

Divergent

Chapters 8–13

by Veronica Roth

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Practice words: claims, fraction, Gratitude, impulse, overcame, reason, tendencies, tension, Undoubtedly, violate

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 1–7 · Beatrice's last days in Abnegation

Section 2 · Chapters 8–13 · Stage One of Dauntless initiation

Section 3 · Chapters 14–20 · Visiting Day and the second stage

Section 4 · Chapters 21–27 · Deeper into the fear simulations

Section 5 · Chapters 28–32 · Preparing for the final test

Section 6 · Chapters 33–39 · After the final rankings

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 **claims** the window seat every time we travel.
 - A. complains about
 - B. takes ownership of
 - C. asks politely for
2. He finished the job in a **fraction** of the time it usually takes.
 - A. a small part of a whole
 - B. an exact count of something
 - C. a rough estimate of an amount
3. **Gratitude** filled her as she read the letter.
 - A. a wave of sudden relief
 - B. a feeling of thankfulness
 - C. a sense of quiet pride
4. She acted on **impulse** and dove into the icy lake.
 - A. a long-held promise
 - B. a sudden urge to act
 - C. a familiar habit
5. She finally **overcame** her fear of deep water.
 - A. defeated or mastered
 - B. talked about with others
 - C. got used to over time
6. She trusted **reason** more than her feelings when she had to decide.
 - A. the advice of close friends
 - B. the memory of past events
 - C. the power of logical thought
7. Her **tendencies** showed in small daily choices.
 - A. habitual ways of acting
 - B. sudden shifts in mood
 - C. strong personal opinions
8. The dancer held the **tension** in her legs through the whole pose.
 - A. a dull ache of effort
 - B. a slight trembling
 - C. tightness in the muscles
9. **Undoubtedly**, the fastest runner will win the race.
 - A. beyond any question
 - B. after a long wait
 - C. in a strange way
10. Drivers who **violate** the speed limit face a fine.
 - A. misjudge by a little
 - B. argue against in court
 - C. break or go against

Reading Helpers

(Not quizzed — helpful for this text.)

self-possessed — calm and in control of oneself

third wheel — an unwanted extra person, especially alongside a couple

stolen moments — brief moments snatched in secret, when no one else is watching

wedge between people — something that drives people apart

Stiff — Dauntless insult for an Abnegation member, meaning rigid and humorless

ANSWER KEY

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#	KEY
1	B
2	A
3	B
4	B
5	A
6	C
7	A
8	C
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 “Suddenly he presses a hand to my stomach. ... ‘Never forget to keep tension here,’ he says in a quiet voice.”

As used in the passage, the word “tension” most nearly means...

- A. muscles kept tight and firm
- B. strain between two people
- C. a feeling of nervous dread

2 “But I understand now what Tori said about her tattoo representing a fear she overcame—a reminder of where she was, as well as a reminder of where she is now.”

It can reasonably be inferred that the fear marked by Tori’s tattoo is one that...

- A. she still battles daily
- B. she no longer struggles with
- C. she keeps hidden from others

3 “We are with Eric, for one thing, and for another, the Dauntless have different rules—rules that brutality does not violate.”

According to the passage, brutality among the Dauntless...

- A. breaks none of their rules
- B. happens only in secret
- C. draws a harsher punishment

4 “Human reason can excuse any evil; that is why it’s so important that we don’t rely on it. My father’s words.”

As it is used in the passage, the word “reason” most nearly suggests that...

- A. some crimes have no excuse
- B. every evil act has a cause
- C. clear thinking can mislead us

5 “The thought of begging Peter for mercy makes me taste bile, and on an impulse, I kick him in the side.”

It can reasonably be inferred that the kick described in the excerpt is...

- A. a practiced move
- B. a calculated risk
- C. an unplanned reaction

6 “I thought he was reassuring her, because that’s what selfless people do, but now I wonder if he was repeating something he had studied; if all his Abnegation tendencies were just Erudite traits in disguise.”

According to the passage, the narrator now wonders whether his Abnegation tendencies were really...

- A. a sign of true kindness
- B. genuine family loyalty
- C. studied Erudite behavior

7 “But Christina just passes me a muffin and crouches in front of me to tie my shoes. Gratitude surges in my chest, warm and a little like an ache. Maybe there is some Abnegation in everyone, even if they don’t know it.”

The author most likely includes “warm and a little like an ache” in order to...

- A. point out her bruised ribs
- B. show her thanks also hurts
- C. show how hungry she is

8 “‘I’ll be fine,’ I say. ‘Undoubtedly,’ he replies. I don’t hear the sarcasm, but I know it’s there.”

As used in the passage, the word “Undoubtedly” most nearly means...

- A. for the most part
- B. beyond any question
- C. for the time being

9 “This is crazy, and I know it. A fraction of an inch of mistake, half a second of hesitation, and my life is over.”

The information in the excerpt primarily functions to...

- A. show how little error is allowed
- B. describe how tired she feels
- C. explain why she is climbing

10 “He squeezes my shoulder. His fingers feel dry and cold, and the look he gives me claims me, like he’s taking ownership of what I did.”

It can reasonably be inferred that his squeeze and look are meant to...

- A. take credit for her act
- B. warn her to stay quiet
- C. offer her his sympathy

ANSWER KEY

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#	KEY	NOTE
1	A	Students usually meet 'tension' as suspense in a story. Here it is the physical sense — the stomach muscles held firm — and the question asks only for that.
2	B	
3	A	
4	C	Most students use 'reason' to mean a cause ('the reason I'm late'). Here it names the power of logical thought itself, the virtue the novel's Erudite faction is built on.
5	C	
6	C	
7	B	
8	B	The question asks for the literal meaning, but the speaker means the opposite. Tris says she cannot hear the sarcasm and knows it is there anyway — a good place to talk about how tone can flip a word without changing it.
9	A	
10	A	This is the ownership sense of 'claims' — the sense in claiming land or lost luggage, not claiming that something is true. Worth naming that what he claims is her act, not her.

Teacher Context: Chapters 8–13

Physical training begins with guns, fights, and a ranking board that pits the transfers against one another. Tris is badly outmatched at first and clashes with Peter, Molly, and Drew, while the instructor Four becomes harder to read; capture the flag shows her tactical nerve. Break placed where the physical stage gives way to Visiting Day.