

by Aldous Huxley

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Practice words: abjectly, decanted, derision, geniality, gratuitous, ingenuous, inscrutable, prodigious, sententiously, viviparous

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 • Chapters 1–3 • A tour of the Hatchery

Section 2 • Chapters 4–6 • Bernard, Helmholtz, and Lenina in London

Section 3 • Chapters 7–9 • Arrival at the Savage Reservation

Section 4 • Chapters 10–12 • The Savage in the World State

Section 5 • Chapters 13–15 • Lenina's feelings for the Savage

Section 6 • Chapters 16–18 • John meets the World Controller

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. He apologized **abjectly** for his costly mistake.

- A. in a polite, measured way
- B. in a tearful, dramatic way
- C. in a cringing, humble way

2. The waiter **decanted** the wine before serving it.

- A. poured off the liquid
- B. warmed it gently
- C. tasted it for quality

3. The crowd greeted his foolish plan with open **derision**.

- A. mockery; ridicule
- B. interest; curiosity
- C. confusion; doubt

4. The host greeted every guest with easy **geniality**.

- A. polite formality
- B. calm authority
- C. cheerful friendliness

5. The bakery gave out **gratuitous** samples to every customer.

- A. offered at a discount
- B. free; costing nothing
- C. limited to members

6. His **ingenuous** reply charmed everyone at the table.

- A. polished and rehearsed
- B. clever and inventive
- C. innocent and naive

7. She kept an **inscrutable** expression throughout the negotiation.

- A. calm and pleasant
- B. impossible to read
- C. tense and anxious

8. The blue whale is a **prodigious** creature, larger than any dinosaur.

- A. enormous; very great
- B. graceful and elegant
- C. rare and endangered

9. The old man lectured us **sententiously** at every family meal.

- A. in a moralizing, pompous tone
- B. in a nervous, hesitant tone
- C. in a gentle, patient tone

10. Unlike birds and reptiles, most mammals are **viviparous**.

- A. living in large herds
- B. bearing live young
- C. nursing young with milk

Reading Helpers

(Not quizzed — helpful for this text.)

hypnopædia — sleep-teaching — the World State's method of conditioning beliefs by endlessly repeating recorded phrases to sleeping children

pneumatic — the World State's objectifying slang, meaning having a full, curving, sexually attractive body; literally, filled with or operated by air

soma — the World State's government-issued euphoric drug, taken to banish discontent and keep the population docile

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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

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 troop of newly arrived students, very young, pink and callow, followed nervously, rather abjectly, at the Director’s heels.”

As used in the passage, “abjectly” most nearly suggests that the students followed the Director...

- A. with cringing submissiveness
- B. with quiet resentment
- C. with eager admiration

2 “To-morrow,” he would add, smiling at them with a slightly menacing geniality, “you’ll be settling down to serious work.”

In the passage, the Director is characterized as...

- A. anxious and eager to please
- B. warm yet quietly threatening
- C. harsh and openly hostile

3 “By which time the original egg was in a fair way to becoming anything from eight to ninety-six embryos— a prodigious improvement, you will agree, on nature.”

It can reasonably be inferred that the Director regards the cloning process as...

- A. a vast improvement on nature
- B. a risky experiment
- C. a modest refinement

4 “We decant our babies as socialized human beings, as Alphas or Epsilons ...”

The passage most strongly suggests that to be ‘decanted’ is to...

- A. be sorted into a caste
- B. be born from a bottle
- C. be conditioned to obey

5 “But why do you want to keep the embryo below par?” asked an ingenuous student.”

In context, the word ‘ingenuous’ emphasizes that the student’s question is...

- A. rude and challenging
- B. clever and probing
- C. innocent and unsuspecting

6 “And that,” put in the Director sententiously, “that is the secret of happiness and virtue—liking what you’ve got to do. All conditioning aims at that: making people like their unescapable social destiny.”

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

- A. admiration of his insight
- B. mockery of his pomposity
- C. fear of his authority

7 “Primroses and landscapes, he pointed out, have one grave defect: they are gratuitous.”

According to the passage, the ‘grave defect’ of primroses and landscapes is that they...

- A. cost nothing, yield no profit
- B. distract the workers
- C. wither too quickly

8 “It’s all right, Director,” he said in a tone of faint derision, “I won’t corrupt them.”

Which choice best describes Mustapha Mond’s attitude toward the Director here?

- A. angry and accusing
- B. reassuring and kind
- C. mocking and scornful

9 “Try to realize what it was like to have a viviparous mother.”

The passage suggests the listeners find the idea of a ‘viviparous mother’...

- A. ordinary—everyone had one
- B. noble—she raised her young
- C. obscene—she gave live birth

10 “Our Ford—or Our Freud, as, for some inscrutable reason, he chose to call himself whenever he spoke of psychological matters ...”

The author most likely calls the reason ‘inscrutable’ in order to...

- A. stress it defies explanation
- B. hint it is shameful
- C. praise the choice as wise

ANSWER KEY

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#	KEY	NOTE
1	A	
2	B	
3	A	
4	B	Event comprehension.
5	C	Distinguish 'ingenuous' (naive, guileless) from 'ingenious' (clever); the distractor 'clever and probing' targets that common mix-up.
6	B	
7	A	Here 'gratuitous' carries its literal sense—costing nothing, free—not the common modern 'unwarranted'; the regime objects that free pleasures turn no profit.
8	C	
9	C	Theme comprehension.
10	A	

Teacher Context: Chapters 1–3

The Director guides students through the Central London Hatchery, explaining the Bokanovsky cloning process, decanting, and predestination, then infant conditioning and hypnopaedia. Mustapha Mond lectures on history, intercut with Lenina, Fanny, and a resentful Bernard Marx. These chapters establish the World State's values; the break at the end of Chapter 3 closes the expository opening before the plot turns to the characters.