

Brave New World

Chapters 16–18

by Aldous Huxley

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Practice words: apprehension, equilibrium, excruciating, galvanized, impunity, paroxysm, platitude, squalid, superfluous, unanimity

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](https://www.verbalworkout.com).



[verbalworkout.com](https://www.verbalworkout.com)

(all resources free)

Vocabulary Preview

Brave New World

Chapters 16–18

by Aldous Huxley

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

1. She waited outside the principal's office with **apprehension**.

- A. open resentment
- B. anxious dread
- C. rising impatience

2. The gymnast held perfect **equilibrium** on the narrow beam.

- A. a state of balance
- B. complete focus
- C. effortless speed

3. The blister made every step **excruciating**.

- A. intensely painful
- B. very tiring
- C. oddly numb

4. News of the championship **galvanized** the whole town.

- A. filled with sudden pride
- B. thrown into confusion
- C. stirred suddenly into action

5. Shielded by his powerful friends, he cheated with **impunity**.

- A. great daring and nerve
- B. careless haste
- C. freedom from punishment

6. In a **paroxysm** of grief, she collapsed against the door.

- A. a sudden, violent outburst
- B. a slow, building swell
- C. a brief, passing flicker

7. The coach ended every talk with the same dull **platitude**.

- A. a flat, overused saying
- B. a stern warning
- C. a personal confession

8. The refugees crowded into a **squalid**, rat-infested basement.

- A. dim and chilly
- B. cramped and noisy
- C. filthy and wretched

9. With a map on every phone, paper road atlases now seem **superfluous**.

- A. old-fashioned and clumsy
- B. unnecessary; more than needed
- C. expensive and rare

10. The jury reached its verdict with surprising **unanimity**.

- A. heated debate
- B. complete agreement
- C. quiet reluctance

Reading Helpers

(Not quizzed — helpful for this text.)

high art — serious, complex art that demands thought and feeling; sacrificed by the World State for comfort and stability

"I want sin" — John's demand for moral freedom, including the freedom to choose wrongly, rather than enforced happiness

like two unhurried compass needles — a simile for slow, steady turning around a fixed point; the calm wording makes the image especially disturbing

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

Brave New World

Chapters 16–18

by Aldous Huxley

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

Vocabulary in Context

Brave New World

Chapters 16–18

by Aldous Huxley

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____ Score _____ / 10

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

1 “But as I make the laws here, I can also break them. With impunity, Mr. Marx,” he added, turning to Bernard.”

As it is used in the passage, “impunity” most nearly suggests that Mond breaks the laws...

- A. with deep reluctance.
- B. and faces no penalty.
- C. only in secret.

2 “Actual happiness always looks pretty squalid in comparison with the over-compensations for misery.”

The passage most strongly suggests that, set beside grand misery, ordinary happiness looks...

- A. shabby and unimpressive.
- B. rare and fragile.
- C. false and dishonest.

3 “But we’re always saying that science is everything. It’s a hypnopaedic platitude.”

Mond most likely calls the saying that “science is everything” a “platitude” in order to...

- A. expose it as an empty slogan.
- B. correct a factual mistake.
- C. hail science as the foundation.

4 “The words galvanized Bernard into violent and unseemly activity.”

It can reasonably be inferred that the threat of being sent to an island...

- A. slowly wore down his resolve.
- B. calmed his mounting panic.
- C. jolted Bernard into frantic action.

5 “And in a paroxysm of abjection he threw himself on his knees before the Controller.”

In the passage, the “paroxysm of abjection” characterizes Bernard as...

- A. calmly accepting his fate.
- B. coldly plotting his revenge.
- C. overcome by a sudden fit of grovelling.

6 “It has given us the stablest equilibrium in history.”

Which choice best describes how Mond’s phrase “the stablest equilibrium” functions in the novel as a whole?

- A. to praise scientific freedom.
- B. to enshrine stability as supreme.
- C. to mourn lost individuality.

7 “But there aren’t any losses for us to compensate; religious sentiment is superfluous.”

Which statement is best supported by the excerpt?

- A. Without losses, religion is needless.
- B. Religion still comforts the citizens.
- C. Religion was banned for being old.

8 “All right then,” said the Savage defiantly, “I’m claiming the right to be unhappy. ... the right to live in constant apprehension of what may happen tomorrow ...”

The passage most strongly suggests that the Savage’s claim to “constant apprehension” is a demand for...

- A. the right to dread the future.
- B. the right to ignore the future.
- C. the right to predict the future.

9 “... an ache that gradually increased till it became a tremulous and excruciating agony ...”

In the passage, the “excruciating agony” the Savage endures characterizes him as...

- A. indifferent to physical pain.
- B. tormented against his will.
- C. seeking intense pain to purify himself.

10 “... that desire for unanimity and atonement, which their conditioning had so ineradicably implanted in them ...”

The detail about the crowd’s “desire for unanimity and atonement” primarily functions to...

- A. show the crowd fears the Savage.
- B. trace the mob’s craving for oneness.
- C. stress the crowd’s restraint.

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

Brave New World
Chapters 16–18
by Aldous Huxley

#	KEY	NOTE
1	B	
2	A	Squalid here describes how happiness 'looks' beside grand misery, not what it truly is.
3	A	Theme comprehension. Hypnopaedic means drilled in by sleep-teaching, so the slogan is conditioned rather than reasoned.
4	C	
5	C	
6	B	Theme comprehension.
7	A	
8	A	
9	C	Character comprehension. The agony is self-inflicted — the Savage's voluntary penance for his guilt.
10	B	Event comprehension.

Teacher Context: Chapters 16–18

John, Bernard, and Helmholtz confront Mustapha Mond, who defends the World State's trade of truth, art, and religion for stability and happiness; John argues for the right to suffer and to be free. Bernard and Helmholtz are sentenced to island exile and John withdraws to live alone. Section runs to the end of the novel.