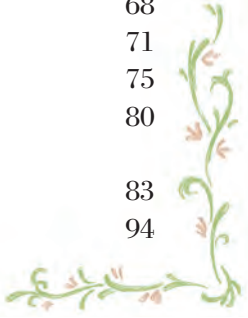




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# IT'S (NOT) ONLY LOVE

Jane Austen is well-known for her portraits of middle-class village life in late eighteenth century England. With her innovative, ironic style she explored the psychology of her characters, mainly simple country people and members of the landed gentry, by describing their everyday lives and focusing on their experiences and how they perceived their lives. The subjects of her stories are often quite similar to each other and are ultimately variations on the same basic plot: courtship and marriage. This has meant that some people have considered the themes of her novels as trivial, especially when compared with those of authors, such as Walter Scott, who lived and wrote at the same time and whose works centred around important historical events. Simple love stories of ordinary people, some critics argue, can not be the basis of great literature.



## HISTORY

The two major historical events of her time, the French Revolution and the Napoleonic Wars, are not mentioned directly in her books. However, two of Austen's brothers served in the Navy and she was very aware of what was happening. Indeed, in *Pride and Prejudice* the presence of the regiment not only meant the arrival of young men in the area, but for readers of her time it was a reminder that soldiers were gathering to defend the town against a possible invasion by the French.

## TIMELESS

Austen's stories, on the other hand, seem timeless, her characters appearing untouched by history. She deliberately chose not to direct her attention to these events, addressing other pressing social issues of her time in her books. One such issue which is often present in Austen's novels was the phenomenon of social mobility, of which Elizabeth's parents' marriage is a classic example. Her treatment of social rank and class reflected the concerns of a society that was changing but still ring true today.

- **concerns:** interests; worries
- **landed gentry:** upper class people who earned money from their land and houses
- **mentioned:** spoken about
- **mobility:** ability to move

- **perceived:** (here) understood
- **pressing:** (here) important at the time
- **rank:** position; class
- **ring true:** are relevant
- **served:** (here) worked (in an armed force)
- **trivial:** unimportant



# PRIDE *and* PREJUDICE

LYDIA  
BENNET

MARY  
BENNET

ELIZABETH  
BENNET

KITTY  
BENNET

JANE  
BENNET





MR DARCY



MR BINGLEY



MR WICKHAM



CAROLINE BINGLEY



MR BENNET *and*  
MRS BENNET



# BEFORE READING

1 What do you know about the novel *Pride and Prejudice*? Tick (✓) true (T) or false (F).

- |  | T                        | F                        |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| a The novel is a romance.                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b The story takes place in Paris.                          | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c It was first published in 1913.                          | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d <i>Pride and Prejudice</i> was the author's first novel. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| e The author was a woman.                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| f The central theme of the novel is love and marriage.     | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

2 These people and things are often found in Jane Austen's novels. Match them to the pictures.

1  vicar

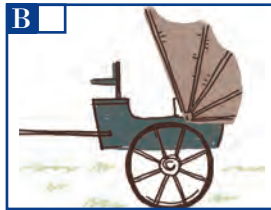
2  housekeeper

3  officer

4  estate

5  ball

6  carriage





### 3 Read the passage then answer the questions.

Mr Darcy was the main topic of conversation. ‘Mrs Long told me that he sat next to her for half an hour without speaking,’ said Mrs Bennet.

‘Miss Bingley told me,’ said Jane, ‘that he never speaks much, unless with his close friends. With them he’s very friendly.’

‘I don’t believe a word of it, my dear. Everybody says he’s very proud,’ said Mrs Bennet.

‘I don’t mind him not talking to Mrs Long,’ said Charlotte, ‘but I mind him not dancing with Elizabeth.’

‘Another time, Lizzy,’ said her mother, ‘don’t dance with him.’

‘I think, I can promise never to dance with him,’ said Elizabeth.

‘His pride,’ said Charlotte Lucas, ‘doesn’t upset me. You can’t blame a wealthy man from a good family for being proud.’

‘That’s very true,’ replied Elizabeth, ‘and I could easily forgive his pride, if he hadn’t insulted mine.’

‘Pride,’ said Mary, ‘is a very common weakness. There are very few of us who don’t feel pride over one thing or another.’


- a When is Mr Darcy friendly?
- b How has Mr Darcy upset Charlotte?
- c What does Charlotte think about Mr Darcy’s pride? Tick (✓).
  - 1  She doesn’t think he has anything to be proud about.
  - 2  She feels he has a right to be proud.
- d What does Elizabeth promise? Do you think she will keep her promise?
- e There are two very different opinions of Mr Darcy in the dialogue. What are they?







## CHAPTER 1

 Everybody knows that a single man with a large fortune• must want a wife.

When he first comes to a neighbourhood, this truth is fixed• in the minds of all the neighbouring families. He will one day belong to one of their daughters.

‘My dear Mr Bennet,’ his wife said one morning, ‘have you heard that Netherfield Park has been rented• at last?’

‘No,’ replied Mr Bennet.

‘Do you not want to know who’s renting it?’ cried his wife.

‘No, but you want to tell me,’ replied Mr Bennet.

‘A rich young man has rented Netherfield.’

‘What’s his name?’

‘Mr Bingley.’

‘Is he married or single?’

‘Single, of course! A single man with a large fortune, an income• of four or five thousand pounds a year. Isn’t that wonderful for our girls?’

‘How can it affect• them?’

‘How can you be so annoying?’ replied his wife. ‘You must know that I’m thinking of him marrying one of them.’

‘Is that the reason he’s coming here?’

‘Of course not. But he might fall in love with one of them, and that is why you must visit him.’

‘I see no reason to do that.’

‘But, my dear, think of your daughters,’ said Mrs Bennet.

- **affect:** change things for; be of consequence to
- **fixed:** (here) set; there forever
- **fortune:** very large sum of money
- **income:** money someone earns regularly
- **rented:** given to someone for a period of time in exchange for money

‘I don’t need to visit. I’ll send him a note telling him he can marry whichever• daughter he chooses.’

‘Mr Bennet, you love teasing• me,’ said his wife.

‘I hope you’ll live to see many rich, young men come into the neighbourhood.’

‘It will be no use to us, if twenty men come, since you won’t visit them.’

‘When there are twenty, I’ll visit them all.’

Mr Bennet had a sense of humour•, which after twenty-three years of marriage, his wife still didn’t understand. She was less difficult to understand. The business of her life was to help her daughters marry.

Mr Bennet was, in fact, one of the first to visit Mr Bingley, and he promised to introduce his wife and daughters to him at the next ball• in two weeks’ time.

## MR AND MRS BENNET

How are they different?

Which of the two characters do you prefer and why?

Do you know anyone who has been married for 23 years?

How do they talk to each other?

- **ball:** (here) big party where people dance
- **sense of humour:** ability to laugh at things and make other people laugh
- **teasing:** making fun of
- **whichever:** any

# AFTER READING VOCABULARY

---

1 Use five of the words in the box to complete the sentences.

anxiety   parting   dined   charming  
lack   glanced   topic   manners

- a During the ball, Mr Darcy was the main ..... of conversation.
- b Darcy left the room with one sad, ..... look.
- c The five sisters had dinner, or ....., at their uncle's house.
- d Every day at Longbourn was now a day of ....., of nervousness, of worry.
- e Miss Bingley said Elizabeth had no ....., no conversation, no style, no beauty.

2  In pairs, create three sentences with the words left out in Exercise 1.

3 Read and correct the following sentences, where adjectives have been used instead of nouns, or nouns instead of adjectives.

Example: Everybody says he's very pride → Everybody says he's very PROUD

- a 'You can't blame a wealth man from a good family for being proud.'
- b 'Tell me the true. Did you admire me for my impudence?'
- c 'You were serious and silence, and gave me no encouragement.'
- d 'I'm so happy. Such a charm man, so handsome, so tall.'
- e Elizabeth felt very nervous. She was misery till Mr Darcy appeared again.
- f 'You showed me I didn't have the character to make a woman worth of being loved, fall in love with me.'
- g 'I must thank you for your kind to my sister, Lydia.'
- h Elizabeth was now sure that Mr Darcy was responsible for Mr Wickham's absent.

## **P** B1 Preliminary English Test Reading Part 5

### **1** Complete the sentences below by choosing the correct answer.

- 1 'People who never change their opinion must be very sure of judging properly in the ..... place.'  
A same      B right      C first      D proper
- 2 'No, my dear, you should go on horseback, because it ..... rain.'  
A might      B will      C can      D must
- 3 'Jane's caught a terrible cold. I must go there ..... once.'  
A only      B just      C for      D at
- 4 Elizabeth was ..... astonished she couldn't speak.  
A not      B such      C so      D just
- 5 'How ..... has Mr Darcy been at Netherfield?' he asked.  
A often      B long ago      C far      D long
- 6 'I love him. He isn't ..... proud. In fact, he's very kind.'  
A very      B exactly      C only      D really
- 7 'I know he can be very charming so I don't blame you for believing him. You ..... know his true character.'  
A shouldn't      B couldn't      C mustn't      D can't
- 8 'I've never heard an angry word from him and I've known him ..... since he was four years old.'  
A from      B already      C ever      D even
- 9 'Although Mr Darcy dislikes dancing, he can't have any objection to ..... with you.'  
A dancing      B dance      C danced      D dances
- 10 'How can I be happy, marrying a man ..... sisters and friends all want him to marry somebody else?'  
A whom      B that      C who      D whose