

## Vocabulary from Animal Farm, Chapters 3-4

20 words

December 20, 2012 By [Vocabulary.com](http://Vocabulary.com) ✓

As you read George Orwell's 1945 allegorical novella, learn these word lists: [Ch's 1-2](#), [Ch's 3-4](#), [Ch's 5-6](#), [Ch's 7-8](#), and [Ch's 9-10](#).

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### 1. **toil**

work hard

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*How they **toiled** and sweated to get the hay in!*

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1.

### 2. **harness**

put a harness

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Boxer and Clover would **harness** themselves to the cutter or the horse-rake (no bits or reins were needed in these days, of course) and tramp steadily round and round the field with a pig walking behind and calling out "Gee up, comrade!" or "Whoa back, comrade!" as the case might be.*

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### 3. **shirk**

avoid (one's assigned duties)

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Nobody stole, nobody grumbled over his rations, the quarreling and biting and jealousy which had been normal features of life in the old days had almost disappeared. Nobody **shirked**—or almost nobody.*

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### 4. **hoist**

raise or haul up with or as if with mechanical help

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*First came the **hoisting** of the flag.*

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### 5. **debate**

discuss the pros and cons of an issue

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Here the work of the coming week was planned out and resolutions were put forward and **debated**.*

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### 6. **resolution**



a formal expression by a meeting; agreed to by a vote

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*It was always the pigs who put forward the **resolutions**. The other animals understood how to vote, but could never think of any **resolutions** of their own.*

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## 7. orchard



garden consisting of a small cultivated wood without undergrowth

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Even when it was resolved—a thing no one could object to in itself—to set aside the small paddock behind the **orchard** as a home of rest for animals who were past work, there was a stormy debate over the correct retiring age for each class of animal.*

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## 8. tame



brought from wildness into a domesticated state

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He formed the Egg Production Committee for the hens, the Clean Tails League for the cows, the Wild Comrades' Re-education Committee (the object of this was to **tame** the rats and rabbits), the Whiter Wool Movement for the sheep, and various others, besides instituting classes in reading and writing.*

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## 9. maxim



a saying that is widely accepted on its own merits

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*After much thought Snowball declared that the Seven Commandments could in effect be reduced to a single **maxim**, namely: "four legs good, two legs bad."*

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## 10. windfall



fruit that has fallen from the tree

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The early apples were now ripening, and the grass of the orchard was littered with **windfalls**.*

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## 11. perpetually



without interruption

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Its owner was a Mr. Frederick, a tough, shrewd man, **perpetually** involved in lawsuits and with a name for driving hard bargains.*

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## 12. starve



die of food deprivation

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The whole thing would be over in a fortnight, they said. They put it about that the animals on the Manor Farm (they insisted on calling it the Manor Farm; they would not tolerate the name "Animal Farm") were perpetually fighting among themselves and were also rapidly **starving** to death.*

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13. **launch**



propel with force

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*As the human beings approached the farm buildings, Snowball **launched** his first attack.*

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14. **calf**



the muscular back part of the shank

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*All the pigeons, to the number of thirty-five, flew to and fro over the men's heads and muted upon them from mid-air; and while the men were dealing with this, the geese, who had been hiding behind the hedge, rushed out and pecked viciously at the **calves** of their legs.*

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15. **retreat**



(military) withdrawal of troops to a more favorable position to escape the enemy's superior forces or after a defeat

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*But once again the men, with their sticks and their hobnailed boots, were too strong for them; and suddenly, at a squeal from Snowball, which was the signal for **retreat**, all the animals turned and fled through the gateway into the yard.*

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16. **ambush**



the act of concealing yourself and lying in wait to attack by surprise

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*As soon as they were well inside the yard, the three horses, the three cows, and the rest of the pigs, who had been lying in **ambush** in the cowshed, suddenly emerged in their rear, cutting them off.*

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17. **stable**



a farm building for housing horses or other livestock

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*His very first blow took a **stable**-lad from Foxwood on the skull and stretched him lifeless in the mud.*

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18. **posthumously**



after death

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*There was also "Animal Hero, Second Class," which was conferred **posthumously** on the dead sheep.*

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19. **tractable**



easily managed (controlled or taught or molded)

**EXAMPLE SENTENCE:**

*Bulls which had always been **tractable** suddenly turned savage, sheep broke down hedges and devoured the clover, cows kicked the pail over, hunters refused their fences and shot their riders on to the other side.*

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20. **impromptu**



**without advance preparation**

**EXAMPLE SENTENCE:**

*An **impromptu** celebration of the victory was held immediately.*

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