

Tuesdays with Morrie

Chapters 8–17

by Mitch Albom

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Practice words: agnostic, ambivalence, anguish, antidote, atrophy, bazaar, exuberance, oblivion, opiate, perish

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 · Mitch reconnects with his old professor

Section 2 · Chapters 8–17 · The Tuesday lessons begin

Section 3 · Chapters 18–27 · Continuing the weekly Tuesday lessons

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. My uncle calls himself an **agnostic** when religion comes up.

- A. one who denies God exists
- B. one unsure if God exists
- C. one certain God exists

2. She felt a deep **ambivalence** about leaving her hometown.

- A. growing excitement
- B. mixed, conflicting feelings
- C. bitter resentment

3. The lost child's parents waited in **anguish** for any news.

- A. severe suffering
- B. intense anger
- C. complete confusion

4. The doctor gave the snakebite victim an **antidote** right away.

- A. a remedy that undoes harm
- B. a calming sedative
- C. a strong painkiller

5. After months in the cast, the boy's arm began to **atrophy**.

- A. tighten and stiffen
- B. throb with sharp pain
- C. waste away or shrink

6. We spent the afternoon exploring the lively **bazaar**.

- A. a market of small stalls
- B. a busy harbor dock
- C. a grand concert hall

7. She accepted the award with youthful **exuberance**.

- A. quiet humility
- B. nervous worry
- C. lively high spirits

8. The once-famous singer faded into **oblivion** within a decade.

- A. being completely forgotten
- B. bitter public scandal
- C. quiet country retirement

9. Critics called the cheap entertainment an **opiate** for a restless public.

- A. a cause of bitter debate
- B. a source of public pride
- C. a numbing, calming force

10. Many crops **perish** when a long drought sets in.

- A. to wilt and droop
- B. to die off completely
- C. to spread out wildly

Reading Helpers

(Not quizzed — helpful for this text.)

learn how to live — Morrie's paradoxical idea that facing death helps a person recognize what truly matters and live more fully

ANSWER KEY

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#	KEY
1	B
2	B
3	A
4	A
5	C
6	A
7	C
8	A
9	C
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 “They were loose because his legs had atrophied beyond normal clothing size—you could get two hands around his thighs and have your fingers touch.”

As it is used in the passage, the word “atrophied” most nearly suggests that Morrie’s legs had...

- A. grown strong from heavy use
- B. swollen and grown heavy
- C. wasted away to almost nothing

2 “I feel their anguish as if it were my own.”

It can reasonably be inferred that, in feeling the strangers’ “anguish,” Morrie...

- A. observes them with detachment
- B. feels only mild curiosity
- C. shares their severe suffering

3 “He studied my face, and perhaps he saw an ambivalence about my own choices.”

In the passage, Mitch is characterized as...

- A. torn about his own choices
- B. indifferent to his future
- C. certain he chose well

4 “America had become a Persian bazaar of self-help.”

The information in the excerpt primarily functions to...

- A. praise its calm order
- B. depict a noisy, crowded market
- C. mark a private retreat

5 “I begin a yearlong project on how football in America has become ritualistic, almost a religion, an opiate for the masses.”

The author most likely calls football “an opiate for the masses” in order to...

- A. praise its health benefits
- B. suggest it dulls awareness
- C. show it sharpens focus

6 “Eva would accept nothing less than excellence in school, because she saw education as the only antidote to their poverty.”

Which statement is best supported by the excerpt?

- A. schooling was poverty’s cure
- B. poverty could never end
- C. schooling mattered little

7 “He was born Jewish, but became an agnostic when he was a teenager, partly because of all that had happened to him as a child.”

The passage most strongly suggests that, as a teenager, Morrie came to believe that...

- A. Judaism deepened in him
- B. God certainly does not exist
- C. God’s existence is unknowable

8 “I once told a friend of mine, in a moment of exuberance, ‘I’m gonna be the healthiest old man you ever met!’”

The ironic use of the word “exuberance” emphasizes...

- A. his earlier high-spirited hope
- B. his lifelong gloom
- C. his calm indifference

9 “Love is so supremely important. As our great poet Auden said, ‘Love each other or perish.’

Morrie quotes Auden’s “Love each other or perish” in order to...

- A. warn that without love we die
- B. say love brings only pain
- C. caution against loving too much

10 “... for fear I was getting too close to forty and, therefore, professional oblivion.”

The passage most strongly suggests that, as he nears forty, Mitch fears...

- A. being forced to retire
- B. fading into obscurity
- C. losing his wealth

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	NOTE
1	C	
2	C	
3	A	Character comprehension.
4	B	
5	B	The phrase echoes Marx's 'opium of the people'—something that numbs the masses.
6	A	
7	C	An agnostic holds God's existence is unknowable, unlike an atheist who denies God; the first distractor tests that line.
8	A	
9	A	Theme comprehension.
10	B	

Teacher Context: Chapters 8–17

The first seven Tuesday lessons, covering the world, feeling sorry for yourself, regrets, the awareness of death, family, emotions, and the fear of aging, interspersed with flashbacks to Morrie's past and Mitch's own reflections. Section ends after the Seventh Tuesday, splitting the fourteen lessons at their midpoint to keep the two halves of the course balanced.