

Remember the Ladies

by Abigail Adams

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Practice words: acquisition, code, customs, deprive, endearing, industry, proportions, representation, tyrants, vicious

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.



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Vocabulary Preview

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

1. The bike was her proudest **acquisition** of the summer.

- A. something newly repaired
- B. something newly gained
- C. something newly borrowed

2. Builders must follow the city's fire **code**.

- A. a set of secret signals
- B. a group of trained inspectors
- C. a body of laws or rules

3. Every village kept its own wedding **customs**.

- A. long-established social practices
- B. gifts given to visiting guests
- C. songs written for special days

4. The new rule would **deprive** students of their free period.

- A. take something away from someone
- B. make someone share something
- C. remind someone of something

5. Her clumsy attempts to whistle were oddly **endearing**.

- A. attracting attention
- B. revealing nervousness
- C. inspiring affection

6. His **industry** earned him a promotion within a year.

- A. natural talent
- B. friendly manners
- C. steady hard work

7. The recipe works only if the **proportions** of flour and water are right.

- A. the relative amounts of things mixed
- B. the order in which items are added
- C. the freshness of the ingredients used

8. The new town demanded **representation** in the state government.

- A. a voice in making the laws
- B. an office building of its own
- C. a share of the yearly tax money

9. The village suffered under three **tyrants** in one generation.

- A. leaders chosen by a small council
- B. rulers who use power cruelly
- C. rulers who came from other lands

10. The story's villain is a **vicious** and greedy landlord.

- A. clever and quick to argue
- B. wicked and morally corrupt
- C. proud and hard to please

Reading Helpers

(Not quizzed — helpful for this text.)

vassals — People held under a lord's power, owing him service — the bottom of the old feudal order; she uses the word again later, of wives.

Dunmore — Lord Dunmore, the last royal governor of Virginia, who armed against the colonists and offered freedom to enslaved people who would join him.

discovered — Here it means showed or revealed, not found out.

impunity — Freedom from punishment — doing harm and paying no price for it.

saltpetre — Potassium nitrate, the main ingredient of gunpowder; colonists made it at home to supply the army.

ANSWER KEY

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#	KEY
1	B
2	C
3	A
4	A
5	C
6	C
7	A
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 “I have sometimes been ready to think that the passion for liberty cannot be equally strong in the breasts of those who have been accustomed to deprive their fellow-creatures of theirs.”

As it is used in the passage, the word ‘deprive’ suggests that the people described...

- A. keep others in slavery
- B. protect others from harm
- C. demand liberty for everyone

2 “I look upon it as a new acquisition of property—a property which one month ago I did not value at a single shilling, and would with pleasure have seen it in flames.”

It can be inferred that the writer calls the house a new ‘acquisition’ because she...

- A. had thought it lost for good
- B. had received it as a gift
- C. had bought it a month ago

3 “We knew not then whether we could plant or sow with safety, whether where we had tilled we could reap the fruits of our own industry ...”

According to the passage, one thing the writer once feared she might not enjoy was the...

- A. shelter of the far wilderness
- B. harvest her own labor produced
- C. peace she now feels returning

4 “And, by the way, in the new code of laws which I suppose it will be necessary for you to make, I desire you would remember the ladies and be more generous and favorable to them than your ancestors.”

The writer adds ‘than your ancestors’ to her request about the new code in order to...

- A. praise the laws of earlier times
- B. imply past laws slighted women
- C. credit her husband’s family line

5 “Do not put such unlimited power into the hands of the husbands. Remember, all men would be tyrants if they could.”

It can be inferred that men would be tyrants, in the writer’s view, if they were not...

- A. bound by love for their wives
- B. watched closely by the church
- C. kept from having such power

6 “If particular care and attention is not paid to the ladies, we are determined to foment a rebellion, and will not hold ourselves bound by any laws in which we have no voice or representation.”

According to the passage, the writer says women will not obey laws that...

- A. were passed during the war
- B. their husbands disagree with
- C. they had no part in making

7 “... such of you as wish to be happy willingly give up the harsh title of master for the more tender and endearing one of friend.”

The contrast in the excerpt between ‘master’ and ‘friend’ primarily functions to...

- A. urge husbands to prefer affection
- B. explain how titles were chosen
- C. warn wives against disobedience

8 “Why, then, not put it out of the power of the vicious and the lawless to use us with cruelty and indignity with impunity?”

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

- A. poor and desperate
- B. careless and lazy
- C. evil and corrupt

9 “Men of sense in all ages abhor those customs which treat us only as the vassals of your sex ...”

It can be inferred that the writer regards men who defend such customs as...

- A. ignorant of the law
- B. lacking in good sense
- C. loyal to the crown

10 “I have lately seen a small manuscript describing the proportions of the various sorts of powder fit for cannon, small arms, and pistols.”

According to the passage, the manuscript the writer saw explains...

- A. how each powder is mixed
- B. how each weapon is loaded
- C. where powder can be bought

ANSWER KEY

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#	KEY	NOTE
1	A	
2	A	
3	B	Students who know 'industry' only as factories and manufacturing will miss this sense; here it is simply the work of the family's own hands.
4	B	'Code' here is the whole body of law a new government would have to write, not a secret cipher. Worth settling before students read the sentence.
5	C	Adams's point is that tyranny is a disposition, not an office – a man needs no throne to be a tyrant. The famous line is quoted constantly without the sentence before it, which is where the power comes from.
6	C	
7	A	
8	C	
9	B	Not duties on imported goods – 'customs' here means long-settled social habits. The 'vassals' image is the clue that she means how women are treated, not trade.
10	A	The sense is the recipe – how much of each ingredient goes into powder for different weapons. Adams slips military intelligence into a letter about soap and cloth.