

Pride and Prejudice

Chapters 46–61

by Jane Austen

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Practice words: balm, disposition, elope, indulgence, intrigue, overbearing, pretension, regard, sensible, supersede

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. Her kind words were a **balm** to him after the long, discouraging week.

- A. a welcome distraction
- B. a soothing comfort
- C. a source of pride

2. Her cheerful **disposition** made her easy to work with.

- A. way of speaking
- B. outward appearance
- C. natural temperament

3. They planned to **elope** rather than wait years for her family's blessing.

- A. to leave quietly and travel abroad
- B. to slip away and escape their debts
- C. to run away secretly to marry

4. The child grew spoiled through years of his grandparents' **indulgence**.

- A. generous gifts
- B. excessive leniency
- C. constant attention

5. Their **intrigue** came to light when a servant found the hidden letters.

- A. secret love affair
- B. business arrangement
- C. quiet friendship

6. His **overbearing** boss dismissed every suggestion the team offered.

- A. domineering and arrogant
- B. gruff and easily angered
- C. careless and forgetful

7. His constant **pretension** fooled no one who knew his humble beginnings.

- A. display of great wealth
- B. unfounded claim to status
- C. boast of past deeds

8. She earned the **regard** of everyone at the new office within a week.

- A. friendly curiosity
- B. polite good wishes
- C. warm esteem and approval

9. She was **sensible** of the danger the moment she stepped inside.

- A. aware or conscious of
- B. frightened or alarmed by
- C. scornful or dismissive of

10. The new model will **supersede** the one the factory has built for a decade.

- A. displace and replace
- B. support and improve
- C. copy and back up

Reading Helpers

(Not quizzed — helpful for this text.)

Gretna Green — Scottish village where couples eloped to marry without consent

complaisance — eager willingness to please; obliging politeness

shades — ancestral spirits; a family's hallowed dead

polluted — defiled or contaminated; here figurative — Lady Catherine's horror that a low marriage would degrade Pemberley

expectation of a young olive-branch — here, an indirect reference to an expected baby

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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

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 *“Her pale face and impetuous manner made him start, and before he could recover himself to speak, she, in whose mind every idea was superseded by Lydia’s situation, hastily exclaimed ...”*

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

- A. the news had merely added to her worries
- B. Lydia’s plight had driven out all else
- C. she was calmly weighing what to do next

2 *“My younger sister has left all her friends—has eloped; has thrown herself into the power of—of Mr. Wickham.”*

It can reasonably be inferred that, in eloping, the sister has...

- A. left openly with her family’s blessing
- B. run off willingly, into real danger
- C. been carried off against her will

3 *“... blaming everybody but the person to whose ill-judging indulgence the errors of her daughter must principally be owing.”*

It can reasonably be inferred that the person the mother pointedly does not blame is...

- A. the man her daughter ran away with
- B. the family friends minding her daughter
- C. herself, whose own leniency is at fault

4 *“But we must stem the tide of malice, and pour into the wounded bosoms of each other the balm of sisterly consolation.”*

The speaker’s image of ‘the balm of sisterly consolation’ suggests that her comfort will...

- A. soothe emotional pain
- B. prove the malicious gossip false
- C. deepen the sisters’ resentment

5 *“He was declared to be in debt to every tradesman in the place, and his intrigues, all honored with the title of seduction, had been extended into every tradesman’s family.”*

Which choice best describes the narrator’s attitude toward the reports of his ‘intrigues’?

- A. wry amusement at the rumors’ extravagance
- B. grave alarm at the man’s wickedness
- C. genuine relief that the truth has emerged

6 *“... I am inclined to think that her own disposition must be naturally bad, or she could not be guilty of such an enormity, at so early an age.”*

According to the passage, the speaker thinks the young woman’s conduct could only come from...

- A. a naturally bad temperament
- B. a passing spell of ill humor
- C. the influence of bad companions

7 *“The wish of procuring her regard, which she had assured herself of his feeling in Derbyshire, could not in rational expectation survive such a blow as this.”*

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

- A. warm esteem and approval
- B. polite good wishes
- C. an admiring glance

8 *“She was even sensible of some pleasure, though mixed with regret, on finding how steadfastly both she and her uncle had been persuaded that affection and confidence subsisted between Mr. Darcy and herself.”*

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

- A. practical
- B. aware
- C. prudent

9 *“They are destined for each other by the voice of every member of their respective houses; and what is to divide them? The upstart pretensions of a young woman without family, connections, or fortune.”*

Which choice best describes the speaker’s attitude toward the young woman’s ‘pretensions’?

- A. sympathy for her lack of social advantages
- B. grudging respect for her boldness
- C. contempt for a baseless claim to status

10 *“... I was spoilt by my parents, who ... allowed, encouraged, almost taught me to be selfish and overbearing; to care for none beyond my own family circle; to think meanly of all the rest of the world ...”*

The speaker’s account of being taught to be ‘selfish and overbearing’ primarily serves to...

- A. boast of his family’s high standing
- B. excuse his parents from any blame
- C. trace his arrogance to his upbringing

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	NOTE
1	B	
2	B	
3	C	The inference rides on Austen's irony: the only person spared blame is Mrs. Bennet herself, Lydia's 'ill-judging' indulger.
4	A	
5	A	'Intrigues' means illicit affairs in this period. Through the sweeping phrase 'every tradesman's family' and the ironic 'honored with the title of seduction,' the narrator mocks the way gossip spreads and magnifies the accusations.
6	A	
7	A	
8	B	Older sense: 'sensible of' = 'aware of' — the modern 'practical' reading is the trap the item teaches against.
9	C	
10	C	

Teacher Context: Chapters 46–61

News of Lydia's elopement with Wickham throws the family into crisis, and Darcy quietly arranges the marriage that saves the Bennets from disgrace. Bingley returns and proposes to Jane, Lady Catherine tries to forbid an engagement, and Darcy makes a second proposal. Section runs to the end of the novel.