

Unbroken

Chapters 12–17

by Laura Hillenbrand

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Practice words: abhorrent, atrophy, encumbrance, futility, grotesque, lucid, paradoxically, quelled, revulsion, unfettered

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 · Preface and Chapters 1–5 · Louie's wild boyhood in California

Section 2 · Chapters 6–11 · Louie joins the Army Air Forces

Section 3 · Chapters 12–17 · Lost at sea on a raft

Section 4 · Chapters 18–25 · Captured and held as a prisoner

Section 5 · Chapters 26–33 · Still a captive under the Bird

Section 6 · Chapters 34–39 and Epilogue · Coming home after the war

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. Most people find the idea of betraying a friend **abhorrent**.

- A. deeply shocking
- B. hard to forgive
- C. utterly disgusting

2. The doctor warned that his injured leg might **atrophy** over time.

- A. stiffen and lock up
- B. waste away or weaken
- C. ache without warning

3. His worn-out boots were an **encumbrance** on the long hike.

- A. a small annoyance
- B. a burden or hindrance
- C. a proud possession

4. After losing every match, the team felt a deep sense of **futility**.

- A. pointlessness
- B. loneliness
- C. exhaustion

5. Visitors stared at the **grotesque** statue near the church entrance.

- A. tall and imposing
- B. ancient and crumbling
- C. shockingly ugly or distorted

6. Despite the late hour, the old professor remained **lucid** throughout the debate.

- A. clear-headed and sharp
- B. tired but still polite
- C. calm and even-tempered

7. She noticed that, **paradoxically**, the more she rested, the more tired she felt.

- A. in a contradictory yet true way
- B. in a strange, puzzling way
- C. in an unexpectedly ironic way

8. Before the battle, the general **quelled** the soldiers' fear.

- A. openly admitted
- B. carefully studied
- C. put down or subdued

9. The smell of the spoiled meat filled her with **revulsion**.

- A. intense disgust
- B. deep sadness
- C. quiet unease

10. With school finally over, the children enjoyed an **unfettered** summer of play.

- A. long and lazy
- B. free and unrestrained
- C. busy and crowded

Reading Helpers

(Not quizzed — helpful for this text.)

sardined together — crammed tightly together, like sardines in a can

leviathan — a gigantic sea creature; here, a great white shark, and later used figuratively for the enormous B-29 bombers

ANSWER KEY

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#	KEY
1	C
2	B
3	B
4	A
5	C
6	A
7	A
8	C
9	A
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 “He could see that Louie had a nasty cut on his finger, near his USC ring, but was otherwise unhurt and lucid.”

As it is used in the passage, the word “lucid” most nearly suggests that Louie was

- A. unharmed by the crash
- B. calm despite the danger
- C. thinking clearly and sharply

2 “Paradoxically, a drink of seawater causes potentially fatal dehydration.”

The author most likely begins the sentence with “Paradoxically” in order to

- A. question whether seawater harms
- B. hint that the claim is unproven
- C. flag a truth that defies logic

3 “Louie knew that they couldn’t survive for long without food, but he quelled the thought.”

It can reasonably be inferred that, in quelling the thought, Louie

- A. pushed a frightening idea aside
- B. chose to ration the chocolate
- C. had not grasped the danger

4 “... the instructor had taught them to think of the mind as a muscle that would atrophy if left idle.”

The author includes the image of the mind as a muscle in order to

- A. warn that an unused mind decays
- B. explain how memories form
- C. praise the value of exercise

5 “As time passed and starvation loomed, this act took on greater and greater importance, and it may have fed Mac’s sense of futility.”

In the passage, Mac is characterized as a man who

- A. feels his efforts are useless
- B. hides his guilt from the others
- C. is fading faster than the others

6 “As they passed the fortnight mark, they began to look grotesque.”

Which statement is best supported by the passage?

- A. their looks were little changed
- B. the men were regaining strength
- C. starvation had ravaged their bodies

7 “To well-fed men on land, the idea of cannibalism has always inspired revulsion.”

According to the passage, well-fed men on land view cannibalism with

- A. guarded curiosity
- B. deep disgust
- C. uneasy acceptance

8 “To eat a human being, even if the person had died naturally, would be abhorrent for him.”

It can reasonably be inferred that Louie would refuse cannibalism because

- A. he expected rescue within days
- B. the very idea repelled him
- C. the others had forbidden it

9 “... his mind was freed of an encumbrance that civilization had imposed on it.”

The information in the excerpt primarily functions to

- A. show a mental burden had lifted
- B. show his thinking had grown dull
- C. explain why he longed for home

10 “In his head, he could roam anywhere, and he found that his mind was quick and clear, his imagination unfettered and supple.”

In context, the word “unfettered” emphasizes how Louie’s imagination

- A. strained against exhaustion
- B. ranged freely without limit
- C. fixed on a single fear

ANSWER KEY

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#	KEY	NOTE
1	C	
2	C	
3	A	Event comprehension.
4	A	
5	A	The distractors are true of Mac too; only the word 'futility' names his sense that effort is useless.
6	C	
7	B	
8	B	Event comprehension.
9	A	
10	B	

Teacher Context: Chapters 12–17

Louie's bomber crashes into the Pacific and three men survive on inflatable rafts, enduring weeks of starvation, sharks, and an enemy strafing before drifting into Japanese-held waters. Part Three closes with their capture.