

Pride and Prejudice

Chapters 1–15

by Jane Austen

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Practice words: accomplished, condescend, design, intelligence, moment, office, own, succeed, tolerable, want

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 1–15 · A new neighbour at Netherfield Park

Section 2 · Chapters 16–27 · Mr. Wickham and the Netherfield ball

Section 3 · Chapters 28–45 · A visit to Hunsford Parsonage

Section 4 · Chapters 46–61 · News from home during the tour

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. By eighteen she was an **accomplished** singer, painter, and dancer.

- A. skilled in refined arts
- B. widely traveled
- C. richly praised

2. The famous author would not **condescend** to answer questions from ordinary fans.

- A. to stoop or deign
- B. to pause or hesitate
- C. to agree or consent

3. It soon became clear that he had a **design** to win the promotion at any cost.

- A. a strong wish
- B. a good reason
- C. a plan or scheme

4. The reporter's **intelligence** about the scandal reached the editor before dawn.

- A. a strong suspicion
- B. a personal opinion
- C. news or information

5. The committee debated a matter of great **moment** to the whole town.

- A. cost or expense
- B. mystery or confusion
- C. importance or weight

6. It is the treasurer's **office** to keep the club's accounts in order.

- A. function or duty
- B. wish or hope
- C. skill or talent

7. A good leader will **own** every failure and learn from it.

- A. to study closely
- B. to admit or acknowledge
- C. to forgive quickly

8. A new manager will **succeed** her when she steps down next month.

- A. to follow and replace
- B. to assist and support
- C. to outrank and surpass

9. The meal was **tolerable**, but I would not order it a second time.

- A. quite costly
- B. merely acceptable
- C. very filling

10. Years of **want** taught the family to save every last scrap.

- A. poor luck
- B. lack or need
- C. hard labor

Reading Helpers

(Not quizzed — helpful for this text.)

quick parts — natural mental ability; talents

compliance — willingness to oblige; obliging agreeableness

entailed — legal settlement fixing who may inherit an estate

indifferent — middling in quality; poor

living — a salaried Church of England parish post

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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#	KEY
1	A
2	A
3	C
4	C
5	C
6	A
7	B
8	A
9	B
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 "It is a truth universally acknowledged, that a single man in possession of a good fortune, must be in want of a wife."

As used in the passage, the word 'want' most nearly means...

- A. demand
- B. need
- C. pursuit

2 "... they were at last obliged to accept the second-hand intelligence of their neighbor, Lady Lucas."

What did Lady Lucas provide as 'intelligence'?

- A. proof of her cleverness
- B. information she had learned
- C. questions for the man to answer

3 "She is tolerable, but not handsome enough to tempt me; I am in no humor at present to give consequence to young ladies who are slighted by other men."

In the excerpt, the remark that she is 'tolerable' characterizes the speaker as...

- A. playful and teasing
- B. reluctantly admiring
- C. proud and dismissive

4 "After a song or two ... she was eagerly succeeded at the instrument by her sister Mary, who having, in consequence of being the only plain one in the family, worked hard for knowledge and accomplishments, was always impatient for display."

As used in the passage, the word 'succeeded' most nearly means...

- A. followed and replaced
- B. outdone and surpassed
- C. applauded and praised

5 "I hope you saw her petticoat, six inches deep in mud, I am absolutely certain; and the gown which had been let down to hide it not doing its office."

It can reasonably be inferred from the excerpt that the let-down gown...

- A. failed to hide the muddy petticoat
- B. was too fine for country walking
- C. was as muddy as the petticoat

6 "Your list of the common extent of accomplishments," said Darcy, "has too much truth. The word is applied to many a woman who deserves it no otherwise than by netting a purse or covering a screen."

According to Darcy, many women are called 'accomplished' on the strength of...

- A. trivial handiwork alone
- B. graceful manners and address
- C. wide reading and true learning

7 "...there is a meanness in all the arts which ladies sometimes condescend to employ for captivation."

Which best describes Darcy's attitude toward the 'arts' ladies condescend to employ?

- A. grudging respect
- B. amused tolerance
- C. scornful contempt

8 "...where one of them is desired by the other to change a resolution of no very great moment, should you think ill of that person for complying with the desire..."

As used in the passage, the word 'moment' most nearly means...

- A. importance or weight
- B. difficulty or effort
- C. a brief space of time

9 "I see your design, Bingley," said his friend. "You dislike an argument, and want to silence this."

As it is used in the passage, the word 'design' most nearly suggests that Bingley...

- A. is mocking
- B. has purpose
- C. is confused

10 "I am perfectly convinced by it that Mr. Darcy has no defect. He owns it himself without disguise."

The speaker is being ironic. The remark that Darcy 'owns it himself' implies that he...

- A. has kept his faults well hidden
- B. has apologized for his flaws
- C. has claimed to be free of faults

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	NOTE
1	B	
2	B	
3	C	'Tolerable' is faint praise that damns; a student who hears it as a compliment misses the slight that launches the Elizabeth–Darcy antagonism.
4	A	
5	A	
6	A	
7	C	Here 'condescend' has its older sense — 'stoop to' — the arts are beneath a lady's dignity, which is exactly the speaker's complaint.
8	A	The sense 'importance' survives in the adjective 'momentous' — a handy anchor for students.
9	B	
10	C	'Owns' means admits; the irony is that Darcy's admission is a boast — he grants himself no defect worth confessing.

Teacher Context: Chapters 1–15

Mr. Bingley takes Netherfield and Mrs. Bennet schemes to marry off her five daughters. At the Meryton assembly Elizabeth is slighted by Bingley's proud friend Mr. Darcy, and soon after Jane falls ill during a visit to Netherfield while the pompous Mr. Collins writes to announce a visit. This section groups the opening chapters of Volume I, breaking before the officers and Wickham take the stage.