

Jane Austen

Pride AND PREJUDICE



Pride
AND



When the attractive Mr. Darcy arrives at Netherfield Hall, bringing with him, Mrs Bennet is overjoyed.

However, things don't go as smoothly as she hoped: Mr Bingley abandons Jane and Mr Darcy clearly has no interest in Elizabeth, who dares to refuse Mr Collins's proposal of marriage...

- Accessible adaptation at intermediate level
- Wide range of activities on grammar, vocabulary, listening and speaking
- FCE-style exercises
- Trinity-style exercises (Grade 8)
- Internet Project
- Background information on Jane Austen, the role of women in the Regency Period and the Romantic Movement
- Exit test with answer key
- Recording of parts of the text



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intermediate

Exam: FCE (B2)

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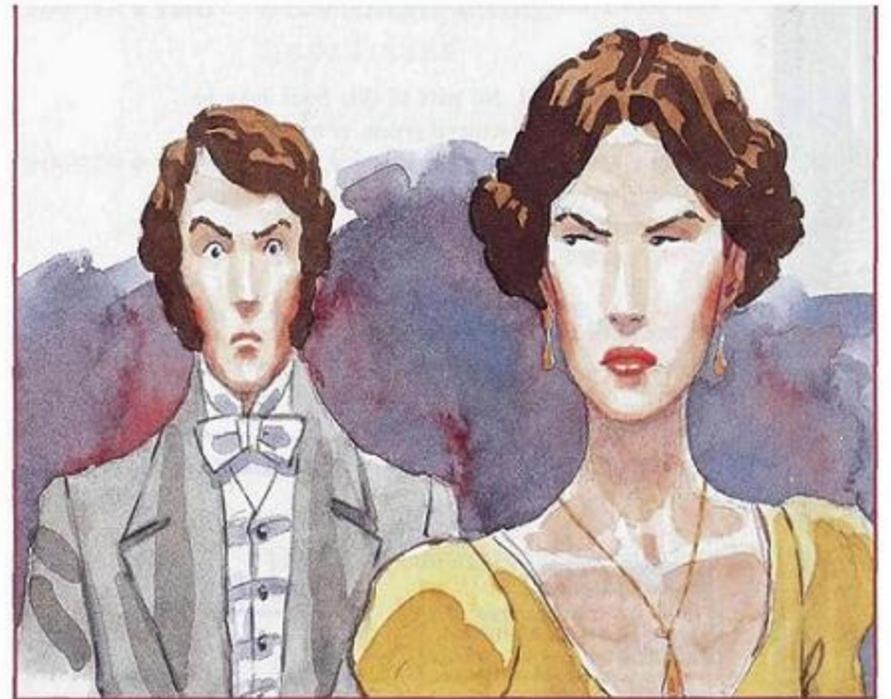
Jane Austen
PRIDE AND PREJUDICE
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L Langenscheidt
English Language Teaching

Jane Austen

Pride AND *PREJUDICE*



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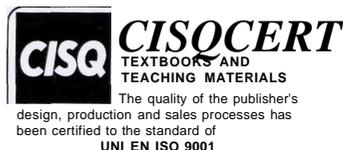
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First Certificate in English Examination-style exercises



Trinity-style exercises (Grade 8)

Chapters 1, 3, 5, 8, 10 and 11 are recorded on the accompanying CD.



These symbols indicate the chapters recorded and the beginning and end of the extracts linked to the listening activities.

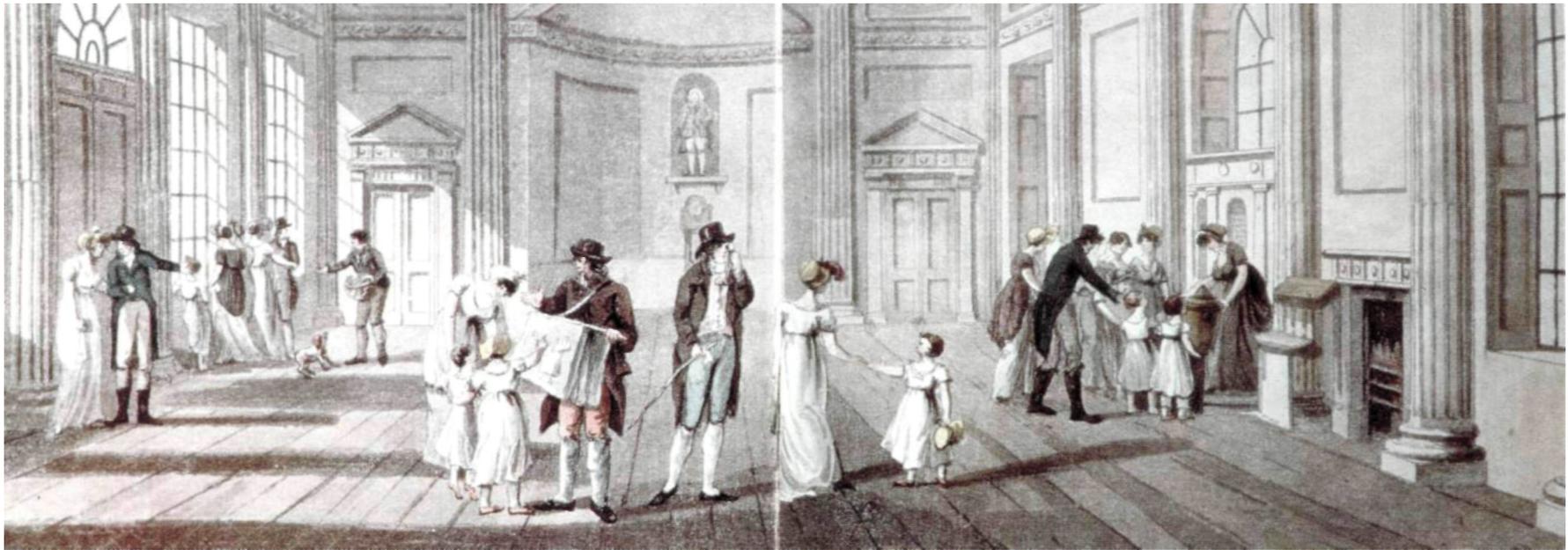


Portrait of Jane Austen (c. 1790).

INTRODUCTION

Jane Austen was born in 1775 at the parsonage of Steventon, a small town in Hampshire. Her father was rector¹ there. When he retired the family moved to Bath, a famous holiday resort on the sea, and after his death to a town called Chawton. Although her family was upper class they were not very rich. She was the last of seven children and her older sister Cassandra was her lifelong friend and confidante.

1. rector : Anglican priest.



The Pump Room, Bath (19th century) by John Claude Nattes.

Jane Austen carefully learned the social map of Bath. She followed the season around the Upper Assembly Room and the Pump Room and recognised her own role in the marriage market.

Jane Austen lived a quiet life, much like that described in her novels; except for the four years spent in Bath and Southampton and rare visits to London she lived entirely in the country. She and her family visited friends, went to parties, danced and loved reading. Jane began to write to amuse her family. *Pride and Prejudice* was based on an early novel called *First Impressions* which hadn't been published. The author rewrote it and published it anonymously in 1813 under its new title, and the Prince Regent sent her a message expressing his admiration for the novel. Altogether, four of Jane Austen's novels were published in her lifetime: *Sense and Sensibility* (1811), *Pride and Prejudice* (1813), *Mansfield Park* (1814) and *Emma* (1816). Two

other novels, *Northanger Abbey* and *Persuasion* were published posthumously. She was working on another when she died suddenly at the age of 42. She is buried in Winchester Cathedral.

1 Answer the following questions.

- a. When was Jane Austen born?
- b. Where did the Austen family live?
- c. What did Jane Austen's father do for a living?
- d. What social class did the Austens belong to?
- e. Why did Jane Austen start writing?
- f. What did the Austens do to amuse themselves?
- g. What was the original title of *Pride and Prejudice*?
- h. What are the names of Jane Austen's other novels?
- i. How old was Jane Austen when she died?



Pemberley



Longbourn

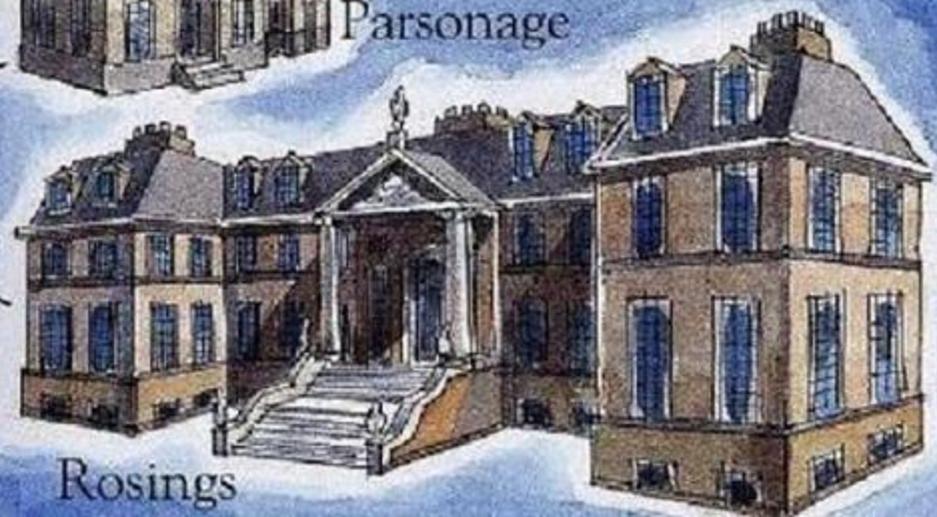


Netherfield

Parsonage



Rosings



Before you read



1 Listen to the beginning of Chapter One and complete the sentences with a word or a phrase.

- When a rich, single man enters a neighbourhood, all the families consider him the 1.....of their daughters.
- Netherfield Park has been taken by a man named Bingley who is from 2.....
- Mr Bingley's servants will be in Netherfield Park by the end of 3.....
- Mr and Mrs Bennet have 4.....daughters.
- Mrs Bennet thinks that it is very probable that Mr Bingley will 5.....with one of her daughters.
- It will be impossible for Mrs Bennet and her daughters to visit Mr Bingley if Mr Bennet does not 6.....him first.
- Mr Bennet says he will write Mr Bingley a letter giving him permission to 7.....
- Mr Bennet prefers Lizzy because she is more 8.....than her sisters.
- Mr Bennet wanted his family to be 9.....when they heard that he was one of the first to visit Mr Bingley.



CHAPTER • ONE

A Newcomer at Netherfield

Everyone knows that a single man with a fortune must want a wife. His feelings may be unknown, but when such a man first enters a neighbourhood,¹ all the families there immediately consider him the property of one of their daughters.

'My dear Mr Bennet,' said his lady one day, 'have you heard that Netherfield Park is let² at last ?'

Mr Bennet answered that he had not.

'But it is,' she said. 'Mrs Long has just been there and she told me all about it.' Mr Bennet didn't answer.

1. neighbourhood : area, district in a town or village.

2. let : rented.

Pride AND PREJUDICE

'Do you not want to know who has taken it?' cried his wife.

'You want to tell me, and I have no objection to hearing it.'

This was invitation enough.

'Why, my dear, you must know that Mrs Long says that Netherfield is taken by a rich young man from the north of England; that he came down on Monday to see the place, and was so happy with it he agreed to take it. His servants will be in the house by the end of next week.'

'What is his name?'

'Bingley.'

'Is he married or single?'

'Oh! single, my dear! A single man of large fortune. What a good thing for our girls!'

'How so?'

'My dear Mr Bennet,' answered his wife, 'you must know that I am thinking of his marrying one of them.'

'Is that why he is coming here?'

'Nonsense! But it is very probable that he will fall in love with one of them so you must visit him as soon as he comes.'

'Why me? You and the girls can go, or you can send them alone, which will be even better. You are as handsome as any of them. Mr Bingley might like you best.'

'My dear, you flatter¹ me. When a woman has five daughters she ought to stop thinking of her own beauty. But you must go and see Mr Bingley when he comes.'

'I cannot promise that.'

'But think of your daughters. Think of Jane and Elizabeth. Think of Mary, Catherine and Lydia. Think what a fortune it

1. **flatter** : compliment.

A Newcomer at Netherfield

would be for one of them. That is why Sir William and Lady Lucas are going. You must go, for it will be impossible for us to visit him if you do not.'

'I am sure Mr Bingley will be very glad to see you, and I will write to give him my permission to marry one of the girls, though I must say a good word for my little Lizzy.'

'I desire you will do no such thing. Lizzy is no better than the others. She is not half as handsome as Jane nor half as good-humoured as Lydia, but you always prefer *her*.'

'They are all silly like other girls, but Lizzy is more intelligent than her sisters.'

'Mr Bennet, how can you speak so of your own children? You have no compassion on my poor nerves.'

'You mistake me, my dear. I have a high respect for your nerves. They are my old friends. You have mentioned them with feeling for twenty years at least.'

'Ah! You do not know what I suffer.'

'I hope you will get over it and see many rich young men come into the neighbourhood.'

'It will be no use since you will not visit them.'

'My dear, when there are twenty, I will visit them all.'

Mr Bennet was one of the first to visit Mr Bingley as he had always planned. The surprise of his family when they heard was just what he had wanted.

Not all the questions that Mrs Bennet and her five daughters asked could get a description of Mr Bingley from her husband. They had to hear the news from their neighbour Lady Lucas. Her report was very favourable. He was young, handsome, friendly, and best of all he was coming to the next ball with a party of

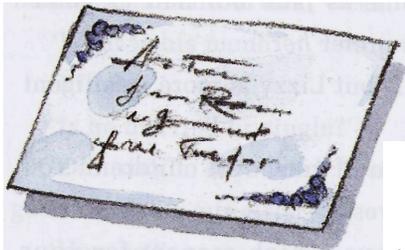


Pride -AND- PREJUDICE

friends. Nothing could be better! To like dancing was a certain step to falling in love.

'If one of my daughters settles at Netherfield,' said Mrs Bennet to her husband, 'and the others are equally well married, I shall have no more to wish for.'

A few days later Mr Bingley returned Mr Bennet's visit. He had hoped to meet the young ladies, but he saw only Mr Bennet.



An invitation to dinner was sent, but an answer soon arrived that Mr Bingley had to go to town the next day. He was to return for the ball with his two sisters, the husband of the oldest, and another young man.

At the ball they discovered that Mr Bingley was a handsome gentleman with a simple, friendly manner and his sisters were elegant women. Mr Hurst, his brother-in-law, was just a gentleman, but his friend Mr Darcy was a tall, handsome man with a noble appearance. A report soon went round that he had a very large fortune. Everyone looked at him with great admiration for half the evening until he disgusted them all with his proud, unfriendly manners. Not all his large estate in Derbyshire could save him then. He could not be compared with his friend.

Mr Bingley soon met most of the people in the room. He was lively and unreserved, danced every dance, and talked about giving a ball at Netherfield. Mr Darcy danced once with Mrs Hurst and once with Miss Bingley, refused to meet other ladies and spoke only to his friends all evening. He was the proudest, most disagreeable man in the world, and everybody hoped he would

A Newcomer at Netherfield



never come back. Mrs Bennet was particularly angry with him for offending one of her daughters.

Because there were few gentlemen, Elizabeth Bennet had been obliged to sit down for two dances. She had overheard a conversation between Mr Bingley and his friend.

'Come, Darcy,' said he, 'you must dance.'

'Certainly not. You know how much I despise¹ it when I do not know my partner. Your sisters are not free and you are dancing with the only handsome girl here.' Mr Darcy looked at Jane Bennet.

'Jane is the most beautiful girl I ever saw, but one of her sisters is very pretty. I can ask my partner to introduce you.'



1. despise : dislike.

Pride AND PREJUDICE

'Which one?' Darcy turned around and looked at Elizabeth.

'She is tolerable, but not handsome enough for me.'

When Darcy walked off, Elizabeth told her friends the story. She had a playful character and enjoyed anything ridiculous.

Later, when the sisters were alone, Jane told Elizabeth how much she liked Mr Bingley.

'He is just what a young man should be,' she said. 'Intelligent, agreeable, lively. I never saw such a happy manner.'

'He is also handsome,' said Elizabeth, 'which a young man should be if he possibly can.'

'I was surprised that he asked me to dance twice. I did not expect such a compliment.'

'I did for you. It was natural. You were five times as pretty as every other woman in the room.'

'Dear Lizzy!'

'You know you like people in general too much. You never see a fault in anyone. And so, do you like this man's sisters too?'

'They are friendly women when you speak to them. I think they will be good neighbours.'

Elizabeth was not convinced. The Bingleys were from a good family. The sisters were handsome and well educated, but proud and conceited.¹ They liked to think well of themselves and badly of others.

1. **conceited:** arrogant, self-important.

1 Answer the following questions.

- a. Why does Mr Bennet not tell his family that he intends to visit Mr Bingley?
- b. What is Mrs Bennet's main concern?
- c. What is Mr Bingley like?
- d. Who does Mr Bingley return for the ball with?
- e. What social class do they belong to?
- f. What does Mr Darcy look like? What is the initial opinion about him?
- g. Why do people change their minds about him?
- h. What is Mr Darcy's opinion of Elizabeth Bennet?
- i. What does Elizabeth think of the Bingley sisters?



2 Complete the second sentence so it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. Do not change the word given. You must use between two and five words, including the word given.

1. His feelings may be unknown.
what
Perhaps nobody.....are.
2. Mr Bennet answered that he had not.
not
'I.....,' said Mr Bennet.
3. I have no objection to hearing it.
mind
I.....it.
4. Lizzy is more intelligent than her sisters.
not
Her sisters.....Lizzy.
5. Not all the questions that Mrs Bennet asked could get a description of Mr Bingley from her husband.
describe
Her husband.....despite all of Mrs Bennet's questions.

6. He could not be compared with his friend.
between
There was.....his friend.
7. Mr Darcy refused to meet the other ladies.
would
Mr Darcy.....the other ladies.
8. I was surprised that he asked me to dance twice.
expect
I.....to ask me to dance twice.
9. 'I think they will be good neighbours,' said Jane.
she
Jane said that.....good neighbours.

3 Look back at the opening paragraph of Chapter One. Is the tone of the narration serious, dramatic, ironic, didactic or humorous? What other parts of Chapter One have the same tone?

4 A. Find the synonyms of the following words in Chapter One.

- a. unattached.....
- b. possession.....
- c. praise.....
- d. authorisation.....
- e. good.....
- f. natural.....
- g. aristocratic.....
- h. rude.....
- i. beautiful.....
- j. defect.....

B. Now use some of the words to fill in the gaps in the following sentences.

- a. Mrs Bennet considers Mr Bingley as the.....of one of her daughters.
- b. Mr Bennet says that he'll write to Bingley giving him.....to marry one of his daughters.
- c. Lady Lucas's report of Bingley is very.....
- d. Mr Bingley is rich, and most importantly.....
- e. Jane Bennet is a.....young woman.
- f. Jane never sees a.....in anyone.

Fill in the gaps to complete a summary of Chapter One.

When Mrs Bennet **1**.....that Netherfield Hall is **2**.....to a young, single man with a large **3**.....she is determined that one of her **4**.....will marry him.

Soon they meet Mr Bingley at a ball to which he comes with his two **5**....., his brother-in-law and a friend, Mr **6**.....At first everyone admires Mr Darcy but soon his proud, unfriendly **7**.....disgust everyone. He also offends Elizabeth who overhears him saying to Bingley that he will not **8**.....with her as she is not **9**.....enough for him.



CHAPTER • TWO

A Violent Cold

Near Longbourn, the Bennets' house, there lived a family they were particularly intimate with: Sir William, Lady Lucas and their children, Charlotte and Maria. Charlotte, the eldest, an intelligent young woman of about twenty-seven, was Elizabeth's friend. The morning after the ball the Lucases visited.

'You began the evening well, Charlotte,' said Mrs Bennet. 'You were Mr Bingley's first choice.'

'He liked his second better.'

'Oh! You mean Jane, because he danced with her twice?'

'When he was asked which woman he thought the prettiest he immediately answered - Oh! The eldest Miss Bennet of course.'

'Well that was very decided, but you never know how things end.'

'I overheard better things than you, Eliza,' said Charlotte. 'Mr

A Violent Cold

Darcy is less gallant than his friend. Poor Eliza! - to be only tolerable.'

'He is a disagreeable man. Mrs Long told me last night that he sat near her for half an hour without speaking once,' said Mrs Bennet.

'Miss Bingley told me that he never speaks much unless among friends,' said Jane. 'With them he is quite agreeable.'

'I do not mind his not talking to Mrs Long,' said Miss Lucas, 'but I wish he had danced with Eliza.'

'Another time, Lizzy,' said her mother, 'I would not dance with him.'

'I think I can promise you never to dance with him.'

'His pride,' said Miss Lucas, 'does not offend me so much, because there is an excuse for it. It is natural that a fine young man with family, fortune, everything in his favour will be proud.'

'That is very true,' said Elizabeth, 'and I could forgive his pride, if he had not mortified mine.'

The ladies of Longbourn and Netherfield soon visited each other. Mrs Hurst and Miss Bingley liked Jane's pleasing manners. They considered her mother insupportable and the younger sisters uninteresting, but wished to see the two oldest again. Jane was pleased to have this attention, but Elizabeth could not like them. It was evident to all that Mr Bingley admired Jane. To Elizabeth it was also evident that Jane was falling very much in love.

Elizabeth did not suspect that Mr Darcy was interested in her. At the ball he had not admired her. He had criticised her to his friends, but later discovered the beautiful expression of her dark eyes. He saw that her figure was light and pleasing and her manners playful. He began to want to know her better.

PREJUDICE

One evening, at a party held at his house, Sir William Lucas was speaking to Darcy when he saw Elizabeth. Gallantly he said to her,

'My dear Miss Eliza, why are you not dancing? - Mr Darcy, you must permit me to present this young lady to you as a partner.' He took her hand to give to Mr Darcy who looked surprised, but happy to take it, when she said to Sir William,

'Sir, I have no intention of dancing. Please do not believe that I came here for a partner.'

Mr Darcy asked her to dance in vain. Elizabeth was determined. She left and he was thinking about her when Miss Bingley spoke to him.

'I can tell the subject of your thoughts.'

'I imagine not.'

'You are thinking how insupportable it is to spend evenings in this manner - in such a society, and I am of your opinion. The insipidity of all these people!'

'You are wrong. My mind was more agreeably occupied. I was thinking of the great pleasure a pair of fine eyes in the face of a pretty woman can give.'

Miss Bingley immediately asked which lady he was speaking about.

'Miss Elizabeth Bennet.'

'Miss Elizabeth Bennet!' repeated Miss Bingley. 'I am surprised. How long has she been such a favourite? And when can I wish you joy?'¹

'I knew you would ask that. A lady's imagination is very rapid. It jumps from admiration to love, from love to matrimony in a

1. **wish you joy** : congratulate you on your marriage.

moment. I knew you would wish me joy.'

'You are so serious, I consider the matter certain. You will have a charming mother-in-law. Of course she will live at Pemberley with you.'

Mr Bennet's property consisted of little more than his estate.¹ Unfortunately for his daughters, as there was no male heir, a distant relative would get this when their father died. Mr Bennet was a gentleman, but he had married an uneducated woman from a much simpler family. Mrs Bennet's fortune was not very large either. Her father had been in business in Meryton. She had a sister married to a Mr Philips who now worked in her father's business, and a brother in London.



1. **estate**: area of land.

Pride AND PREJUDICE

Longbourn was only one mile from Meryton. Three or four times a week the young ladies went there to visit their aunt and go shopping. Catherine and Lydia went most frequently. An army regiment had recently arrived for the winter and the girls were delighted. Mr Philips visited the officers and soon the girls got to know them too. From then on, they could talk of nothing but officers.

One morning they were doing so when a note came for Jane from Miss Bingley, inviting her to Netherfield.

'Can I have the carriage?'¹ said Jane.

'No, my dear. Take your horse. I think it will rain and then you must stay all night,' her mother said.

Her hopes were answered. Soon after Jane left it began to rain hard. Her mother was delighted. It rained all evening without stopping. Jane certainly could not come back. After breakfast a servant from Netherfield brought a note for Elizabeth. Jane wrote that she was not very well because she had got wet in the rain, but that her friends had called the doctor to visit her.

'Well, my dear,' said Mr Bennet when Elizabeth read the note, 'if your daughter dies, it will be a comfort to know that it is all in pursuit of Mr Bingley and under your orders.'

'Oh! People do not die of little colds. If she stays there it is all very well.'

Elizabeth was not satisfied and determined to go to her.

'The distance is nothing,' she said, 'only three miles. I shall be back by dinner.'

When she arrived at Netherfield everybody but Jane was in the



1. **carriage** : a vehicle with four wheels which is usually pulled by horses.

PREJUDICE

breakfast parlour,¹ They were very surprised to see her and to hear that she had walked in the bad weather alone. Mrs Hurst and Miss Bingley clearly disapproved, although they were polite. When Elizabeth heard that Jane was still not well she went to her immediately. Jane was delighted, but could not speak much.

After breakfast the sisters came in. Elizabeth began to like them when she saw how kind they were to Jane.

The doctor visited and said that Jane had caught a violent cold and must stay in bed. Elizabeth did not leave her room for a moment, until at three o'clock, she unwillingly² said she had to go. Jane was so unhappy to see her sister depart that Miss Bingley had to invite her to stay at Netherfield.

When Elizabeth came to dinner she had to answer Mr Bingley's questions about Jane unfavourably. The sisters said three or four times how shocking it was to have a bad cold and then thought no more about the matter. Only their brother was clearly anxious about Jane.

When dinner was over Elizabeth returned to Jane. Miss Bingley began abusing³ her as soon as she left the room. She said that her manners were a mixture of pride and impertinence; she had no conversation, no style, no beauty. Mrs Hurst agreed and added,

T shall never forget her appearance this morning. She looked almost wild.'

T thought Miss Elizabeth Bennet looked very well when she came into the room this morning,' said Bingley.

1. **parlour** : (here) room.
2. **unwillingly** : reluctantly; without wanting to.
3. **abusing** : speaking critically about.



'To walk three or four miles in the dirt and alone, quite alone! It shows a country town indifference to propriety.'¹

'It shows an affection for her sister that is very pleasing.'

'I am afraid, Mr Darcy,' said Miss Bingley very quietly, 'that after this you have stopped admiring her fine eyes.'

'Not at all,' he answered, 'they were brilliant with exercise.'

'I like Miss Jane Bennet very much,' said Mrs Hurst. 'She is a sweet girl and I wish she were well married. But with such a father and mother, and such low connections,² I think there is no chance of it.'

Miss Bingley agreed with her and the sisters spent some time ridiculing their friend's vulgar relations until Bingley said that their relatives did not make the Bennet sisters less agreeable.

'But it must very greatly lessen³ their chances of marrying men of any importance in the world,' answered Darcy.

The ladies went to sit with Jane until coffee. She was still not well and Elizabeth would not leave her until she fell asleep. Late in the evening she went down to say that Jane was worse. Although Bingley wanted to call the doctor immediately, they decided to wait until the morning.

1. **propriety** : socially acceptable behaviour.
2. **low connections** : relatives from a lower social class.
3. **lessen** : reduce.

FCE 1 Choose the correct answer A, B, C or D.

1. Sir William and Lady Lucas have got
 - A [] two daughters.
 - B [] three daughters.
 - C [] five daughters.
 - D [] a son and a daughter.
2. Mr Bingley's first choice at the ball was
 - A [] Charlotte.
 - B [] Lydia.
 - C [] Jane.
 - D [] Elizabeth.
3. Mr Bingley's sisters like
 - A [] only the younger Bennet sisters.
 - B [] all the Bennet sisters.
 - C [] just Elizabeth.
 - D [] only the two eldest Bennet sisters.
4. Mr Darcy began to admire Elizabeth because
 - A [] she showed interest in him.
 - B [] he was offended by her.
 - C [] she is a good dancer.
 - D [] she has a good figure and beautiful eyes.
5. When Mr Bennet dies
 - A [] his daughters will inherit his estate.
 - B [] Mrs Bennet will inherit his estate.
 - C [] a relative will inherit his estate.
 - D [] Elizabeth alone will inherit his estate.
6. Catherine and Lydia were happier than usual to go to Meryton because
 - A [] a regiment had just arrived.
 - B [] they wanted to go shopping.
 - C [] they wanted to visit their aunt.
 - D [] they thought the town was beautiful that time of the year.

7. Mrs Bennet did not want Jane to take the carriage to Netherfield because
 - A [] it was too far a journey and it was about to rain.
 - B [] she wanted her to take the horse so that she would have to spend the night if it rained.
 - C [] she wanted her to take the horse so that she could return more quickly if it rained.
 - D [] she wanted her to take the horse so that the Bingleys would see how well she rode.
8. Elizabeth went to Netherfield because
 - A [] she liked the Bingley sisters' company.
 - B [] she wanted to see Mr Darcy.
 - C [] she wanted to make sure that Jane acted properly.
 - D [] she wanted to look after her sister.

2 Answer the following questions.

- a. Why does Mr Darcy's pride bother Elizabeth?

- b. What is not good about the Bennet sisters' financial situation?

- c. What is not good about the Bennet sisters' social position?

- d. How does Elizabeth show Mr Darcy that she has her own pride?

- e. What is Miss Bingley's real meaning when she says to Mr Darcy, 'You will have a charming mother-in-law. Of course she will live at Pemberley with you'?

Grammar

Reported speech

We use reported speech when we want to say what somebody else said.

Look at the changes in the following sentences.

Direct speech

- 'I am from London,' the woman said.
- 'I have never seen such a beautiful woman,' said Mr Darcy.
- 'I always ride my horse,' said Jane.
- 'I can come to your house this evening,' said Mr Darcy.
- 'He is going to ask her this morning,' said Mrs Bennet.
- 'I will bring you the letter tomorrow,' said Elizabeth.
- 'We visited Bath two years ago,' said Jane.

Reported speech

- The woman said that **she was** from London.
- Mr Darcy said that **he had never seen** such a beautiful woman.
- Jane said that **she** always **rode her** horse.
- Mr Darcy said that **he could** come to **their house that** evening.
- Mrs Bennet said that he **was** going to ask her **that** morning.
- Elizabeth said that she **would** bring **her** the letter **the next day**.
- Jane said that **they had visited** Bath two years **earlier**.

3 Turn the following direct statements into reported speech.

- a. 'She told me all about it,' said Mrs Bennet.
.....
- b. 'You want to tell me,' said Mr Bennet.
.....

- c. 'I will write to him to give him my permission to marry one of the girls,' said Mr Bennet.
.....
- d. 'Your sisters are not free and you are dancing with the only handsome girl here,' said Mr Darcy to Mr Bingley.
.....
- e. 'I did not expect such a compliment,' said Jane.
.....
- f. 'I think I can promise you never to dance with him,' said Elizabeth to her mother.
.....
- g. 'I am going to talk with him about this tomorrow,' she said.
.....

Turn the following reported statements into direct speech.

- a. He said that his brother would arrive later that evening.
.....
- b. She said that she had never been to northern England.
.....
- c. They said that they always walked to town when the weather was nice.
.....
- d. Mr Bennet said that he was going to call on Mr Bingley the next day.
.....
- e. Elizabeth said that her sister was still rather ill.
.....
- f. He said that he had seen his brother two months earlier.
.....

5 Read the last part of Chapter Two again and fill in the table.

1. what the Bingley sisters say at out Elizabeth's:	
a. manners	
b. conversation	
c. style	
d. beauty	
e. appearance	
f. propriety	
2. what Charles Bingley said about Elizabeth	
3. Darcy's remarks about Elizabeth's eyes	

6 Look back over the two chapters you have read and then complete the chart on the differing opinions about Elizabeth Bennet.

	Their opinion of Elizabeth
Mr Bennet	
Mrs Bennet	
Mr Bingley	
Mr Darcy	
Mr Bingley's sisters	

- What is your opinion of Elizabeth?
- Do you think that the ladies at Netherfield really think that Elizabeth has no charm or appeal?

Before you read

**1** Listen to the beginning of Chapter Three and choose the correct answer A, B or C.

- Mrs Bennet arrived at Netherfield
 - just before dinner.
 - early in the evening.
 - after breakfast.
- Mrs Bennet said that Jane should not be moved because
 - she was still ill.
 - she should rest a bit, even though she was better.
 - it seemed as if it was going to rain again.
- While Elizabeth was downstairs she noticed that Mr Darcy
 - kept looking at her.
 - kept avoiding her.
 - kept looking at Miss Bingley.
- Elizabeth did not answer Mr Darcy's question because
 - she thought he was being rude.
 - she did not know what to answer him.
 - she was too embarrassed.
- Darcy thought that he would have fallen in love with Elizabeth
 - if her connections had not been so inferior.
 - if she had been more attractive.
 - if she had been less impertinent.
- Miss Bingley was anxious for Jane to leave because
 - she did not want her brother to fall in love with her.
 - she wanted Elizabeth to leave.
 - she did not like her company very much.



CHAPTER • THREE

Mr Collins Pays a Visit

Elizabeth spent most of the night in her sister's room. In the morning Jane was better. She sent a note to her mother asking her to visit and decide what to do. Mrs Bennet and her two youngest daughters arrived at Netherfield after breakfast.

Although she was satisfied that Jane was in no danger, Mrs Bennet did not listen to her proposal of going home. The doctor agreed. Miss Bingley then invited the mother and three daughters to the parlour. Bingley met them with hopes that Mrs Bennet had not found Jane worse than expected.

'Indeed I did, Sir,' she answered. 'She is much too ill to be moved. We must depend a little longer on your kindness.'

'You may depend on it, Madam,' said Miss Bingley coldly, 'that Miss Bennet shall receive every possible attention.'

Mr Collins Pays a Visit

Soon afterwards Mrs Bennet asked for her carriage, thanking Mr Bingley again for his kindness. When they had left, Elizabeth went immediately to Jane, leaving the two ladies to ridicule the behaviour of her relatives.

1 The day passed much like the day before. Elizabeth spent the evening downstairs. She could not help noticing how frequently Mr Darcy looked at her. When Miss Bingley played a lively song on the piano he came to Elizabeth and said,

'Do you not want to dance when you hear such music?'

She smiled, but did not answer. He repeated the question.

'I heard you before,' she said, 'but I did not immediately know what to answer. I know you wanted me to say "Yes," to give you the pleasure of ridiculing my taste. So I have decided to tell you that I do not want to dance at all. Now ridicule me if you dare.'¹

'Indeed I do not dare.'

Elizabeth, expecting him to be angry, was surprised at his gallantry, but there was a mixture of impertinence and sweetness in her manner which made it difficult for her to offend anybody.



1. **dare** : have the courage.

PREJUDICE

Darcy had never been as attracted by any woman as he was by her. He thought that only the inferiority of her connections saved him from the danger of falling in love.

2 Miss Bingley saw this. Her anxiety that Jane get better soon came from her wish to see her sister leave. She often tried to make Darcy dislike Elizabeth by planning his happiness in an imagined marriage with her.

'I hope,' she said as they were walking in the garden the next day, 'you will teach your mother-in-law the advantage of silence, and if you can tell the younger girls not to run after the officers...'

At that moment they met Mrs Hurst and Elizabeth.

'I did not know you wanted to walk,' said Miss Bingley, in some embarrassment, fearing she had been overheard.

'Why did you not tell us you were going to the garden?' asked Mrs Hurst, leaving Elizabeth and taking Darcy's free arm. The path was big enough only for three. Mr Darcy felt their rudeness and said,

'Let us move. This path is not wide enough.'

But Elizabeth answered laughingly, 'No, no. You make such a handsome picture; another person would spoil it.'

She ran off, happy in the thought of soon going home. Jane was so much better that she planned to leave her room for a few hours that evening.

3 After dinner, Elizabeth helped her sister down to the drawing-room.¹ Her friends welcomed her warmly. Elizabeth had never seen them so agreeable, but when the gentlemen came in Jane was quickly forgotten. Miss Bingley immediately went to speak to Darcy. He greeted Jane politely, but it was Bingley who was

1. **drawing-room** : the room used for entertaining guests.

happiest to see her. After seeing that she was in no danger of the cold he sat down by her and talked to nobody else.

They decided not to play cards that evening. Darcy and Miss Bingley began to read; Mr Hurst went to sleep and his wife spoke a little to Jane and her brother. Hearing her brother speak to Jane about a ball, Miss Bingley said,

'Charles, are you really thinking of a dance at Netherfield? I am sure there are some of us to whom a ball is no pleasure.'

'Are you speaking of Darcy?' cried her brother. 'He can go to bed before it begins, but the ball is a certain thing.'

Mr Darcy had been speaking to Elizabeth when Caroline Bingley, tired of listening to this conversation in which she had no part, asked Mrs Hurst to play some music. After a minute's thought Darcy was not unhappy for it. He was beginning to feel the danger of giving Elizabeth too much attention. She attracted him more than he liked. It was a good thing that the two sisters were to go home to Longbourn the following day.

4 'I hope, my dear,' said Mr Bennet to his wife the next morning, 'that you have a good dinner today, because I expect somebody to join us.'

'Who do you mean?'

'The person of whom I speak is a gentleman and a stranger.'

The ladies were surprised and questioned him.

'A month ago I received a letter from my cousin Mr Collins, who will come to live in this house when I die.'

In some families it was agreed by law that property could only be left to men. If those families had only daughters, their houses and land would be left to any male relative after the father's death. Mr Collins was Mr Bennet's only male relative.



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'He writes that his father died some time ago and that he wants us to forget the disagreement between our families,' Mr Bennet said. 'He is a man of the Church and has found an important patroness in the Honourable Lady Catherine de Bourgh. He apologises for the injustice done to our daughters because of his getting Longbourn and would like to help them. This is the reason for his visit. We may expect the gentleman at four o'clock.'

5 Mr Collins was a tall, heavy-looking young man of twenty-five. His manners were very formal and he soon complimented Mrs Bennet on having such fine, beautiful daughters. He was sure, he said, that soon she would see them all well married.

'You are very kind, sir, I am sure; and I hope it will be so; or indeed they will be very poor.'

'I know, madam of my dear cousins' misfortune. I could say much on the subject. At present I will not say more. But I can assure the young ladies that I come ready to admire them.'

At dinner, Mr Bennet observed that Mr Collins was very fortunate in his patroness, Lady Catherine de Bourgh. Mr Collins's manner was most serious as he explained that never in his life had he seen such kindness in a great lady. She had already asked him twice to dine at Rosings. She made no objection to his joining in the society of the neighbourhood or to his visiting his relatives. She had even told him to marry as soon as he could, providing he chose the right wife, and had once visited him in his humble house.

'Does she live near you?' asked Mrs Bennet.

'The garden of my humble house is next to Rosings.'

'You said she is a widow, sir. Has she any family?'

'She has only one daughter who, one day, will have Rosings and a great fortune.'

Mr Collins Pays a Visit

'Ah!' cried Mrs Bennet. 'Is she handsome?'

'She is a most charming young lady indeed. I have more than once said to Lady Catherine that her daughter was born to be a duchess. Such little attentions please her ladyship.'

'It is happy for you to possess the talent of flattery,' said Mr Bennet. 'May I ask if you think of these pleasing attentions at the moment, or are they the result of study?'

'I sometimes amuse myself with thinking of such little elegant compliments, but I always wish to give them in as natural a manner as possible.'

Mr Bennet was satisfied. His cousin was as absurd as he had hoped.

Having a good house and a sufficient fortune Mr Collins now intended to marry. His first choice was Jane, but a conversation with Mrs Bennet the next day informed him of her hopes for Jane's marriage. He had only to change from her to Elizabeth.

6 That day Lydia planned to walk to Meryton to ask after a Mr Denny, an officer she was friendly with. All her sisters, with the exception of Mary, and Mr Collins decided to go with her. In pompous nothings on his side and polite answers on that of his cousins, the time passed till they entered Meryton. From then on the younger sisters were busy looking for officers. The attention of every lady was soon attracted by a young stranger of most gentleman-like appearance. He was walking with Mr Denny who introduced him as a Mr Wickham, an officer in his regiment.

7 They were talking together when they saw Darcy and Bingley riding down the street. The two gentlemen came up. Bingley was just going to Longbourn, he told Jane, to ask after her. Suddenly Elizabeth saw Darcy look at the stranger in surprise. Both men changed colour. Mr Wickham touched his hat. In another minute

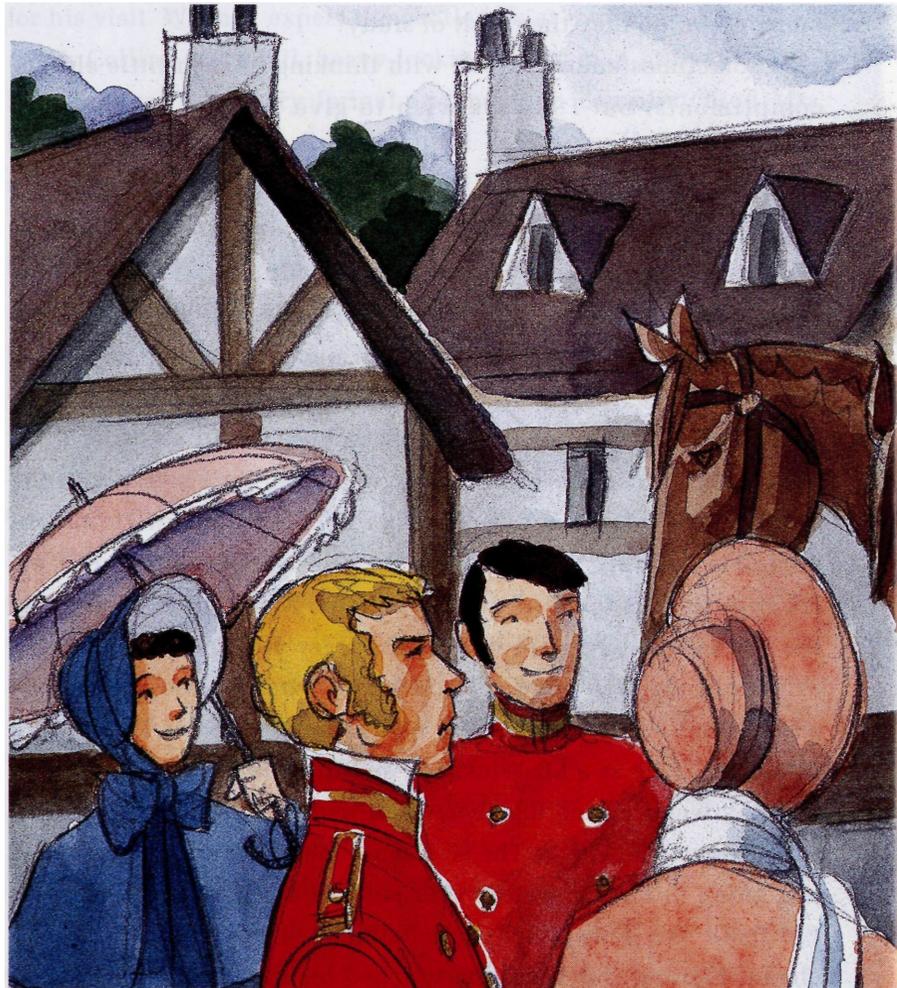


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Bingley took leave ¹ and rode on with his friend. Mr Denny and Mr Wickham walked with the young ladies to Mr Philips's house.

When Jane introduced Mr Collins to her aunt, she received him with her very best politeness. She could not answer her

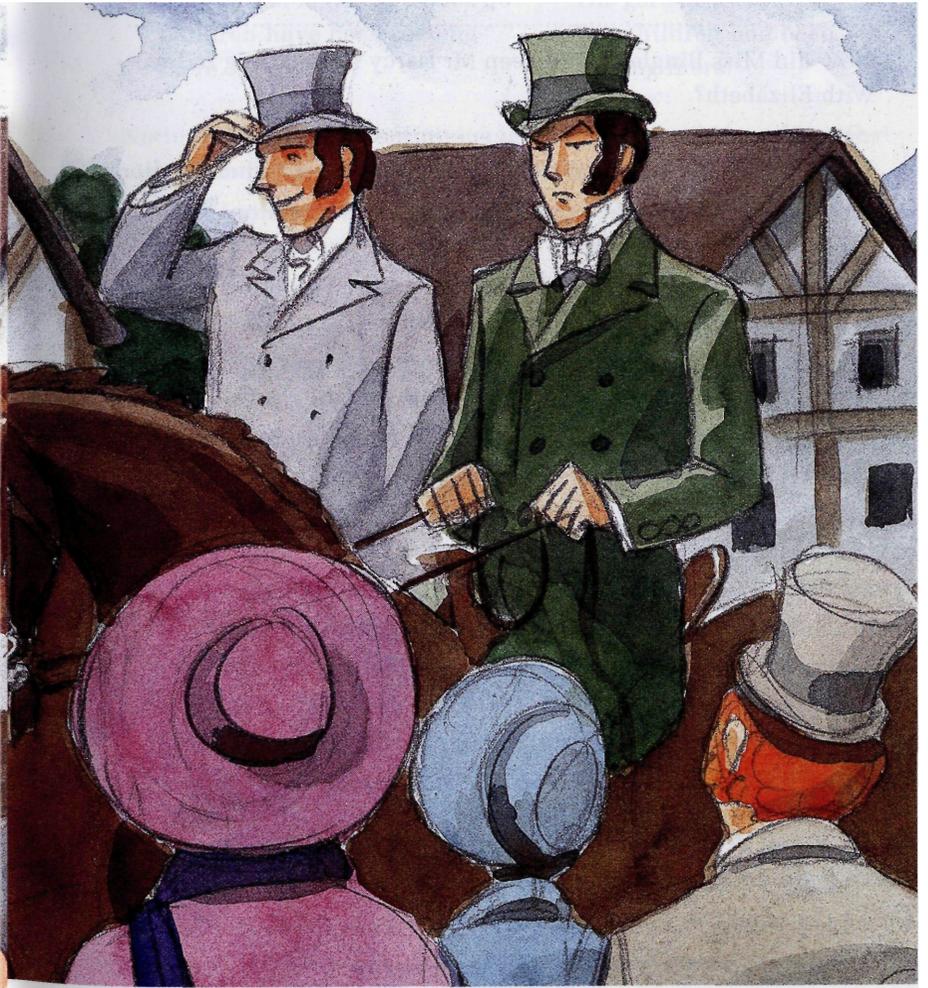
1. took leave : said goodbye.



Mr Collins Pays a Visit

nieces' questions about Mr Wickham, but promised to invite him to dinner with some other officers the next day.

As they walked home, Elizabeth told Jane what she had seen pass between the two gentlemen. Jane was surprised as well.



1 Answer the following questions.

- a. Why did Mrs Bennet say that she found Jane worse than she expected?
.....
- b. Why did Elizabeth think that Mr Darcy asked her about the lively song?
.....
- c. How did Mr Darcy surprise Elizabeth?
.....
- d. How did Miss Bingley try to keep Mr Darcy from falling in love with Elizabeth?
.....
- e. What was going to happen to Mr Bennet's property when he died?
.....
- f. What was Mr Collins like?
.....
- g. Who was Lady de Bourgh?
.....
- h. How did Darcy react when he saw Mr Wickham?
.....

Grammar

The Past Perfect Continuous

The Present Perfect Continuous has two principal uses. It is used to describe a long action in the past that only recently stopped.

- *The grass is wet. It **has been raining**.*
- *Jane is very tired. She **has been writing** all evening.*

It is used to tell the duration of an action that is still going on.

- *I **have been doing** my homework **for** two hours.*
- *They **have been travelling since** this morning.*

The Past Perfect Continuous is the past of the Present Perfect Continuous, and so, the point of reference instead of being the present is some point of time in the past.

Present	Past
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • She has been talking on the phone for an hour. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • She had been talking on the phone for an hour when I got home.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The garden is full of toys. The children have been playing there. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The garden was full of toys. The children had been playing there.

Notice that the Past Continuous is used for describing actions that were still in progress at a point in the past.

- *When I walked into the kitchen I smelled something good. My father **had been cooking**. (He was not cooking when I walked in.)*
- *When I walked into the kitchen I saw my father in front of the stove. He **was cooking**. (He was cooking in that moment.)*

2 Use one of the verbs in the box to complete the sentences using the Past Perfect Continuous. The first one has been done for you.

argue eat clean run drive read study

- a. I saw John sitting on a bench in the park. He was out of breath. He.....*had been running*.....
- b. I.....French for two years before I could have a simple conversation.
- c. When I arrived home I saw my father. He was all dirty but the garage was in perfect order. He.....the garage.
- d. It was nine o'clock and I.....*Pride and Prejudice* for three hours.
- e. When I walked in, my brother and sister had angry looks on their faces. They.....

- f. It was dinner time but the children were not in the least bit hungry. They.....junk food all day long.
- g. I.....down that road for nearly two hours before I realised that I was going in the wrong direction.

3 Put the verbs in brackets in either the Past Perfect Continuous or the Past Continuous according to the context.

- a. The teacher walked into the room. All the students were looking at their books and everybody was quiet. But she could tell from the smiles on their faces that they.....[not/study].
- b. When I arrived home yesterday, my wife.....[stand] in front of the door. She told me that she.....[wait] for me to get home for over an hour.
- c. Yesterday evening I heard a strange sound like a cat screaming coming from across the street. It was my neighbour's son. He.....[practice) the violin.
- d. The detective entered the bedroom. He felt the bed and it was still warm. Somebody.....[sleep] there.
- e. The carriage.....[come] up the drive when I walked out of the door.
- f. When I came into the room, Jack.....[sit] on the sofa. He got up, looked at me and smiled. I knew at once that he.....[talk] to his new girlfriend on the phone.
- g. She walked into the office. Her clothes were all wet. She.....[walk] in the rain without an umbrella.
- h. I.....[listen] to loud music when you knocked at the door. That's why I didn't hear you at first.

Chapter Three has been divided into eight parts. Choose from the list A-I the sentence which best summarises each part (1-7) of the chapter. There is one extra heading which you do not need to use. There is an example at the beginning (0).

- A [] She doesn't trust him; he doesn't trust himself.
- B [] The charm of men in uniform.

- C [] Nobody likes this song.
- D [] But those two must know each other.
- E [] The art of saying the right things to the right people.
- F [] Planning the party.
- G [] She'll be better when I say so.
- H [] A lovely girl... but what about her family?
- I [] A relative who one day will rule.

5 Fill in the following table describing Mr Denny's friend.

appearance	
name	
profession	
how he is looked at by Darcy	
his reaction at seeing Darcy	

6 Why do you think Darcy and Wickham looked so surprised and embarrassed when they met? Suggest reasons for the coldness they show each other.



7 Write a short composition of 120-180 words in which you say whether you think Mrs Bennet was justified in being obsessed with marrying her daughters.

Include some of the following information:

- what Mrs Bennet did so that Jane would spend time with Mr Bingley
- in Jane Austen's time estates passed from male to male
- only women who inherited their husband's estates could own property
- Mr Collins' position with regard to Mr Bennet's estate

You can begin like this:

I think that Mrs Bennet was (was not) justified in doing everything possible to get her daughters *married* because...



CHAPTER • FOUR

The Netherfield Ball

On entering their uncle's drawing-room the next day, the girls heard that Mr Wickham was in the house. When he came in every woman looked at him, but Elizabeth was the one he came to sit by and, as they did not play cards, they soon fell into most agreeable conversation. Mr Wickham did not play. To Elizabeth's surprise he began to talk of Mr Darcy.

'His estate is a noble one. I can give you much information on that, as I have been connected with his family all my life.'

Elizabeth looked at him.

'You may well be surprised, Miss Bennet, after seeing the cold manner of our meeting yesterday. His father, Miss Bennet, was one of the best men that ever lived and my greatest friend, but Mr Darcy's behaviour to me has been most dishonourable.'

Elizabeth listened with great interest.

'I was meant¹ for a life in the Church, but it did not please the gentleman we were speaking of just now.'

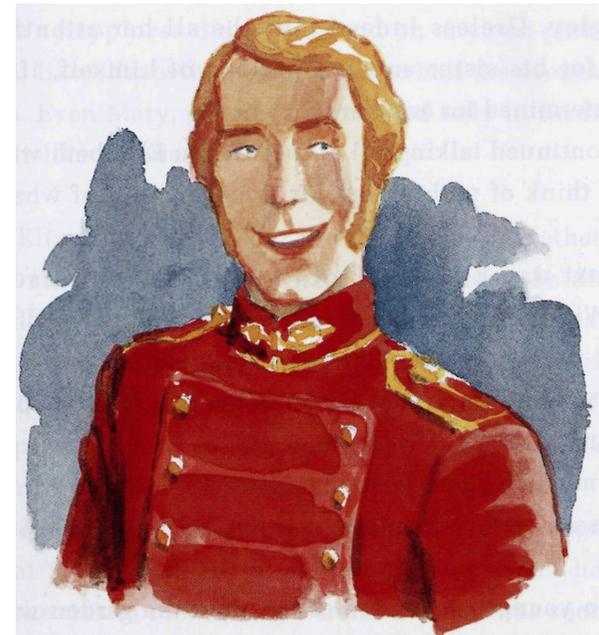
'Indeed!'

'Yes - the late Mr Darcy left me the best living² he had to give, but in the end, it was given to another.'

'No!' cried Elizabeth. 'How could that be?'

'Through Mr Darcy's dislike of me. The late Mr Darcy liked me too much, however, and his son has always hated me for it.'

Soon afterwards the card party finished. Mrs Philips and Mr Collins joined them. Mr Collins had lost, but he assured the others seriously that the money was nothing to him. Thanks to the



1. **I was meant** : I was brought up.

2. **living** : position as a vicar with an income or property.



kindness of Lady Catherine de Bourgh, it was not necessary for him to think of such little matters.

Hearing this, Mr Wickham turned to Elizabeth and asked if her cousin was intimately connected with the family of de Bourgh.

'Lady Catherine de Bourgh has recently given him a living. I do not know how they met, but he has not known her long.'

'You know of course that Lady Catherine de Bourgh and Lady Anne Darcy were sisters. She is aunt to the present Mr Darcy.'

'Indeed I did not know.'

'Her daughter, Miss de Bourgh, will have a very large fortune and people believe that she and her cousin will marry.'

This information made Elizabeth smile as she thought of poor Miss Bingley. Useless indeed must be all her attentions, her affection for his sister and her praise¹ of himself, if he were already determined for another woman.

They continued talking till dinner. When Elizabeth went home she could think of nothing but Mr Wickham and of what he had told her.

The next day Elizabeth told her sister what had passed between Wickham and herself. Jane was surprised and shocked. She could not believe Mr Darcy to be so bad, nor was it in her character to question a young man of such agreeable appearance as Wickham.

'There must be some misunderstanding of which we can have no idea,' said she. 'No man of honour could behave in such a manner.'

The two young ladies were called from the garden where this conversation passed, by the arrival of some of the people of whom

1. **praise** : admiration.

they were speaking. Mr Bingley and his sisters had come to give their personal invitation for the long expected ball at Netherfield. The two sisters were delighted to see their dear friend Jane again. They paid little attention to the others, avoiding Mrs Bennet as much as possible, saying not much to Elizabeth, and nothing to the others. They hurried off so quickly that their brother was taken by surprise.

The thought of the Netherfield ball was agreeable to all the ladies. Mrs Bennet thought it a compliment to her oldest daughter. Jane imagined a happy time in society with her two friends and the attentions of their brother, and Elizabeth thought with pleasure of dancing very much with Mr Wickham. Catherine and Lydia's happiness did not depend on any one person though they both, like Elizabeth, meant to dance half the evening with Mr Wickham. Even Mary, generally interested only in reading, didn't seem to dislike the idea.

Until Elizabeth entered the drawing-room at Netherfield, she had been sure to find Mr Wickham there. When she did not, she suspected that he had not received an invitation because of Mr Darcy. Lydia asked Mr Denny, who told them that Wickham had gone to town on business the day before. Later he told Elizabeth that the presence of a certain gentleman at the ball was the real reason for Mr Wickham's absence.

Elizabeth was sorry not to see Wickham and so disgusted with Darcy that it was difficult to answer politely when he spoke to her. But she was not made for ill-humour¹ and was soon laughing with Charlotte Lucas about the absurdities of Mr Collins. She was

1. **ill-humour** : irritability.

Pride AND PREJUDICE

mortified, however, by having to dance the first two dances with him. He danced badly, looked serious, apologised and did not pay attention.

Elizabeth was in conversation with Charlotte when Mr Darcy suddenly asked for her hand in the next dance. She was so surprised that she accepted. When the music began they stood for some time without speaking. Though first determined not to say a word, she presently thought she could punish her partner more by obliging him to talk. She made some observation on the dance. He answered and was again silent. After some minutes she spoke again.

'Now you must say something, Mr Darcy. I talked about the dance. You should speak about the room or the people.'

He smiled and assured her that he would say what she wished.

'Very well. Now we can be silent.'

'Do you have to talk in a certain manner then, while you are dancing?'

'Sometimes. One must speak a little, you know.'

They were again silent till he asked her if she and her sisters did not very often walk to Meryton.

'Yes,' she answered, and could not help continuing, 'When you met us there the other day we had just met someone new.'

Immediately Darcy looked serious, but said not a word. Elizabeth could not go on. At length¹ he said,

'Mr Wickham is fortunate in such happy manners that he *makes* friends with ease. If they *remain* friends is less certain.'

'He has been so unfortunate as to lose your friendship,'



1. **at length** : after a long time.

Pride
AND
PREJUDICE

The Netherfield Ball



answered Elizabeth warmly, 'and in a manner which may make him suffer all his life.'

Darcy made no answer. At that moment Sir William Lucas appeared near them and, seeing Mr Darcy, stopped to compliment him on his dancing and his partner. He hoped to have the pleasure of other dances soon, especially when a certain desirable event took place, he said, glancing at Jane and Mr Bingley.

Mr Darcy looked at his friend and Jane, who were dancing together, with a very serious expression for some moments until he said,

'Sir William has made me forget what we were talking of.'

'I do not think we were speaking at all. There cannot be any two people in the room with less to say for themselves. We have tried two or three subjects already with few results, and what we can talk of next I cannot imagine.'

Soon after the dance finished Miss Bingley came up to Elizabeth and said, 'So, Miss Eliza, I hear you are delighted with George Wickham! Your sister has been asking me a thousand questions. I hear that the young man forgot to tell you that he was the son of old Mr Darcy's steward.¹ As a friend I must tell you not to believe him. His stories about Mr Darcy are untrue, though George Wickham's behaviour has been shocking. I am sorry Miss Eliza for this discovery of your favourite's true character, but considering that he is not a gentleman, one cannot expect much better.'

'The only thing he has done wrong is to be the son of Mr Darcy's steward,' said Elizabeth angrily, 'and that, I assure you, he told me himself.'

1. **steward** : person employed to manage another's property.

She left to look for Jane, who had promised to ask Bingley about Wickham, but when she found them together Jane looked so happy that she forgot the matter. When she imagined her sister living in that house with Bingley, in a marriage of true affection, she even believed it possible to try and like his sisters.

Unfortunately, when they sat down to dinner, Elizabeth was placed near her mother and Mr Darcy. Clearly Mrs Bennet's thoughts were also on matrimony and she spoke freely to Lady Lucas of nothing else but her expectation that Jane would soon be married to Mr Bingley. Elizabeth saw that Mr Darcy could overhear the conversation and tried to tell her mother, but Mrs Bennet did not tire of talking about the advantages of the marriage. Mr Bingley was such a charming young man, so rich, living so near. His sisters liked Jane so much and wished for the marriage as much as she did. And it was such a good thing for her other daughters. If Jane married so greatly, they would meet other rich men. She finished with many good wishes that Lady Lucas might soon be as fortunate with her daughters.

When at last they got up to go, Mrs Bennet invited the whole family to Longbourn, telling Mr Bingley how happy he would make them by eating a family dinner with them at any time. Bingley promised to visit after a short trip to London he was planning. Mrs Bennet left the house sure that she would see her daughter married at Netherfield in a few months. She was just as sure of having another daughter married to Mr Collins. Elizabeth was the least dear to her of all her daughters, and she thought the man and the marriage quite good enough for her.

1 Decide if the following sentences are true (T) or false (F) and then correct the false ones.

- | | T | F |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| a. Elizabeth goes to sit by Wickham. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b. Wickham was treated badly by Darcy's father. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c. Wickham should have gone into the Church. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d. Mr Collins wins the card game. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| e. Elizabeth is very upset when she learns that Mr Darcy is probably going to marry Miss de Bourgh. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| f. Jane doesn't believe that either Darcy or Wickham could be so bad. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| g. Wickham doesn't go to the ball because Mr Darcy will be there. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| h. Miss Bingley defends Wickham. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| i. Mrs Bennet is sure that Jane and Bingley will be married. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

2 Discuss the following questions.

- a. What is Elizabeth's opinion of Wickham? What is her reaction when he tells her about Mr Darcy's behaviour to him?
- b. Mr Darcy seems particularly serious when Sir Lucas 'glances' at Bingley and Jane dancing together. What do you think he might have been thinking about?
- c. Why was Elizabeth so unhappy about Mr Darcy sitting next to her mother at dinner?



3 Read the summary of Chapters One to Four below. Use the word given in capitals to form a word that fits in the space in the same line. There is an example at the beginning (0).

Mrs Bennet heard that Netherfield Park was let and that a certain Mr Bingley, a young, single man of fortune was coming to live there. This made her very happy because she had five daughters who needed husbands. Mr Bennet went (0)..immediately... to visit Bingley. At the next ball, the Bennet sisters met Mr Bingley, who had come with his two sisters and Mr Darcy, a friend.

Mr Darcy was handsome, noble and with a large fortune. (1)....., he appeared to be very proud and (2).....He was even overheard saying that Elizabeth was not (3).....enough to dance with. Still, it was clear that Jane and Mr Bingley were attracted to each other.

At another party Elizabeth had the (4).....of turning down an (5).....to dance from Mr Darcy. He, however, was not offended and began to admire her beauty and spirit. Mr Bingley's interest in Jane continued, and she was invited to Netherfield. When Jane was about to leave she asked her mother for the carriage but her mother told her to take the horse because it was going to rain. She wanted her daughter to have to stay with the Bingleys. Her plan went well because Jane was indeed caught in the rain and caught a cold. Thus, she had to stay at Netherfield for several days. Elizabeth went to Netherfield to look after her sister. There she once again met Mr Darcy, who continued to pay attention to her. But he was worried about being attracted to a woman with such low (6).....When Jane and Elizabeth returned home, Mr Bennet announced that Mr Collins, who was their cousin, was coming for a visit. It was Mr Collins who would inherit their home. He was a pompous and silly man, who was (7).....proud of his patroness Lady Catherine de Bourgh. He wanted to marry one of the Bennet sisters. His first choice, Jane, was

IMMEDIATE

FORTUNATE

AGREE

BEAUTY

PLEASE

INVITE

CONNECT

EXTREME

already taken, so he decided upon Elizabeth. One day during Mr Collins's visit, the sisters went to Meryton to see an officer by the name of Mr Denny. When they were talking to Mr Denny and his friend, Mr Wickham, Mr Bingley and Mr Darcy appeared. Elizabeth noticed that both Mr Wickham and Mr Darcy changed colour when they saw each other. Later Elizabeth had a chance to talk with Mr Wickham. He explained to her how Mr Darcy had stopped him from having a life in the Church. Elizabeth was shocked by Mr Darcy's horrible (8).....So, when she danced with Darcy at a ball at Netherfield, she made (9).....to the great harm that Darcy had caused Mr Wickham. Mrs Bennet, though, was extremely happy. She felt certain that the (10).....Mr Bingley would marry Jane, and at dinner she talked of nothing else.

BEHAVE

ALLUDE

WEALTH

Grammar

Bored or boring?

Many adjectives have two endings **-ed** or **-ing**.

Look at the examples below.

Jane was **shocked** to hear about Darcy's behaviour.

Darcy's behaviour to Wickham was **shocking**.

Adjective + -ed describes a reaction to someone/something

Adjective + -ing describes the cause of a reaction

4 A Complete the following sentences by choosing the correct adjective.

- The thought of the Netherfield ball was *exciting* / *excited* for everyone.
- Elizabeth was *surprised* / *surprising* when Wickham began talking about Darcy.
- Elizabeth was very *interesting* / *interested* in what Wickham had to say.

- Elizabeth was *amusing* / *amused* when she thought of Miss Bingley.
- It was *embarrassed* / *embarrassing* for Elizabeth to have to listen to her mother at dinner.

B. Now, with a partner try and think of other adjectives which have two endings. Make a list.

Before you read



1 Listen to the beginning of Chapter Five. You will hear about how Mr Collins proposes marriage to Elizabeth. Answer questions one and two by writing T (for true) and F (for false) in the boxes.

- | | T | F |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Mrs Bennet was present when Mr Collins proposed to Elizabeth. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Elizabeth found Mr Collins amusing. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

For questions three and four choose the best answer A, B or C.

- Mr Collins's strong feelings for her made Elizabeth want to
 - run away.
 - scream.
 - laugh.
- Which of the following was NOT one of the reasons that Mr Collins gave for wanting to marry Elizabeth?
 - A man of the Church should marry.
 - He loved her very much.
 - His patroness wanted him to marry.

Answer questions five and six by writing Y (yes) or N (no) in the boxes.

- | | Y | N |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 5. Did Mr Collins decide to marry one of the Bennet sisters because he was going to inherit their father's estate? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. Did Mr Collins believe Elizabeth when she said that she did not want to marry him? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |



CHAPTER • FIVE

Mr Collins Proposes - Twice!

The next day at Longbourn, Mr Collins proposed marriage to Elizabeth. On finding Mrs Bennet and Elizabeth together he asked the mother for her permission to speak to her daughter alone.

Elizabeth was too surprised to answer, but her mother immediately went away.

Elizabeth sat down to listen and tried not to show her feelings which were divided between amusement and dislike.

'Almost as soon as I came into this house,' Mr Collins began, 'I chose you for the partner of my life, but before my feelings get too strong for me I must explain my motives for marrying and for coming here to Longbourn to look for a wife.'

The idea of the serious Mr Collins's strong feelings made Elizabeth so near to laughing that she could not stop him.

Mr Collins Proposes -Twice!

'My motives for marrying are first, that I think it right for every man of the Church. Second, that I am sure it will make me very happy, and third - which perhaps I should have said first, that it was asked of me by the very noble lady whom I have the honour of calling patroness. Let me observe, my dear cousin, that the kindness of Lady Catherine de Bourgh is not the least of the advantages I have to give. It remains to tell why I looked in Longbourn instead of my own neighbourhood where, I assure you, there are many agreeable young women. But as I am to get this estate after the death of your honoured father (who, however, may live many years longer), I could not be happy without deciding to choose a wife from among his daughters, that the loss be as little as possible when the unhappy day comes - which, however, as I have already said, may not be for some years. This has been my motive, my dear cousin, and I flatter myself it will not make you think less kindly of me. And now nothing remains for me but to assure you of the violence of my affections. To fortune I am indifferent. I shall ask nothing of your father and shall, indeed, say nothing ungenerous on that subject when we are married.'

It was necessary to stop him now.

'You move too quickly, Sir,' she cried. 'You forget that I have made no answer. Let me do it without more loss of time. I thank you for the compliment, and feel the honour of your proposals, but I cannot do otherwise than answer no.'

'It is not new to me,' said Mr Collins, 'that young ladies often refuse the proposals of the men they mean to accept.'

'Sir!' cried Elizabeth, 'I do assure you that I am not one of those young ladies. I am serious in my refusal. You could not make me happy, and I am sure that I am the last woman in the world to make you so.' But Mr Collins would not believe her,

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though Elizabeth continued to refuse him.

'You are completely charming!' he cried gallantly. 'I am convinced that when you see my proposals are agreeable to your parents they must be acceptable to you.'

To this Elizabeth could give no answer, and left the room.

END

When Mrs Bennet returned to the breakfast room she was surprised to see Mr Collins alone and to hear his story. She immediately hurried to her husband crying out,

'Oh! Mr Bennet, you must come and make Lizzy marry Mr Collins for she says she will not have him, and if you do not hurry he will change his mind and not have *her*.'

'I do not understand you,' said he when she had finished talking. 'Of what are you talking?'

'Of Mr Collins and Lizzy.'

'And what can I do? It seems a hopeless business.'

'Speak to Lizzy. Tell her that she must marry him.'

'Let her be called. She shall hear my opinion.'

Elizabeth was called to her father's room.

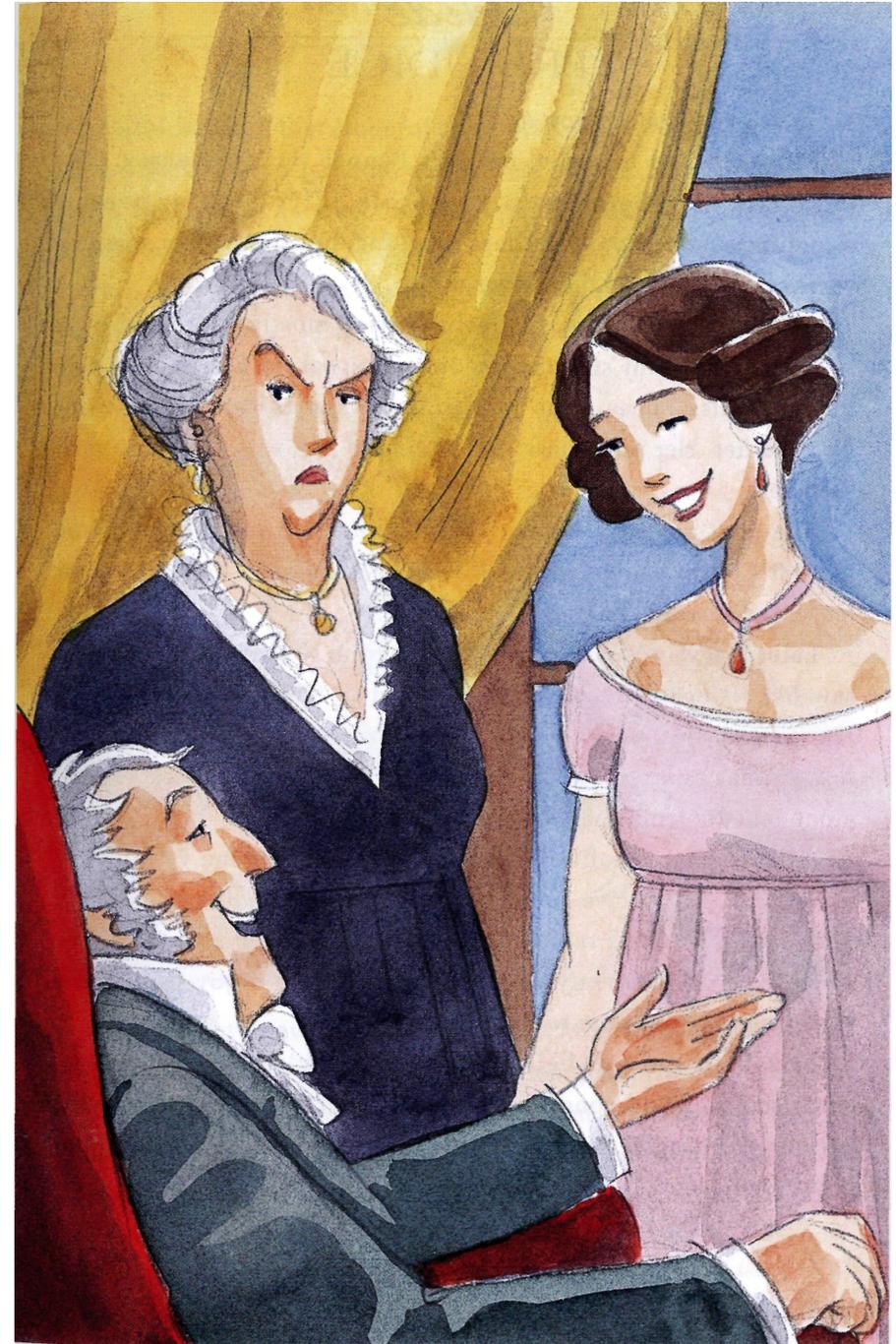
'Come here, my dear,' cried her father as she appeared. 'I understand that Mr Collins has made you an offer of marriage. Is it true?' Elizabeth said that it was. 'Very well - and this offer of marriage you have refused.'

'I have, Sir.'

'Very well. Your mother says you must accept it. Is it not so, Mrs Bennet?'

'Yes, or I will never see her again.'

'An unhappy choice is before you, Elizabeth. From this day you must be a stranger to one of your parents. Your mother will never see you again if you do *not* marry Mr Collins, and I will



never see you again if you *do*.'

Elizabeth had to smile, but Mrs Bennet was very angry. She talked to Elizabeth again and again. Elizabeth answered sometimes seriously, sometimes laughing, but though her manner varied, her determination never did.

As for the gentleman, his feelings were mostly expressed by a severe manner and silence. He did not speak to Elizabeth. Later that day Miss Lucas came to visit, and then his attentions were given to her. Her politeness in listening to him was a great help to Elizabeth.

The next day Mrs Bennet's ill humour had not abated,¹ nor had Mr Collins's angry pride. Elizabeth had hoped he might soon leave, but it seemed he meant to stay.

Later that day Jane received a letter from Netherfield. Elizabeth saw her sister's face change as she read it. She tried to appear as always and soon joined in the general conversation, but Elizabeth felt a great anxiety on the subject. When the two sisters were alone Jane took out the letter and said,

'This is from Caroline Bingley; it has surprised me very much. The whole party have left Netherfield and are going to London with no intention of returning. She says she is not sorry to leave anything except for my society, but hopes to enjoy that again sometime. She asks me to write to her.'

Elizabeth did not believe Miss Bingley's words. She was surprised they had gone so quickly, but did not think this would prevent Mr Bingley from returning alone. This she said, but Jane continued,

1. **abated** : lessened, become less strong.



'Caroline says that none of the party will return this winter. When Charles is in London, she writes, he will be in no hurry to leave again. This is why they have joined him there. It is clear that he will not return.'

'It is only clear that Miss Bingley does not want him to return,' said Elizabeth.



'You do not know all,' objected Jane. 'Miss Bingley writes that Mr Darcy wants to see his sister. Miss Georgiana Darcy is the most beautiful girl, she says, and she hopes that one day she will be their sister. Charles admires her greatly. If he married her they would all be very happy. Is that not clear enough, my dear Lizzy? Can there be any other opinion on the subject?'

'Yes, because mine is different. Will you hear it?'

'Most gladly.'

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'It is this. Miss Bingley sees that her brother is in love with you and wants him to marry Miss Darcy. She goes to town in the hope of keeping him there and tries to make you think he feels nothing for you.'

'No...'

'Indeed, Jane, believe me. No one who has seen you together can question his affection. Could Miss Bingley have seen half as much love in Mr Darcy for herself, she would have been planning her own marriage.' Elizabeth soon had the pleasure of seeing Jane look happier at the thought that Bingley would return to Netherfield.

The Bennets were invited to dine with the Lucases. Miss Lucas listened to Mr Collins most of the day. Elizabeth could not know that her friend planned to save her from any further proposals from Mr Collins by marrying him herself.

Early the next morning Mr Collins left Longbourn House quietly and hurried to Lucas Lodge to throw himself at Charlotte's feet. His reception was very flattering; his proposals were immediately accepted. Sir William and Lady Lucas gave their permission and Lady Lucas began to ask herself how many years Mr Bennet would still live.

Charlotte was satisfied. Mr Collins was neither intelligent nor was his society agreeable. Still, he would be her husband. She did not think highly of men or matrimony, but marriage was the only honourable possibility for well-educated young women of small fortune. It might not make them happy, but it would save them from being poor. She had never been beautiful and now, at twenty-seven, she felt fortunate. The worst thing was the surprise it would cause Elizabeth. She decided to give her the information

Mr Collins Proposes -Twice!

herself, and asked Mr Collins not to tell the family his news.

As he was to set out early the next morning, Mr Collins took his leave of the ladies at Longbourn that night. Mrs Bennet with great politeness said how happy they would be if he visited them again. They were all most surprised when he immediately accepted this invitation, and said he would be coming back very soon.

The next morning Charlotte came and told Elizabeth who could not help crying out,

'Marry Mr Collins! My dear Charlotte, - impossible!'

'Why are you surprised, my dear Eliza?' Miss Lucas asked. 'Do you think it impossible that another woman might want to marry him because you did not?'

Elizabeth assured her that she wished her all imaginable happiness.

'I see what you are feeling,' answered Charlotte, - 'But I am not romantic you know. I ask only a good home, and I am sure that I can be as happy with Mr Collins as most married people.'

Elizabeth quietly answered, 'Surely.' Later she told her sister. Jane was surprised, but she did not think it impossible that Charlotte could be happy. Elizabeth and Charlotte spoke no more about the subject. Elizabeth felt that she could never speak openly with her friend again. As a result she became even closer to her sister than in the past. Every day she was more anxious for Jane's happiness. Bingley had now been gone a week and nothing was heard of his return. Jane had written to Caroline and was expecting to hear from her again.

On Tuesday a letter of thanks from Mr Collins arrived, informing them that he hoped to accept their kind invitation to return to Longbourn in two weeks as Lady Catherine wished him to marry soon.



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The days passed without news of Mr Bingley. Even Elizabeth began to be anxious, not that Bingley did not love Jane, but that his sisters could keep him from returning. Their determination, together with the attractions of Miss Darcy and the amusements of London, might be stronger than his feelings for Jane.

Miss Bingley's letter arrived and settled the matter.¹ They planned to spend the winter in London, she began, and ended that her brother was sorry there had been no time to take his leave of them. Hope was over, completely over, and when Jane finished reading the letter, only the affection the writer expressed could make her feel better. Caroline wrote about the beautiful Miss Darcy and her hopes that she would marry Charles. He was now an intimate of Mr Darcy's house.

Elizabeth, to whom Jane soon told this, heard it in silent anger. She did not think Bingley's feelings for her sister had changed, but that his easy character had permitted his friends to interfere with his happiness and that of her sister. She was not sure if he knew of Jane's feelings for him or not, but in the end, it made no difference. Jane's peace was disturbed.

A day or two passed before Jane had the courage to speak of her feelings to Elizabeth.

'He has done nothing wrong,' she said. 'At least I have not that unhappiness. A little time. - I shall certainly try to get better. At least it has not been more than a mistake on my part.'

'My dear Jane!' cried Elizabeth, 'you are too good. I feel as if I never really knew you or loved you enough. There are few people I really love and still fewer of whom I think well. The more I see of the world, the more I am dissatisfied with it.'

1. **settled the matter** : decided the situation.

Mr Collins Proposes -Twice!

'Dear Lizzy, do not let yourself feel like this or you will never be happy. Please do not think badly of Mr Bingley. We must not expect a lively young man to be always cautious. It is often nothing but our own vanity that makes us think admiration means more than it does.'

'To men's advantage.'

'I cannot believe that people try to do wrong, or to make others unhappy.'

'Not try, but not thinking of other people's feelings, not being decisive, this may be enough to cause unhappiness.'

'You still think his sisters keep him away?'

'Yes, and his friend.'

'I cannot believe it. They can only wish for his happiness, and if he loves me, no other woman can give him that.'

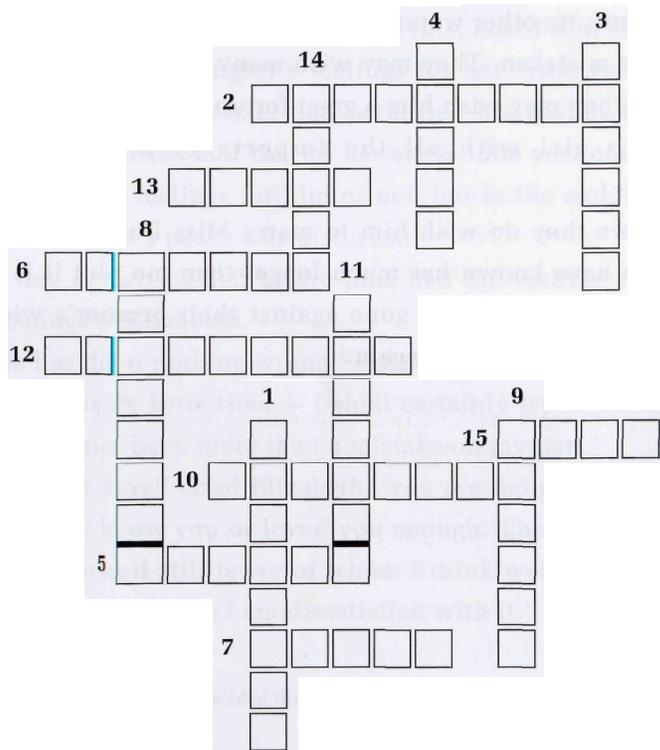
'You are mistaken. They may wish many things other than his happiness; they may wish him a great fortune, they may wish him to marry a girl with all the importance of money and connections.'

'I am sure they do wish him to marry Miss Darcy,' answered Jane, 'They have known her much longer than me. But it is very unlikely they should have gone against their brother's wishes. Please let us not speak of it again.'



1 Do the crossword by filling in the gaps in the summary of Chapter Five.

Mr Collins proposes ¹.....to ².....He explains that there are three reasons for his wanting to marry. Firstly because it's suitable for a man of the ³....., secondly because it will make him ⁴....., and thirdly because his patron Lady de ⁵.....wants him to get married. Elizabeth ⁶.....him much to her mother's ⁷.....and her ⁸.....delight. Jane receives a ⁹.....from ¹⁰.....Bingley who tells her that they are all going to ¹¹.....and have no ¹².....of returning. Jane believes that Bingley wants to marry Georgiana ¹³.....while Elizabeth thinks that Bingley's sisters want to keep him away from her. Mr Collins proposes marriage to Elizabeth's friend Charlotte ¹⁴....., and she accepts although she does not ¹⁵.....him.



2 A letter to My Lady

Pretend that you are Mr Collins. You must write a letter to your patroness explaining why you are marrying Miss Lucas and not Elizabeth or Jane. Remember Mr Collins is a very proud young man!

You can begin your letter like this

My most noble Lady de Bourgh,

I have the great pleasure of announcing that I will be marrying the lovely Charlotte Lucas. Of course, you will wish to know why I am not marrying one of the Bennet sisters.

Well.....

.....

Your most humble and appreciative servant

Mr Collins

3 A good match?

- a. How do you think Elizabeth judges Charlotte's marriage to Mr Collins?
- b. How do you judge it?
- c. Do people get married for similar reasons today?

4 Answer the following questions.

- a. What is the relationship between the Lucases and the Bennets?
- b. Why does Lady Lucas begin to wonder about how long Mr Bennet will live?
- c. What does this tell us about Lady Lucas?



Grammar

It will not make you think less kindly of me

Look at the following sentences with **make**, **let** and **get**.

- *Mr Collins made Elizabeth laugh.* = Mr Collins caused Elizabeth to laugh.
- *Her father made her marry Mr Brown.* = Her father forced her to marry Mr Brown.
- *Mrs Bennet did not let Jane use the carriage.* = Mrs Bennet did not allow Jane to use the carriage.
- *She got Mr Johnson to accompany her to London.* = She persuaded Mr Johnson to accompany her to London.

Notice that the construction with **make** and **let** in these sentences is: **verb** + **direct object** + **infinitive** (without *to*)

But the construction with **get** is: **verb** + **direct object** + **infinitive** (with *'to'*).

5 Complete the following sentences with *let*, *make* or *get* and the infinitive and direct object in brackets according to the context. The first one has been done for you.

- a. Wine always.....*makes me feel*.....(*me/feel*) sleepy.
- b. Mr Bingley's sisters probably.....(*him/stay*) in London because they did not want him to marry Jane.
- c. Jane always.....(*Elizabeth/read*) her private letters.
- d. Even with his wonderful connections, Mr Collins could not(*Elizabeth/accept*) his marriage proposal.
- e. Nothing in the world could.....(*Mrs Bennet/stop*) worrying about her daughters.
- f. Elizabeth.....(*Mr Collins/finish*) his long and pompous marriage proposal before she turned him down.
- g. I did not want to go to Meryton. Lydia.....(*me/go*).
- h. This hot sunny weather and this blue sky.....(*me/think*) of when I lived in southern France.

THE SOCIAL CONTEXT IN JANE AUSTEN'S TIME

In the England of Jane Austen's time the social classes were far more rigidly defined than today.

At the top there was the aristocracy whose members possessed huge incomes and owned large estates which were passed down to the eldest male heir of the family. In *Pride and Prejudice* they are represented by Lady de Bourgh and Fitzwilliam Darcy. The aristocracy obviously tended to maintain their privileges, keep to themselves and not mix with the classes below, considered definitively inferior not only in wealth but in 'gentleness' as well.

Immediately below the aristocracy there was the gentry, the class from which most of Jane Austen's characters come. It was made up of people who did not work for a living since they inherited their wealth generally in the form of land. The gentry tended desperately to compete with their betters, the aristocrats. They kept servants and cooks and also governesses¹ for their children. Their life was made up of a fixed code of accepted rules for behaving, dressing, courting and travelling. Not to respect these rules was to gain society's disapproval and be exposed to criticism, as happens to Elizabeth who is too nonconformist to be judged well-mannered by Bingley's sisters at Netherfield.

The gentry was still considered superior to the emerging class of professional people, made up of doctors, lawyers, businessmen and industrialists, which explains how much the possession of land meant to the people of the time.

1. **governess** : woman employed to teach children in their home.





Below them there were the farmers represented by Mr Martin, a character who is snobbishly slighted by Emma, the heroine of another of Jane Austen's novels.

The lowest social class was represented by the great army of domestic servants and country and town workers, whose life and problems Jane Austen does not deal with in her novels.

1 Answer the following questions.

- a. What were the main social classes in the Regency period?
- b. What did they live on?
- c. What were gentlemen and gentlewomen supposed to respect?



The Cloakroom at Clifton Assembly Rooms (c. 1819)
by Rolinda Sharpies.



CHAPTER • SIX

A Visit to Rosings

The following week the Gardiners, Mrs Bennet's brother and his wife, came to stay at Longbourn. Mr Gardiner was an intelligent, gentleman-like man, more educated and with a better character than his sister. Mrs Gardiner was an agreeable, intelligent, elegant woman, and a great favourite with all her nieces. Her first business on her arrival, was to give out her presents and tell them about the newest fashions. When this was done she had to listen to Mrs Bennet who said that life had been most unkind to them all since she last saw her. Two of her girls had almost been married, but it had all come to nothing. It was not Jane's fault, she said, but Lizzy could have been Mr Collins's wife by this time. It was very hard that Lady Lucas would have a daughter married before she did.

When alone with Elizabeth afterwards, Mrs Gardiner asked if

A Visit to Rosings

she thought Jane would like to come back with them to London. Jane accepted her aunt's invitation with pleasure. Her only thought of the Bingleys was to hope that, as Caroline did not live with her brother, she might see her without any danger of meeting him.

The Gardiners stayed a week at Longbourn. Every day they dined with the Philipses, the Lucases or the officers. Mr Wickham was always invited. Elizabeth spoke so warmly about him that Mrs Gardiner was suspicious and observed them both. From what she saw she did not think them much in love, but their attraction to each other was clear enough to make her caution Elizabeth.

'You are an intelligent girl, Lizzy. I am not afraid of speaking openly,' she began. 'Do not continue or let him continue in an affection which could not make you happy. I have nothing to say against him. He is a most interesting young man, and if he had a fortune I think you could not do better. But as it is, you must be cautious.'

'I am not in love with Mr Wickham,' Elizabeth answered, 'but he is the most agreeable¹ man I ever saw - if he does fall in love with me - Better that he does not. It would not be wise. - Oh that detestable Mr Darcy! My dear aunt, I would be sorry to make any of you unhappy, but we see every day that where there is affection, young people do get married without fortune. How can I promise to be wiser than so many others? All I can promise you is not to be in a hurry. I will try to do what I think wisest. I hope you are satisfied.'

Soon after the Gardiners and Jane had left, Mr Collins returned for the wedding. Charlotte came to Longbourn before leaving and

1. **agreeable** : likeable, pleasant.



asked Elizabeth to write and to come and visit with Charlotte's father and sister Maria in March.

Elizabeth soon heard from her friend in Kent. She was happy with the house and neighbourhood, and Lady Catherine's behaviour was most friendly. Jane too, soon wrote to her sister. She had been a week in London, without seeing or hearing from Caroline. She thought perhaps her last letter had got lost. She was going to visit her the next day. In her next letter she wrote that Caroline had been very glad to see her. She had asked after her brother. He was well, but always with Mr Darcy. They never saw him. Miss Darcy was expected to dinner.

Elizabeth did not believe that Mr Bingley's sisters would ever tell him that Jane was in London. Four weeks passed and Jane saw nothing of him. After Jane had waited at home every morning for two weeks, Miss Bingley did at last appear, but her visit was so short and her manner so changed that Jane at last understood.

'Caroline did not return my visit till yesterday,' she wrote. 'When she came it was clear that she had no pleasure in it. She said not a word of wishing to see me again and had changed so much that when she went away I decided not to see her again. I am sorry for her, because she must feel that she has been doing wrong, and I am sure that anxiety for her brother is the cause.'

Elizabeth was unhappy to read this, but thought it good that at least her sister now understood Miss Bingley's real character. She wished Bingley would marry Miss Darcy. From what Mr Wickham said about that lady, he would soon be sorry he had lost Jane.

Mrs Gardiner wrote to ask about her promise about Mr Wickham. Her answer gave more pleasure to her aunt than herself. Mr Wickham was now the admirer of another lady. Elizabeth could see it and write of it without much unhappiness. She had not been



really in love. Her vanity was satisfied with believing that if she had had a fortune, she would have been his choice.

March neared and with it Elizabeth's visit to Charlotte. The change was not unwelcome. Elizabeth, Sir William and Maria Lucas stopped in London one night with the Gardiners where Elizabeth could see Jane. When they arrived, Elizabeth was pleased to see Jane looking well, though her aunt told her that she was not always happy. Before they left, Mrs Gardiner invited Elizabeth, to her great pleasure, on a journey that summer with herself and her uncle to the Lakes,¹

Everything was new and interesting on the next day's journey. Mr Collins and Charlotte welcomed them with pleasure. After they had seen the house, Mr Collins invited them to walk in the garden where he showed them all the views. But the most beautiful view of all from his garden, no, from England, was the view of Rosings.

At dinner Mr Collins said, 'Miss Elizabeth, you will have the honour of seeing Lady Catherine in church on Sunday. You will be most pleased with her. She is all kindness. I am sure she will not forget you in her invitations to us. We dine at Rosings twice a week.'

The next day Elizabeth was in her room when she heard someone running and calling her loudly. She opened the door and met Maria who cried out,

'Oh my dear Eliza! Please hurry and come down this moment. There is such a sight to be seen!'

When she came down all Elizabeth could see was two ladies in a carriage. 'And this is all?' she asked. 'I don't know what I expected, and here is nothing but Lady Catherine and her daughter.'

1. **Lakes** : Lake District in Cumbria.

PREJUDICE

'But my dear,' Maria was shocked. 'Only look at Miss de Bourgh. Who would have thought she could be such a little thing!'

'She is most impolite to keep Charlotte out in this cold. Why does she not come in?'

'Oh! Charlotte says it is the greatest honour when Miss de Bourgh comes in.'

'I like her appearance,' said Elizabeth. 'She looks sickly¹ and nervous. - Yes, she will make Darcy a very good wife.'

Mr Collins had no sooner returned into the house than he began to compliment the two girls on their good fortune. The whole party was asked to dine at Rosings the next day.

'Who could have expected such an attention,' said he, 'so soon after your arrival!'

The whole next day he told them what they could expect at Rosings, so that the sight of such rooms, so many servants, so large a dinner would not be too much for them.

At Rosings they followed the servants to the drawing-room. Her Ladyship got up to receive them. Lady Catherine was a tall, large woman. She was very proud and spoke a great deal. Miss de Bourgh was little and sickly and quiet.

The dinner was handsome and there were all the servants Mr Collins had promised. There was not much conversation. Charlotte listened to Lady Catherine. Maria thought speaking out of the question and the gentlemen did nothing but eat and admire. Lady Catherine seemed to enjoy this flattery and smiled at them all.

When the ladies returned to the drawing room there was little to do but to hear Lady Catherine talk, which she did without stopping till coffee came in, giving her opinion on every subject in so

1. **sickly** : not very healthy.

decisive a manner it was clear she did not often meet with disagreement. She asked Elizabeth how many sisters she had, how old they were, if they were likely to be married, if they were handsome, what carriage her father kept and what had been her mother's name before marriage. Elizabeth felt all the impoliteness of her questions, but answered them quietly.

When the gentlemen joined them they played cards until Lady Catherine and her daughter decided to stop. Then the carriage was immediately ordered.

The pleasure of dining at Rosings was repeated twice a week. There was little other society, but Elizabeth spent her time agreeably enough in conversation with Charlotte or walking in the



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garden. The first week soon passed. The next was to bring a visitor to Rosings. Mr Darcy was expected. It would be amusing, Elizabeth thought, to see how hopeless Miss Bingley's plans to marry him were and to observe his behaviour to his cousin. Lady Catherine talked of his coming with the greatest satisfaction and clearly had her own plans for his future.

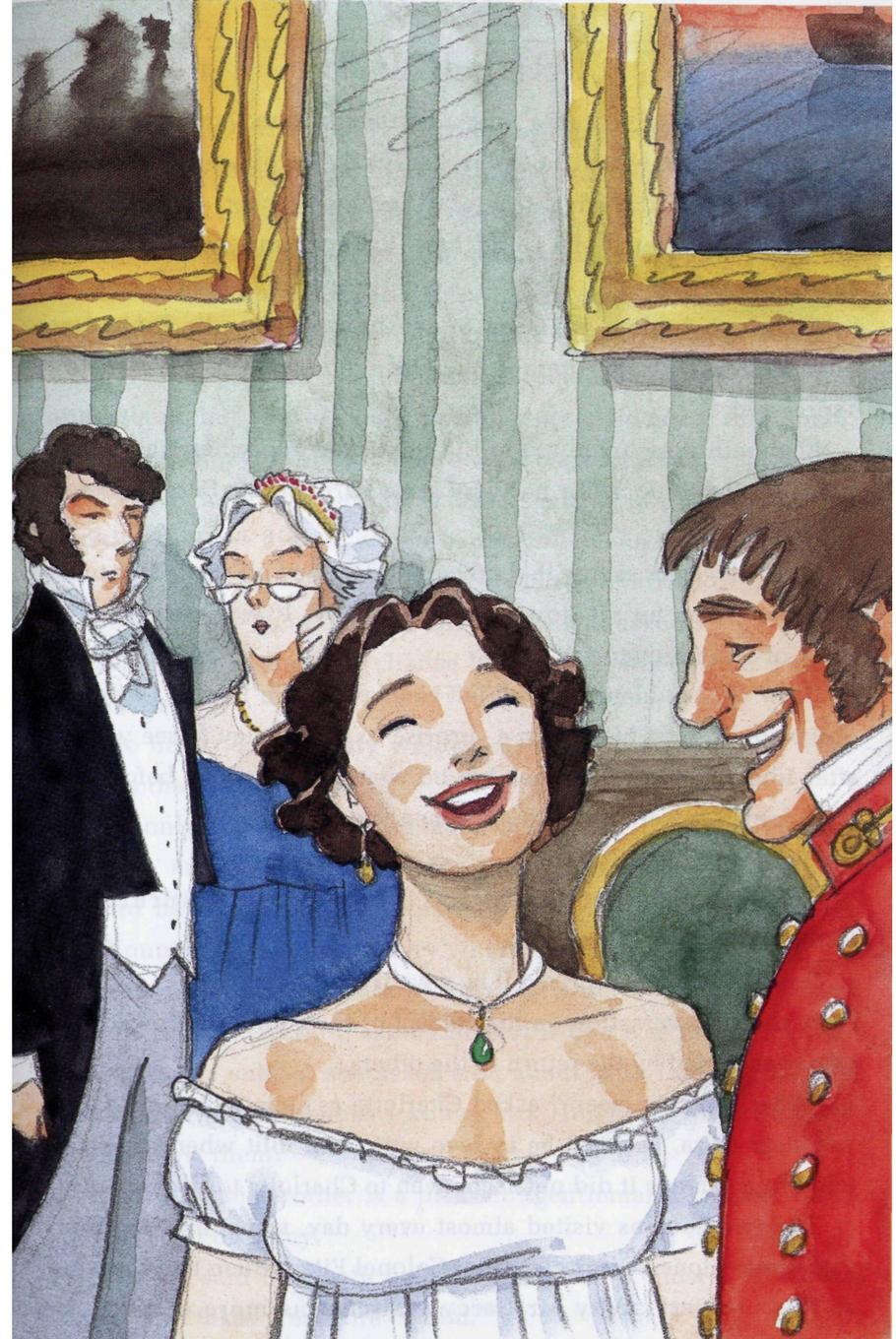
On the day after Mr Darcy's arrival, Mr Collins hurried to pay his respects at Rosings where he met a Colonel Fitzwilliam, cousin of Mr Darcy's. To everybody's surprise he returned with both men. Colonel Fitzwilliam was about thirty, not handsome, but a gentleman. He started a conversation immediately and talked very pleasantly, but after paying his compliments to the ladies, his cousin sat without speaking. At last he asked Elizabeth about her family. She answered that they were well, and then said,

'My oldest sister has been in town these three months. Have you never seen her there?' She thought he looked a little embarrassed as he answered that he had never been so fortunate.

After the gentlemen had left, the ladies admired Colonel Fitzwilliam's manners. His presence at Rosings must make it more pleasant to visit there, they felt. It was some days, however, before they received an invitation. While there were visitors in the house, they could not be necessary.

At Rosings, Colonel Fitzwilliam seemed really glad to see them. He talked so agreeably of Kent, of journeys, of new books and music, that Elizabeth had never spent an evening so pleasantly in that room. Their conversation was so lively they attracted the attention of Lady Catherine as well as that of Mr Darcy. He looked at them repeatedly.

After coffee, Colonel Fitzwilliam asked Elizabeth to play. Lady



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Catherine listened to half a song, and then said to Darcy,

'Miss Bennet would not play badly, if she played more often and could have the advantage of a London teacher. Anne would have played better if she could have learned, but she was such a sickly girl.'

Elizabeth looked at Darcy to see how warmly he looked at hearing his cousin's name, but she could see no love in his expression.

Elizabeth was home alone the next morning when she heard someone at the door. To her very great surprise Mr Darcy entered alone.

He apologised, saying that he had understood all the ladies to be at home. Then he sat down and was silent. It was necessary to think of something to say.

'How very suddenly you all left Netherfield, Mr Darcy,' Elizabeth observed. 'It must have been a surprise to Mr Bingley to see you all after him so soon. If I remember he went only the day before. He and his sisters were well, I hope, when you left London?'

'Very well. I thank you.'

'I think that Mr Bingley has little idea of returning to Netherfield?'

'I would not be surprised if he gave it up.'

A short conversation on the subject of the country followed and was soon ended by the return of the others.

'What can this mean?' asked Charlotte as soon as he was gone. 'My dear Eliza, he must be in love with you.' But when Elizabeth told of his silence it did not seem even to Charlotte to be probable.

The two cousins visited almost every day, sometimes together, sometimes alone. It was clear that Colonel Fitzwilliam had pleasure in their society. Why Mr Darcy visited was more difficult to

A Visit to Rosings

understand as he frequently sat there without speaking. When he did speak, it seemed to be from necessity, not pleasure. Mrs Collins would have liked him to be in love with her friend, but though she observed him, she could see little admiration in his look.

More than once Elizabeth met Mr Darcy walking in the gardens. She had told him the first time that this was a favourite walk of hers. How he could be there a second time, she could not understand, but he was, and a third time too. He never said much, but always thought it necessary to walk back with her.

She was walking one day reading again Jane's last letter and thinking that she did not sound happy, when she looked up to see Colonel Fitzwilliam. She put away the letter and tried to smile.

'Do you leave Kent on Saturday?' Elizabeth asked.

'Yes, if Darcy does not change his plans again. But he does as he pleases.'

'I do not know anybody who seems more to enjoy doing what he likes than Mr Darcy.'

'It is only that he can do so better because he is rich and others are poor,' answered Colonel Fitzwilliam. 'I know. I am a younger son and have no fortune. In matters of importance I suffer from this. Younger sons cannot marry where they like.'

'Unless they like women of fortune, which I think they very often do,' Elizabeth said, asking herself if this was meant for her. To change the subject she asked him about Miss Darcy. 'She is a favourite with some ladies I know, Mrs Hurst and Miss Bingley. Do you know them?'

'A little. Their brother is a pleasant, gentleman-like man; he is a great friend of Darcy.'

'Oh yes,' said Elizabeth coldly. 'Mr Darcy is most kind to Mr Bingley and takes great care of him.'



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'Yes, I really believe he does. From something that Darcy told me on our journey, I believe Bingley must be very thankful to him. But I may be wrong. Bingley may not be the person meant.'

'What do you mean?'

'Darcy would not wish it to be generally known. If the lady's family were to hear of it, that would be unpleasant.'

'I shall not speak of it.'

'He told me that he had recently saved a friend from making a very unfortunate marriage. He did not name the friend.'

'What were his reasons?'

'I understood that there were some very strong objections against the lady.'

Elizabeth walked on silently. After watching her a little, Fitzwilliam asked what she was thinking.

'That I do not like your cousin's behaviour.'

'You think it was not his business?'

'How could Mr Darcy decide if his friend's affection was mistaken, or in what manner he should be happy? But I expect that there was not much feeling.'

'That is possible, but it is lessening the honour of my cousin's triumph.'

Fitzwilliam was smiling, but this seemed to Elizabeth so true a picture of Darcy that she could not speak and talked on other matters till they got back. There, in her own room, she could think of all that she had heard. She was sure Darcy had spoken of Bingley. She had always believed Miss Bingley to be at fault for Jane's unhappiness. Now it seemed Darcy was the cause of all that Jane had suffered. He had taken every hope of happiness from the most affectionate, generous heart in the world, no one could say for how long. At that Elizabeth cried until she felt quite ill.

1 Choose the correct answer A, B, C or D.

1. Mrs Bennet was very sorry that
 - A her brother was better educated.
 - B Mrs Lucas's daughter would be married before any of her daughters were.
 - C Charlotte was marrying such a silly man as Mr Collins.
 - D Mrs Gardiner was her daughters' favourite.
2. Jane wanted to go to London but she hoped that
 - A she would not meet the Bingley sisters when she visited Mr Bingley.
 - B she would not meet Mr Bingley when she visited his sisters.
 - C Mr Bingley would not discover that she was there.
 - D Elizabeth would come and visit her often.
3. Elizabeth's aunt did not think Mr Wickham was a good match for Elizabeth because
 - A he was in the army.
 - B he did not get on with Mr Darcy.
 - C he was not wealthy.
 - D he was not particularly handsome.
4. Jane finally understood that Caroline Bingley did not want to see her because
 - A she never brought her brother along to visit her.
 - B she never told her brother that Jane was in London.
 - C she told her that Mr Bingley was always with Darcy.
 - D her last visit was very short and she obviously had not wanted to come at all.
5. Elizabeth liked the way Miss de Bourgh looked because
 - A she did not like Mr Darcy and so was happy that his future wife was not very attractive or healthy.
 - B she did not like Lady de Bourgh and so was happy that her daughter was unattractive.
 - C she wore very elegant clothing.

- D** [] she did not seem very proud even though she came from an important family.
6. Mr Collins described Rosings in great detail to Elizabeth and Maria so that
- A** [] they would realise how socially inferior they were.
- B** [] they could prepare themselves emotionally for being in such a fabulous house.
- C** [] they would know that they had to behave properly in such a fabulous house.
- D** [] they would understand how important Mr Collins himself was to be associated with such wealth.
7. Elizabeth thought that Lady Catherine was not polite to her because
- A** [] she asked her too many questions.
- B** [] she asked her questions but did not seem to want any answers.
- C** [] she was too decisive.
- D** [] she asked questions only to find out about Elizabeth's family's wealth and social connections.
8. After talking to Colonel Fitzwilliam Elizabeth understood that
- A** [] it was Miss Bingley who had broken up the relationship between Jane and Mr Bingley.
- B** [] it was Darcy who had broken up the relationship between Jane and Mr Bingley.
- C** [] Mr Bingley could only marry a very wealthy woman.
- D** [] Mr Bingley wanted to marry Jane to have their family home.

Grammar

If she had had a fortune, she would have been his choice.

The third conditional is used to speculate about things in the past that did not actually happen.

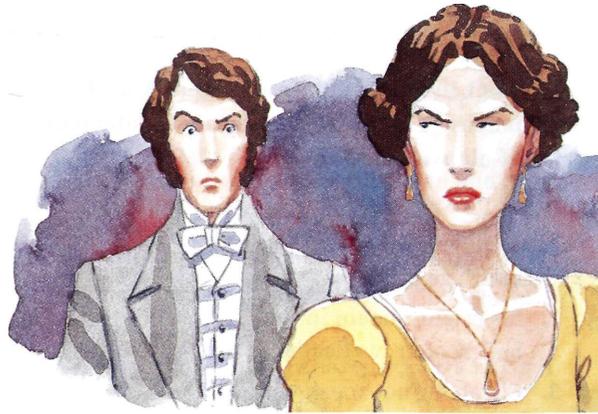
Look at this third-conditional sentence:

If + had + past participle, would + have + past participle

If I had known about your arrival I would have come earlier.

2 Connect the elements in columns A and B to form third conditional sentences. You must decide which elements are to be used to form the if-clause.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>A.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Elizabeth/accept Mr Collin's marriage proposal 2. his estate/remain in the family after his death 3. Elizabeth/not speak with Colonel Fitzwilliam 4. Fitzwilliam/be the eldest son 5. Bingley's sister/not object to her marrying their brother 6. Mr Collins/not have a good house and living 7. Jane/take the carriage to go to Netherfield 8. she/not catch a cold 9. she/not marry Mr Collins | <p>B.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. he/not ask Elizabeth to marry him b. she/not catch a cold c. Charlotte/be a romantic young woman d. he/have enough money to marry whoever he wanted e. she/not stay at Netherfield for so many days f. Jane/have a wealthier and better connected family g. Mr Bennet/have a son h. she/continue to blame Miss Bingley for her sister's suffering i. Mr Bennet/be very disappointed in her |
|---|--|
-
1. If Elizabeth had *accepted* Mr Collin's *marriage proposal*, Mr Bennet *would have* been very disappointed in her.
 2. If Mr Bennet had had a son, his estate would have *remained* in the family after his death.
 - 3.....
 - 4.....
 - 5.....
 - 6.....
 - 7.....
 - 8.....
 - 9.....



CHAPTER ♦ SEVEN

Mr Darcy Makes a Proposal

That evening Elizabeth decided not to go to Rosings. The agitation and tears had made her feel ill. When the others were gone she sat down to reread Jane's letters. They did not speak of the past or of present sufferings. But all Jane's peace of mind and happiness were gone. That Mr Darcy could be proud of the suffering he had caused made it worse. She was glad to think that his visit was soon to end and that in a few weeks she would be with Jane again.

There was a noise at the door and to her complete surprise Mr Darcy walked into the room. In a hurried manner he asked if she was better. She answered him with cold politeness. After a silence of several minutes he came up to her and began,

'In vain have I tried, but I cannot. My feelings are too strong.

Mr Darcy Makes a Proposal

You must permit me to tell you how much I admire and love you.'

Too surprised to speak, Elizabeth looked at him in silence. He continued, telling her all that he felt and had long felt for her. He spoke well, but not only about his feelings of the heart. He spoke as much of his pride, of her inferiority, of the objections to her and her family. To marry her would be a degradation.

Elizabeth disliked Darcy, but she felt the compliment of such a man's affection. At first she was sorry for the unhappiness she must cause him. Darcy finished his proposal by telling her of the strength of his attachment which he was unable to resist, and of his hope that she would accept his proposal. As he said this, she could see that he was sure of a favourable answer. When he was silent, she said,

'It is, I believe, usual to express one's obligation, even where feelings are not returned. If I could feel thankful, I would now thank you. But I cannot. I am sorry to cause suffering to anyone. It has not been done intentionally, however, and I am sure it will not last long.'

Mr Darcy heard her words with anger and surprise. After a long silence he said,

'And this is all the answer I have the honour to expect! I could, perhaps, ask why, with so little politeness, I am refused like this. But it is not important.'

'I could as well ask,' answered she, 'why, with the clear intention of offending me, you chose to tell me that you liked me against your will, against your reason and even against your character. Was not this some excuse for impoliteness, if I *was* impolite? But I have other reasons. You know I have. Had my feelings been indifferent or even favourable, do you think I could ever have accepted the man who has ruined the happiness of a

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most beloved sister? I have every reason to think ill¹ of you. Nothing can excuse what you did there.'

She stopped, and saw that he was listening with a manner which showed him unmoved, a smile of disbelief on his face.

'Can you say it is not true?' she asked.

'I will not say that I did not do everything I could to separate my friend from your sister, or that I was not pleased at my success.'

'But it is not only this,' she continued. 'Long ago, your character was shown in the things I heard from Mr Wickham. On this subject, what can you have to say?'

'You take a great interest in that gentleman,' said Darcy.

'All those who know what his misfortunes have been must feel an interest in him.'

'His misfortunes!' repeated Darcy disgustedly. 'Yes, his misfortunes have been great indeed.'

'And all your fault,' cried Elizabeth. 'You caused him to be poor. You kept from him the advantages meant for him, and yet you can speak of him with ridicule.'

'And this,' cried Darcy, as he walked with quick steps across the room, 'is your opinion of me! I thank you for explaining it so completely. My faults are great indeed! But perhaps,' he said, stopping in his walk and turning towards her, 'you would have considered them less if your pride had not suffered, if I had flattered you more. But I despise hypocrisy. I cannot apologise for my feelings. They were natural. Could you expect me to be happy about the inferiority of your connections?'

Elizabeth could feel her anger growing, but she tried to speak

1. ill : badly.

Mr Darcy Makes a Proposal

quietly when she said,

'You are mistaken, Mr Darcy, if you think that the manner of your proposal has made me feel anything but glad. Now I shall not feel sorry about refusing you. I would have, if you had behaved in a more gentleman-like manner.'

She saw him look up at this, but he said nothing, and she continued.

'You could not have made me the offer of your hand in any possible way that would have made me want to accept it.'

Again his surprise was clear as he looked at her with an expression of mortification.

'You have said enough, madam. I completely understand your feelings. I apologise for having taken up so much of your time. Please accept my best wishes for your health and happiness.'

With these words he left. Elizabeth did not know what to think. From weakness she sat down and cried for half an hour. Her surprise was greater every time she thought about what had passed. That she had received an offer of marriage from Mr Darcy! That he had been in love with her for so many months, so much in love as to wish to marry her for all the objections against her. She could not believe it. It was gratifying to have caused so strong an affection. But his pride, his despicable¹ pride, his shocking story of what he had done to Jane, the unfeeling manner in which he had mentioned Wickham soon stopped the pity she had felt for a moment.

Elizabeth woke the next morning to the same thoughts and feelings. It was impossible to think of anything else. After

1. despicable : vile, contemptible.



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breakfast she decided to take a walk.

She was at the end of the garden when Mr Darcy came up and gave her a letter which he asked her to do him the honour of reading.

When he had gone Elizabeth opened it and read,

Do not fear, Madam, a repetition of those sentiments or offers which were last night so disgusting to you. I shall not speak of wishes, which, for the happiness of both of us, cannot be too soon forgotten. It was, however, necessary for me to write this letter and I must ask you to read it.

Last night you told me of two reasons for your dislike of me. The first was, that without thought for the feelings of either, I had separated Mr Bingley from your sister, the other, that I had, against the wishes of my father, ruined the future of Mr Wickham. To have abandoned the friend of my youth, a young man with no fortune who had been taught to expect our help would be scandalous. It cannot be compared to the separation of two young people whose affection was only a few weeks old. I hope that you will understand both situations when I explain. I had not been long at Netherfield, before I saw that Bingley liked your eldest sister. On the evening of the dance I saw that his feelings were serious. I had of ten seen him in love before. At that ball I first understood that Bingley's attentions to your sister had caused a general expectation of their marriage. I watched your sister. Her look and manners were open, but I did not believe her to be in love. If I was mistaken, your anger



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is understandable. But there were other reasons against such a marriage. Not only because of your mother's family, but also Because of her behaviour, that of your three younger sisters, and even of your father. I am sorry if I offend you.

My friend left Netherfield the following day with the plan of soon returning. His sisters and I had spoken of the matter; they felt as I did. So we decided to join him in London, where I told my friend of the objections to his choice. But I could not have stopped the marriage if I had not convinced him of your sister's indifference. On this subject I have nothing more to say. If I have made your sister suffer it was not done intentionally.

As for Mr Wickham, it is best if I tell you the whole story. Mr Wickham is the son of a very honourable man, who for many years was the steward of all the Pemberley estates. My father, wanting to help the son, gave him a good education. He hoped George Wickham would go into the Church. I long ago began to see his true character as my father could not. My father died five years ago. He asked me to help Mr Wickham as best I could, and to give him a family living as soon as possible. Half a year later Mr Wickham wrote to inform me that he had decided not to go into the Church, but wanted to study law. He hoped I could help him. The business was soon settled. He gave up the Church and I gave him the money to study. All connection between us seemed now finished. He lived in London for three years, but he did not study. Then he wrote again telling me he had decided against law and asking for the living my father had

Mr Darcy Makes a Proposal



promised him. You will understand that I refused. After this the last connections stopped. Until last summer. I must now mention a matter I would like to forget myself one I have not told any other person as I am sure you will not. My sister, who is ten years younger than me, finished school last year and went to live in London with a lady in whose character we were unhappily mistaken. In the summer they went to Ramsgate, and so did Mr Wickham. With the lady's help he met my sister who had not forgotten his kindness to her as a girl. She believed she was in love with him and agreed to an elopement.¹ She was only fifteen. I am happy to say that she told me the story herself when I joined them a few days before the event. You can imagine how I felt. Mr Wickham was clearly interested mostly in my sister's fortune, but I think he would have been glad to make me suffer. This, madam, is the true story of the matters we have spoken of. If you do not believe me you can ask Colonel Fitzwilliam who knows everything. I shall try to give you this letter in the morning. I will only say, God bless you.

Fitzwilliam Darcy.

With a strong prejudice against everything he might say, Elizabeth read Mr Darcy's letter. She had to read it many times before she could begin to understand it. That it was true she had to believe, although her feelings were shocked and her pride suffered. She was completely ashamed of herself. Of neither

1. **elopement** : to run away and marry secretly.

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Darcy nor Wickham could she think, without feeling that she had been blind and prejudiced.

'How despicable I have been!' she cried. 'I who was proud of my understanding. How mortifying is this discovery! If I had been in love, I could not have been more blind. But vanity, not love has been my weakness. Pleased with the preference of one, and offended by the opinions of the other, from the beginning I understood nothing. Till this moment, I never knew myself.'

Darcy wrote that he had no suspicion of Jane's feelings. Elizabeth remembered what Charlotte's opinion had always been. Neither could she deny the justice of his description of her sister. It was true. While Jane's feelings were strong, she showed them little.

When she read that part of the letter in which her family was mentioned in such a mortifying manner, her feelings of shame were strong. What he wrote was true. It was hard to think that Jane's present unhappiness was the work of her nearest relations, to feel how both she and Jane must suffer in the eyes of society because of her family's improper behaviour.

Elizabeth returned home to hear that the two gentlemen from Rosings had visited to take their leave. Colonel Fitzwilliam had sat with them an hour hoping for her return. Though she said she was sorry, Elizabeth was not unhappy. Colonel Fitzwilliam was no longer interesting to her. She could think only of her letter.

1 Say whether the following sentences are true (T) or false (F), and then correct the false ones.

- | | T | F |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| a. Elizabeth did not say anything when Mr Darcy first declared his love because she was so angry with him. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b. Mr Darcy was very sad when Elizabeth did not accept his proposal. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c. Elizabeth thought that Mr Darcy was not polite because he had made his marriage proposal without having talked to Mr Bennet. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d. Mr Darcy was glad that he had broken up the relationship between Jane and Mr Bingley. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| e. Mr Darcy apologised for speaking badly of Elizabeth's social connections. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| f. Elizabeth was disgusted that she had caused Mr Darcy to fall in love with her. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| g. Mr Darcy thought that Mr Bingley was in love with Jane but he did not think that Jane was really in love with him. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| h. Mr Darcy did not approve of the way Elizabeth's family acted. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| i. After the death of his father, Mr Darcy tried to help Mr Wickham. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| j. Mr Wickham wanted to elope with Mr Darcy's younger sister. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| k. Elizabeth had a difficult time understanding Mr Darcy's letter because of her strong dislike of him. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| l. Elizabeth realised that she had judged Mr Darcy wrongly because she had been in love with Mr Wickham. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

FCE 2 How mortifying this discovery!

Pretend that your close friend Elizabeth Bennet has written you a letter in which she describes Mr Darcy's proposal and his letter of explanation. She has concluded her letter with this question: Do you think my family's behaviour really justifies Mr Darcy's action?

Write her a letter in 120-180 words in which you give her your opinion. You can begin like this:

My Dearest Elizabeth,

Since we have been friends for so many years I will tell you honestly what I think. I believe that Mr Darcy's opinion of your family...

*Your loyal friend,
Harriet*

3 I apologise for having taken up so much of your time.

Match the phrasal verbs with 'take' with the correct definitions. Read the sentences below to help you.

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| a. take up | 1. resemble a member of your family |
| b. take up | 2. compete or fight a rival or opponent |
| c. take after | 3. go out with someone for a meal, film etc. and you pay for the outing |
| d. take on | 4. start doing a hobby, leisure activity or job |
| e. take out | 5. fill or occupy time, space or effort |
| f. take over | 6. start doing a job after someone else has finished doing it |

- *Looking after her children and cleaning the house **takes up** her whole day.*
- *Now that I don't have to work weekends, I think I will **take up** tennis.*
- *Except for the colour of my hair, I **take after** my father.*
- *The New York Lions are going to **take on** the Philadelphia Bears for the championship.*
- *I **took** Lydia **out** to dinner last night. It cost me a fortune!*
- *Mr Wickham will **take over** as the colonel of his regiment when the present colonel retires.*

Fill in the gaps with one of the phrasal verbs with 'take'.

- Harry wants to..... Justine.....this evening, but he can't decide on the restaurant.
- When her father retires, Lydia will.....as president of the company.
- My four sisters all.....our mother or father, but I look like my Uncle Nate.
- Our football team is going to.....last year's champions.
- That sofa.....too much room.
- Mr Wickham decided to.....the law instead of entering the Church.
- Managing our shop.....all my energy.
- Nowadays a company must also.....foreign competition if it wants to be truly successful.

Before you read



1 Listen to the first part of Chapter Eight and decide if the statements are true (T) or false (F).

- | | T | F |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Elizabeth and Jane returned to Longbourn in March. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Her mother was happy to have them both at home. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Elizabeth objected to her younger sisters running after the officers in Meryton. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Jane was not surprised when Elizabeth told her of Darcy's proposal. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. Jane was calm and happy because she did not love Bingley any more. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. Elizabeth met Wickham and told him everything that had happened during her stay in Kent. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Now correct the false ones.



CHAPTER ◆ EIGHT

Embarrassment at Pemberley

It was May when Elizabeth and Jane returned to Longbourn. Their reception at home was most kind. Mrs Bennet was happy to see Jane as beautiful as always and more than once during dinner Mr Bennet told Elizabeth that he was glad she was back.



On their first day home Lydia wanted to walk to Meryton, but Elizabeth objected strongly. People should not say that the Miss Bennets could not be home for half a day before they ran after the officers. She did not want to meet Wickham and hoped to avoid him as long as possible.

Only the next morning could Elizabeth speak to Jane about her meeting with Mr Darcy and the letter. She had decided not to mention Mr Bingley. Jane was surprised at Darcy's proposal. She

Embarrassment at Pemberley



was sorry he had expressed his feelings in a manner so little pleasing to her sister, but still more for the unhappiness her refusal must have given him. When she heard of George Wickham, however, Jane's feelings were more serious.

'I do not know when I have been more shocked,' she said. 'Wickham so very bad! It is past belief.¹ And poor Mr Darcy! Dear Lizzy, only think what he must have suffered with the knowledge of your ill opinion too and having to tell such a thing of his sister! It is really too bad. Lizzy, when you first read that letter, you must have felt it so.'

'I was very uncomfortable. I may say unhappy. And with no one to speak to, of what I felt, no Jane to make me feel better and say that I had not been so very weak and vain and nonsensical as I knew I had! Oh! how I wanted you!'

The sisters decided against telling people about Wickham. His regiment was soon to move to Brighton for the summer. It did not seem important.

At home, Elizabeth could now observe her sister's real feelings. Jane was not happy. She still felt a very strong affection for Bingley. She had never thought herself in love before so her feelings had all the warmth of first attraction, and were, from her age and character, longer lasting.

The second week after their return began. It was the last week of the regiment's stay in Meryton, and all the young ladies in the neighbourhood were in despair. Only Jane and Elizabeth were still able to eat, drink and sleep. Kitty and Lydia could not understand them.

'What, oh what shall we do!' they often cried desperately.

1. **past belief** : impossible to believe.

'How can you smile so, Lizzy?'

Their affectionate mother joined them in their feelings. She remembered what she herself had suffered at such a time, twenty-five years ago.

'I am sure,' said she, 'I cried for two whole days when Colonel Millar's regiment went away. I thought I would die.'

'I am sure I shall die,' said Lydia.

'If only we could go to Brighton!' observed Mrs Bennet.

'Oh yes! If only we could go, but papa is so disagreeable.'

Lydia's happiness soon returned, for she received an invitation to Brighton from her friend Mrs Forster. This was a very young woman, just married to the Colonel of the regiment. But where Lydia was happy, Kitty was mortified. In vain did Elizabeth and Jane speak to her. She refused to be comforted.

Before the regiment departed Elizabeth saw Mr Wickham for the last time. He was invited to Longbourn with some other officers. On her return from Kent, she had learned that the rich young lady who had taken her place in his affections had moved. Over dinner Mr Wickham spoke to her with a gallantry which caused her much displeasure. When he asked about her stay in Kent, she told him she had seen Mr Darcy and that she found him more agreeable now that she knew him better. Wickham looked anxious and said,

'I am happy that he is wise enough to try and appear a good man. But I imagine that he was only cautious to seem so at the house of his aunt because of his wish of marrying Miss de Bourgh.' Elizabeth had to smile, but did not answer.

A month before her planned journey to the Lakes, Elizabeth received a letter from her aunt, informing her that instead of the Lakes they had decided to go to Derbyshire, to the little town of



Lambton, where Mrs Gardiner had friends. Lambton was, Mrs Gardiner wrote, five miles from Pemberley, the estate of Mr Darcy and old home of George Wickham. Elizabeth's feelings were mixed, but she consoled herself that there was small probability of meeting Darcy.

Four weeks passed, and Mr and Mrs Gardiner appeared at Longbourn. They stayed the night, and left the next morning with Elizabeth. The evening before their arrival in Lambton, while talking over their travel plans, they saw that Pemberley was not more than two miles out of their way. Mrs Gardiner expressed a wish to see the place and asked Elizabeth if she wouldn't like to see a place to which so many of her friends were connected.

Elizabeth knew not what to say. She felt that she had no business at Pemberley. She was tired of great houses, she told her aunt, but Mrs Gardiner was determined.

'It is not only a great house,' said she, 'but the gardens are some of the finest in England.'

Elizabeth said no more, but she was uneasy. The possibility of meeting Darcy while visiting the place immediately came to mind. That night she asked the servant about Pemberley and if the family was there. The answer was no.

Pemberley, a large, handsome house, delighted Elizabeth when she saw it. She had never seen a place of such natural beauty, and felt that to be mistress¹ of Pemberley might be something. The housekeeper, a respectable-looking, older woman, showed them the house. The rooms were both simple and elegant.

'And of this place,' she thought, 'I might have been mistress! I might have enjoyed it as my own and welcomed as visitors my

1. **mistress** : the woman in control.



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uncle and aunt. But no, that could never be. They would have been lost to me. He would not have permitted me to invite them.' This fortunate thought saved her from feeling almost sorry.

When her aunt called her to look at a picture, the housekeeper came forward and said,

'That is my master, and very like him.'

'I have heard of your master,' said Mrs Gardiner. 'Lizzy, you can tell us if it is like or not.'

The housekeeper asked if she knew Mr Darcy.

'A little,' said Elizabeth.



Embarrassment at Pemberley

'Do you not think him a very handsome gentleman, Ma'am?'

'Yes, very handsome.'

The housekeeper, either from pride or affection, clearly had great pleasure in talking about him. Mr Gardiner asked her about him. Elizabeth listened with surprise as she said, 'I never had an unkind word from him in my life and I have known him since he was four years old. There is not one of his servants who does not speak well of him. Some people call him proud, but I am sure I never saw that.'

As they walked through the rooms Elizabeth was stopped by



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the sight of a large portrait. It was of Mr Darcy, with such a smile on his face as she remembered to have seen sometimes when he looked at her. There was at this moment in Elizabeth's mind, a warmer feeling towards the man than she had ever felt before. The picture of his character given by his housekeeper was a compliment indeed.

When they had seen what was open of the house, they took their leave. As they walked through the garden, Elizabeth turned back to look again when suddenly she saw Darcy himself. They were so near that it was impossible to avoid his sight. Their eyes met, and they both blushed deeply. He looked and for a moment could not move for surprise, but then came up and spoke to Elizabeth politely, explaining that he had come a day early.

She had turned away, but stopping, received his compliments with mortification. The thought of the impropriety¹ of her being there made those moments some of the most uncomfortable of her life. He too was not at ease. After standing a few moments without saying a word, he suddenly took his leave.

The others then joined her and expressed their admiration, but Elizabeth heard not a word. She was so ashamed. Her coming there was the most unfortunate thing in the world! Oh! Why did he come a day before he was expected? And his behaviour, so changed, what could it mean? She was surprised that he should even speak to her, but to speak so politely, to ask after her family! Never in her life had she seen his manners so little formal, never had he spoken so kindly as on this unexpected meeting.

1. impropriety : incorrectness, unsuitability.



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They were walking on when Mr Darcy came up again and asked if Elizabeth would do him the honour of introducing him to her friends. She almost smiled when she remembered what he had once said of her connections. 'What will be his surprise,' thought she, 'when he knows who they are! He now thinks they are people of fashion.'

The introduction was made. Mr Darcy turned back with them and started a conversation with Mr Gardiner. Elizabeth was very pleased that he should know she had some relatives to be proud of. She listened and triumphed at every word of her uncle's that showed his intelligence or his good manners.

They began to speak of fishing, and she heard Mr Darcy invite him to fish there as often as he liked while in the neighbourhood. Mrs Gardiner gave Elizabeth a look of surprise. Elizabeth said nothing, but was very gratified. The compliment must be for herself, but she kept thinking, 'Why is he so changed? It cannot be for me that his manners are so softened. It is impossible that he should still love me.'

After some time Mrs Gardiner, tired from the walk, asked for her husband's arm, and Mr Darcy took her place by her niece. Elizabeth spoke first. She wanted him to know that she had been assured he was away from home before she came to the place. He had come early on business he explained. The party who travelled with him was joining him the next day.

'There are some of them who you know, Mr Bingley and his sisters.' Elizabeth did not answer. 'There is one other person in the party who wished to be known to you. Will you permit me, or do I ask too much, to introduce my sister to you during your stay at Lambton?'

They walked on in silence. Elizabeth was not comfortable,

Embarrassment at Pemberley

but she was flattered and pleased. His wish of introducing his sister to her was a compliment of the highest kind. At the house Mr Darcy invited them to tea, but they refused and took their leave.

The observations of her aunt and uncle now began. Both thought him much better than anything they had expected.

'There is something a little formal in him, but only in his manner,' said her aunt.

'I was never more surprised than by his behaviour to us. It was more than polite. It was really attentive, and there was no necessity. He does not know Elizabeth so well,' her uncle added.

'Indeed Lizzy,' said her aunt, 'he is not as handsome as Wickham, but how could you tell us that he was disagreeable? It is hard to believe he can have behaved so badly to poor Wickham.'

Elizabeth explained that his character was not so bad nor Wickham's as good as they had thought. The Gardiners were shocked, but as they were now nearing Lambton, there was no time to say more.

On the morning after their arrival at Lambton, they heard the sound of a carriage. It was Darcy. When Elizabeth told her uncle and aunt they were most surprised, and the embarrassment of her manner as she spoke opened to them a new idea on the business.

Miss Darcy and her brother appeared and the introduction took place. Elizabeth saw that the young lady was as much embarrassed as she. She had heard that Miss Darcy was proud, but the observation of a few minutes showed her that she was only timid.

They had not been long together before Darcy told her that



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Bingley also was coming. A moment later he entered the room and greeted her warmly. He asked in a friendly, though general way after her family.

To Mr and Mrs Gardiner, Bingley was a most interesting person. They observed the whole party with attention. Their suspicions of Mr Darcy and their niece made them watch each closely and they soon saw that one of them, at least, knew what it was to love. The lady's feelings they did not quite understand, but the gentleman was clearly full of admiration.

In seeing Bingley, Elizabeth immediately thought of Jane. She watched his behaviour to Miss Darcy, but saw nothing that spoke of affection in his manner to her. At one point he observed to Elizabeth that it was a very long time since he had had the pleasure of seeing her, and then asked if *all* her sisters were at Longbourn, with a look and a manner that gave the words meaning.

When their visitors got up to depart, Mr Darcy asked his sister to join him in inviting the Gardiners and Miss Bennet to dinner at Pemberley. They accepted and a day was decided.

1 Answer the following questions.

- a. Why do the Gardiners decide to go and stay in Lambton?
- b. What is Pemberley and why do they go to visit it?
- c. Why is Elizabeth surprised at what the housekeeper says?
- d. Who does Elizabeth happen to meet there?
- e. How do they both feel at meeting each other?
- f. How does he behave towards Elizabeth and her relatives?
- g. Who does he want to introduce Elizabeth to?
- h. What does Elizabeth realise about Miss Darcy?

Grammar

When we are asking for information we often use the following expressions before the question:

I wonder, I don't suppose you know, Do you know, Could you tell me.

Could you tell me where the post office is. (Where is the post office?)

I don't suppose you know whether Mr Darcy went to London. (Did Mr Darcy go to London?)

Notice that we don't use the *do/did* or word inversion of questions.

Also, if it is a *yes/no* question without a question word then we use 'if' or 'whether'.

2 Using one of the expressions on page 111, turn the following direct questions into indirect questions.

- When did the Bingleys go to London?
Do you know when the Bingleys went to London?
- Does Elizabeth often write to Charlotte?
- When is Mr Darcy returning to Pemberley?
- Have you seen Lady Catherine recently?
- Why did the coach not stop in Lambton?
- Is that Colonel Fitzwilliam?

FCE 3 Read the summary of Chapters Five to Eight and think of the word which best fits each space. Use only one word in each space. There is an example at the beginning (0).

Mr Collins began his pompous and silly marriage proposal (0)..... which nearly made Elizabeth laugh. However, she (1)..... him finish and then she told him that, (2)..... she was honoured, she would not marry him. Upon hearing of her daughter's refusal, Mrs Bennet (3)..... quite angry. Mr Collins (4)..... lost no time and went to the Lucases, where he asked Charlotte to marry him. She accepted immediately.

The next day Jane received a letter from Caroline Bingley saying that they were leaving Netherfield for London (5)..... they would probably spend the entire winter. Elizabeth immediately thought that Caroline was doing her best to keep her brother away (6)..... Jane.

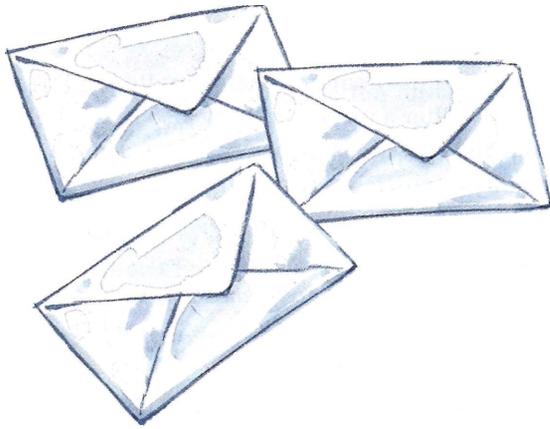
In March Elizabeth and Charlotte's sister Maria went to Kent where they were warmly greeted (7)..... Mr Collins and his wife. Mr Collins talked enthusiastically about Lady Catherine. They

even had the honour of being invited to Rosings, Lady Catherine's home. After a week Mr Darcy also came to Rosings: Lady Catherine wanted him to marry her daughter. Later a Colonel Fitzwilliam, Mr Darcy's cousin, also came to visit. Strangely, Darcy did his best to be with Elizabeth, (8)..... when he was with her he said little.

One day during a conversation with Fitzwilliam Elizabeth discovered that (9)..... was really Mr Darcy who had separated Jane from Mr Bingley.

That evening while Elizabeth sat alone rereading Jane's letters, Mr Darcy came into the room. Then, incredibly, he asked her to marry him. It was, however, a strange marriage proposal since he told her that (10)..... her family, her lack of wealth and poor social connections, he could not resist her. Elizabeth promptly turned him down. The next day Mr Darcy sent her a letter in which he explained his dislike of Mr Wickham and why he had done his best to keep Mr Bingley from marrying Jane. Elizabeth not only began to understand his point of view, but she also felt terribly ashamed of herself.

That summer Elizabeth was going to go the Lakes with her aunt and uncle, but (11)..... her aunt decided to go to a small town called Lambton, which was near Darcy's estate in Pemberley. When they were near Lambton, Mrs Gardiner suggested that they visit Pemberley. During their visit there, the housekeeper spoke very well of Mr Darcy. Then (12)..... Elizabeth was walking in the gardens she encountered Mr Darcy. They were both extremely embarrassed, but Mr Darcy was very kind and even asked about her family. Later Darcy asked Elizabeth if he could introduce her to his sister. Elizabeth began to wonder (13)..... he still loved her.



CHAPTER ♦ NINE

Bad News!

Elizabeth had been sorry not to find a letter from Jane on their arrival at Lambton. On the third day two letters arrived together. They had just been going to go for a walk, so her aunt and uncle left her and went ahead by themselves.

Elizabeth opened the first letter. It was five days old.

Dearest Lizzy, something most serious has happened. It is about poor Lydia. An express tetter came at twelve last night from Colonel Forster to inform us that she had gone off to Scotland with one of his officers, to tell the truth with Wickham! Imagine our surprise. Only Kitty knew something of this. I am very, very sorry. Such an unfortunate marriage for both! At least he has not chosen her for her fortune. He must know my father can give her nothing. Our poor mother is most unhappy. I must finish as I cannot leave her long.

Bad News!

Elizabeth immediately opened the other letter and read,

By this time you will have received my hurried letter. Dearest Lizzy, I have bad news for you. Unfortunate as a marriage between Mr Wickham and our poor Lydia would be, we are now anxious to hear it has happened. It seems that they were not going to Scotland. Colonel Forster came yesterday. Though Lydia's letter to Mrs Forster made them think they were going to Gretna Green,¹ Denny told a friend that W. never planned to go there or to marry Lydia at



1. **Gretna Green** : a place in Scotland where it was easy to get a marriage licence. People who wanted to get married secretly often went there.

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all. As soon as Colonel Forster heard of this he left to go after them, but could follow than only to Clapham, where they changed carriage. All that is known after this is that they were seen to continue towards London.

My father and mother believe the worst, but I cannot think so ill of him. My poor mother is really ill and remains in her room. As for my father, I never saw him so. He is going to London with Colonel Forster to try to find her. What he means to do, I do not know. At such a moment my uncle's advice and help would be everything in the world. I must ask you, dearest Lizzy, to come here as soon as possible.

'Oh! Where, where is my uncle?' cried Elizabeth. At that moment the door was opened by a servant and Mr Darcy appeared. Her face and manner shocked him. Before he could speak, she cried,

'I am sorry, but I must leave you. I must find Mr Gardiner this minute on business that cannot wait.'

'Good God, what is the matter?' cried he with more feeling than politeness. 'I will not stop you, but let me go, or the servant. You are not well enough.'

Knowing she could do nothing, she called the servant and asked him to find her aunt and uncle. When he left the room she sat down and looked so ill that it was impossible for Darcy to leave her.

'Is there nothing you could take?' he asked in the kindest manner. 'You are very ill.'

'No, I thank you,' she answered. 'I am quite well. I have only



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had some bad news.' She began to cry and for a few minutes could not say another word. When she could, she told Darcy the story.

'When I think,' she said, 'that it might not have happened if I had told my family about him! But it is all, all too late now.'

'I am shocked and sorry indeed!' cried Darcy. He walked up and down the room, deep in thought, his manner severe. Elizabeth understood. He could no longer feel for her¹ after such an example of the complete impropriety of her family. Never had she felt so sure that she could have loved him as now, when all love must be in vain.

At length Darcy turned to her and said,

'You must be wishing me to leave. I fear my sister will not now have the pleasure of seeing you at Pemberley.'

'Be so kind as to apologise for us to Miss Darcy. Say that important business calls us home immediately.'

Darcy left his compliments for her relatives and, with only one serious look, left the room. She was sorry to see him go and, with despair, saw it as an example of the shame Lydia's behaviour must give all her family.

Mr and Mrs Gardiner soon came back, and as soon as Elizabeth had told her story and read them Jane's letters, got ready to leave for Longbourn.

On their arrival Jane came running to meet them and tell them there was no further news.

'Now that my dear uncle is come,' she said, 'I hope everything will be well.'

'Is my mother well?'

1. **feel for her** : be in love with her.

Bad News!



'She is not too ill, and will be very satisfied to see you all.'

'But how are you?' cried Elizabeth. 'You look pale. Oh! that I had been with you. You have had every care and anxiety alone.'

The whole party were in hopes of a letter from Mr Bennet the next morning, but nothing came. Mr Gardiner had only waited for that before he left, promising to send Mr Bennet back to Longbourn.

When Mrs Bennet heard this she cried,

'What! Is he coming home without poor Lydia! Surely he will not leave London before he has found them. Who is to make Wickham marry her, if he comes away?'

When Mr Bennet arrived he looked as always. It was not till the afternoon that Elizabeth introduced the subject, saying how sorry she was for his suffering.

'Say nothing of that,' he answered. 'Who should suffer but me? It has been my own fault and I should feel it.'

'You must not be too severe on yourself,' said Elizabeth.

'No Lizzy. Let me for once in my life feel how much I have been in the wrong.'

Two days later a letter came by express from Mr Gardiner, reading

My dear brother,

At last I am able to send you news of my niece, and such as I hope will give you satisfaction. I was fortunate enough to find out in what part of London they were. I have seen them both. They are not married, nor can I find they planned to be, but if you will do what I have promised, I hope it will not be long before they are. All that

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you have to do is to assure your daughter the thousand pounds she would get when you and my sister die, and to give her, while you live, one hundred pounds a year. I am sure you will agree to do this. Answer me as soon as you can. Do not return to London. I will do everything necessary. We thought it best that Lydia be married from this house. I hope you agree. Yours,

Edw. Gardiner

'Is it possible!' cried Elizabeth, 'Can it be possible that he will marry her?'

'Wickham is not as bad then as we have thought him,' said her sister. 'My dear father, I congratulate you.'

'There are two things that I want very much to know. One is, how much money your uncle has given Wickham, and the other, how can I ever give it back.'

'Money, my uncle!' cried Jane. 'What do you mean, Sir?'

'That no man would marry Lydia for only one hundred a year.'

'That is true,' said Elizabeth. 'It must be my uncle's doing. Generous, good man.'

The sisters quickly went to give their mother the good news and read her Mr Gardiner's letter. As soon as she had understood, her happiness was as violent as her despair before.

'My dear, dear Lydia!' she cried. 'This is delightful indeed. She will be married! I shall see her again! She will be married at sixteen! Oh how I want to see her and dear Wickham! How happy will we be together.'

That day she came down for the first time to dinner. No sense of shame lessened her triumph. She talked of fashions and

Bad News!

carriages and servants and was busy thinking of a house good enough for the Wickhams. The marriage of a daughter had been her greatest wish since Jane was sixteen. Her husband let her talk on while the servants remained, but then said to her,

'Mrs Bennet, let us understand each other. In one house in this neighbourhood, they shall not come. I will not receive them at Longbourn.'

Elizabeth was sorry that she had told Mr Darcy of their fears now that her sister would be married. This was not from any hopes for her own happiness. Even had Lydia's marriage been proper and honourable, Mr Darcy would not connect himself with a family related to Mr Wickham, a man he despised. Elizabeth wanted to hear from Darcy now that it seemed impossible. She was sure that she could have been happy with him when it was no longer probable that they should meet.

What a triumph for him, she thought, if he knew that the proposal she had proudly rejected only four months ago, would now have been gladly received.

Mr Gardiner soon wrote again to inform them that Wickham had decided to leave his regiment and join another in the north of England. Before they left, he continued, Lydia wanted to see her family.

Jane and Elizabeth agreed in wishing their parents to receive Lydia as soon as she was married. At last Mr Bennet agreed, and Mrs Bennet was satisfied that she could show her married daughter in the neighbourhood.

They came. The family were all together in the breakfast-room to receive them, Mrs Bennet all smiles, her husband severe, her daughters uneasy. Lydia's voice was heard, the door opened and she ran into the room. Her mother welcomed her with delight, gave her



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hand to Wickham and wished them happiness. Lydia turned from sister to sister, asking for their congratulations. Elizabeth was disgusted and even Jane was shocked. Lydia was Lydia still.

At dinner she walked up to sit by her mother, saying,

'Oh! Jane, I shall sit here now and you must go lower, because I am a married woman.' She could not wait to see Mrs Philips, the Lucases and all their other neighbours, and to hear herself called Mrs Wickham. After dinner she said to her mother,

'Well, mama, and what do you think of my husband? Is he not a charming man? I hope my sisters will be as lucky. They must go to Brighton. That is the place to get husbands.' She invited them all to visit her that winter.



Bad News!

'I am sure there will be balls,' she said. 'I shall get husbands for them before the winter is over.'

'I thank you,' said Elizabeth, 'but I do not like your way of getting husbands.'

One morning Lydia said to Elizabeth,

'Lizzy, I never told *you* of my wedding. You were not there when I told mama. Do you not want to hear?'

'No really,' answered Elizabeth. 'I do not think there can be too little said on the subject.'

That did not stop Lydia who started once more to tell the story of her wedding day, and how it had almost not happened. Her uncle was to give her away,¹ but had to see a man about business shortly before, and was almost late.

'Luckily he came back in time. I remembered later that if he had not come, the wedding could have taken place the same, for Mr Darcy would have been as good.'

'Mr Darcy!' repeated Elizabeth.

'Oh yes! He came there with Wickham, you know. But oh dear! I quite forgot I should not have said. I promised I would not. What will Wickham say?'

'If you promised, I will ask you no questions.'

'Thank you,' said Lydia, 'because if you did I would tell you all, and then Wickham would be angry.'

Elizabeth had to leave to think it over. Mr Darcy had been at her sister's wedding. What could it mean? She could find no explanation. Quickly taking some paper, she wrote a short letter to her aunt, asking for an explanation if it was possible. If not, she decided, she must find some other way of finding out the truth.

1. **give her away** : hand her over ceremonially to the bridegroom.



1 Answer the following questions.

- a. What important news is Elizabeth told in the letters she receives from Jane?
- b. Who does Elizabeth speak to about the news? What is his reaction?
- c. What do Elizabeth and the Gardiners do?
- d. How does Mr Bennet feel? Who does he confess his feelings to and find consolation in?
- e. Has Mrs Bennet grown more sensible and responsible after the latest events?
- f. Have Lydia and Wickham changed at all?
- g. Do all the Bennets welcome Lydia back home in the same way? What does this show once again?

Grammar

Look at the following sentences.

*I wish Mr Darcy **didn't know** about Lydia and Wickham.*

We use **wish + the past** to talk about something in the present or future that we regret or are sorry about.

*The Bennets **would rather** Lydia **didn't marry** Wickham.*

would rather = would prefer and is followed by the Past Simple even though we are talking about a present or future situation.

2 Complete the following sentences.

- a. 'Mr Collins isn't very intelligent,' thought Charlotte.
I wish.....
- b. Mr Darcy knows all about Lydia's elopement with Wickham.
Elizabeth wishes.....
- c. Lydia wants to tell Elizabeth all about her marriage.
Elizabeth would rather.....
- d. Mr Gardiner doesn't want Mr Bennet to stay in London.
He'd rather.....
- e. Mr Darcy is in love with Elizabeth.
He wishes.....



3 Write a short story of 120-180 words.

Your short story should begin with the following words:

Elizabeth had not seen her sister Lydia for five long years, so she decided to visit her and her husband in the north of England. Worried, she knocked at the door of her sister's humble home. The door opened and

.....

T: GRADE 8

4 Topic - Society

Lydia's behaviour in running away with Wickham was considered shocking and highly improper. Do you think that this behaviour today would be considered in the same way? Use the following questions to help you.

- a. Do people usually ask their parents' permission before marrying nowadays?
- b. Is living together without marrying considered good or bad?
- c. What is society's general attitude towards women who have had other serious relationships before marrying?
- d. If you had been Lydia, would you have done what she did?

THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN THE REGENCY PERIOD

The position of women in the Regency period was very different from that of today. While women of the lower classes worked either in the fields, at home, or were starting to work in the factories, middle or upper-class women were not supposed to work. It was a point of social pride that 'young ladies' should be taught by a governess, do a little drawing and as little domestic work as possible. As we can see in Jane Austen's novels the ladies representing the lower gentry and the upper bourgeoisie spend their time in reading poetry, gossiping, paying visits to each other, writing letters, doing a little painting, or playing the piano and singing at the most. They were not encouraged to do any sport but only a little walking and dancing. In extreme cases they could become governesses or companions as we can see in *Emma*, but this was very often an unrewarding experience since they occupied a middle ground between the family and the servants and were badly treated by both.

The only way a woman could get her place in society was to marry and have her own household to manage. This explains why, although Mrs Bennet is often absurd and vulgar, it is clear that with five daughters who would be left without a home and with very little money after their father's death, this was indeed a serious business. Jane Austen and her sister Cassandra never got married, although it has been said that they were attractive women who both fell in love. The Austen women were fortunate in having a home, enough money to keep up a pleasant life style and a liberal family to support them. For less fortunate women,



*An upper bourgeoisie interior during the Regency Period.
Self portrait of the artist painting at her desk (19th century)
by I. J. Willis.*

a 'good' marriage was the only honourable way of life.

In *Pride and Prejudice* Elizabeth disapproves of her friend Charlotte's marriage to Mr Collins, because it is not a marriage of love and respect. Charlotte, however, feels that 'marriage... was the only honourable provision for well educated young women of small fortune, and however uncertain of giving happiness, must be their pleasantest preservation from want.' Her attitude is supported by that of many other characters in the novel.

In Jane Austen's day, people usually married someone more or less from their own social class. To marry into a different class and educational background could create problems, such as, for example, those between Mr and Mrs Bennet. Mr Bennet was a gentleman who married an uneducated woman from a lower social background who could never be a suitable companion for **him**. As a result he withdrew from his family, leaving the education of his daughters to his wife. This explains the superficial and silly behaviour of Kitty and Lydia. Only Elizabeth and Jane's great moral propriety enables them to marry the men they love despite the disadvantages of their connections.

1 Answer the following questions.

- a. Where did lower-class women work?
- b. Who taught young upper-class ladies?
- c. What did young ladies study?

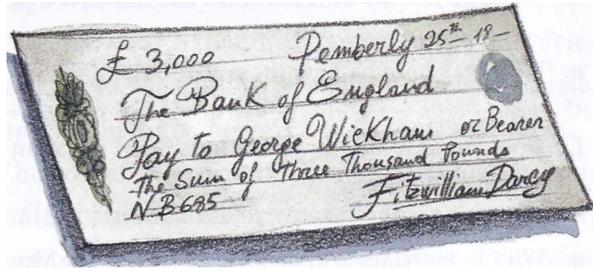
- d. What physical activities were they allowed to do?
- e. Why was being a governess difficult?
- f. How could a lady improve her social position during the Regency period?
- g. Why is marriage a very serious matter for Mrs Bennet's daughters?
- h. Why was Jane Austen fortunate compared to other upper-class ladies of her period?
- i. How does Charlotte justify the fact that she is marrying a man she does not love?
- j. Why is Mr and Mrs Bennet's marriage a difficult one?
- k. How do Jane and Elizabeth manage to overcome the problem of their poor family connections?

T: GRADE 8

2 Topic - The World of Work

While lower-class women either worked in the fields, factories or at home, upper-class women did not work at all. How has the world of work changed for women since then? Use the following questions to help you.

- a. Are there still some jobs which are not open to women?
- b. Do you think that women have more choices in their jobs?
- c. Are there certain jobs which are more suitable for women?
- d. If you had lived in Jane Austen's time, would you have preferred to work or stay at home doing nothing? Why?



CHAPTER ♦ TEN

Elizabeth learns the Truth

Elizabeth had the satisfaction of an answer soon. It read 

*My dear niece,
I have just received your letter and must say that I was surprised at it. I did not think it necessary for you to ask for information. Your uncle also believed that you knew what was happening at the time. But let me explain. On the day I came home from Longbourn your uncle had an unexpected visit from Mr Darcy. He came to say that he had found your sister and Mr Wickham and had talked to them. The reason he gave was that it was his fault alone that Wickham's true character had been unknown. If he had been more open in the past, no young woman could have fallen in love with Wickham. Mr*

Darcy generously felt his mistaken pride was the cause of all our unhappiness, and so he had to help us now. If he had another motive, I am sure it was a good one. When Mr Darcy spoke to Lydia, he offered to help her leave Wickham and come home, but she would not do so. She wanted no help, and would not hear of leaving Wickham. She was sure they would get married some day. Then he spoke to Wickham, and found he had no intention of marrying Lydia. Wickham told him he had to leave his regiment because of problems with money. Mr Darcy asked him why he had not married your sister. Mr Bennet was not very rich, but he and your uncle would have helped Wickham as much as they could. But Wickham, it seemed, still hoped to marry some young lady with a great fortune, perhaps in another part of England. Mr Darcy saw how desperate Wickham's situation was and understood that he would marry Lydia, if offered, enough money. When Mr Darcy came to us, your uncle wanted to give him back the money he had paid Wickham, but he refused. They talked for a long time, but your uncle could do nothing. But, Lizzy, nobody must know of this. Only you, or perhaps Jane. That is all. I hope the story will cause you no displeasure. We saw Mr Darcy at the wedding and the next day he dined with us. Will you be angry with me, my dear Lizzy, if I now say how much I like him. His behaviour to us has been as pleasing as when we were in Derbyshire. His understanding and opinions all please me. He needs nothing but a little more liveliness and that his wife may teach him. But I must write no more. Yours,

M. Gardiner.

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Elizabeth did not know if she felt more pain or pleasure. Mr Darcy had done all this. He had had to meet the man he most wished to avoid, to talk to him and give him money. He had done this for her sister. Her heart said he had done it for her. But this hope lasted only a moment. He could not have, for a woman who had already refused him once, had become a relative of Wickham's! Oh, how she suffered to remember all the impudent things she had said in the past. She was mortified, but she was proud of him.

The day of Wickham and Lydia's journey North came. Mrs Bennet was quite unhappy for several days until she heard that the housekeeper at Netherfield had received word her master was coming in a day or two.

'Well, well and so Mr Bingley is coming,' she said. 'So much the better. He is nothing to us, and I am sure I never want to see him again. But he is very welcome to come to Netherfield if he likes. And who knows what may happen?'

Jane had not been able to hear of his coming without blushing. When they were alone she assured Elizabeth that the news did not cause her pleasure or suffering. She was only glad he came alone because they would see less of him.

Over the next days Mrs Bennet talked of nothing else till Jane told Elizabeth she was beginning to be sorry that he was coming at all. She would be happy when his stay at Netherfield was over.

On the third morning after Mr Bingley's arrival he came to visit.

'There is a gentleman with him, mamma,' said Kitty. 'Who can it be? Oh! It looks just like the man who was with him before, Mr... What's his name? That tall, proud man.'

'Mr Darcy! and so it does.'

Elizabeth Learns the Truth

Jane looked at Elizabeth with surprise. Both sisters were uncomfortable. Each felt for the other. Their mother talked on of her dislike for Mr Darcy and her decision to be polite to him only as Mr Bingley's friend.

When the gentlemen came in Elizabeth said as little to either as politeness would allow. She only looked once at Darcy who seemed as serious as usual. Bingley, she had seen for a moment, looking both pleased and embarrassed. He was received by Mrs Bennet with a politeness which made her daughters ashamed, especially when contrasted with the cold politeness to Mr Darcy, who after asking her how Mr and Mrs Gardiner were, said almost nothing. He seemed more thoughtful and less anxious to please than when they had last met. She asked after his sister, but could do no more.

'It is a long time, Mr Bingley, since you went away,' said Mrs Bennet.

He agreed.

'I began to be afraid you would never come back. A great many changes have happened since you went away. Miss Lucas is married. And one of my own daughters. Have you heard of it?' Bingley gave her his compliments. 'It is a delightful thing to have a daughter well married,' she continued.

Elizabeth was so ashamed she could not look up. How Mr Darcy looked she could not tell. She only felt better when she saw Bingley, attracted again by Jane's beauty, speak to her more and more. He found her as beautiful as last year and as agreeable, if more silent.

When the gentlemen got up to go, Mrs Bennet invited them to dinner a few days later.

Elizabeth was left to think about Mr Darcy's behaviour.



Pride AND PREJUDICE

'Why, if he came only to be severe and silent and indifferent, did he come at all?' she thought. 'If he could still be pleasing to my uncle and aunt, why not to me?' Jane soon joined her with a happy look.

'Now,' said she, 'that this first meeting is over, I feel easy. I shall never be embarrassed again by his coming. I am glad he dines here. It will then be seen that we meet only in a friendly manner.'

At the dinner at Longbourn, Elizabeth observed Bingley's behaviour to her sister. He showed an admiration which made her think that Jane's happiness and his own would soon be settled, if he could decide alone. She looked at Mr Darcy, but he did not show his feelings. He was seated far from her, next to her mother.

Elizabeth Learns the Truth

She could not hear any of their conversation, but she could see how little they spoke to each other, and how formal and cold was their manner. Her mother's impoliteness made the thought of what he had done for them even harder. She would have given anything to tell him that his kindness was known and felt by her and hoped the evening would bring them together.

After dinner she waited only for the men to return.

'If he does not come to me then,' said she, 'I shall forget him.'

The gentlemen came and she thought he looked as if he would have answered her hopes, but there was no place around the table where she and Jane were making tea and coffee. Darcy walked away. She followed him with her eyes, angry with herself for her



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feelings. A man who had once been refused! How could she expect a renewal of his love? When he came up to her later she took the chance of saying,

'Is your sister at Pemberley still?'

'Yes. She will remain for some time.'

She could think of nothing more to say, and had no chance to speak to him alone that evening.

A few days later, Mr Bingley visited again, alone because his friend had left for London that morning for ten days. Mrs Bennet invited him to dine, and although it was not possible that day, he accepted the invitation immediately for the following day.

Over the next days Mr Bingley visited often. One day, Elizabeth walked into the drawing-room and saw her sister and Bingley standing close together speaking seriously. They quickly turned around and their faces told it all. They did not speak, till Bingley said a few words to Jane and hurriedly left the room. Jane immediately kissed her sister and told her she was the happiest woman in the world.

'It is too much!' she said. 'Far too much. Oh! Why is not everybody as happy? But I must go this minute to my mother. He has gone to my father already. Oh! Lizzy. How is it possible to be so happy?'

When Bingley returned he came up to her and asked her for the good wishes and affection of a sister. Elizabeth warmly expressed her delight.

When she could speak, Mrs Bennet said to her daughter,

'Oh! my dear, dear Jane, I am so happy! I am sure I shall not sleep all night. I always said it must be so. I was sure you could not be so beautiful for nothing.'

Wickham and Lydia were all forgotten. Jane was her favourite.

1 Decide if the following statements are true (T) or false (F). Then correct the false ones.

- | | T | F |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| a. Elizabeth received a letter from her uncle. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b. Darcy took the blame for what happened to Lydia. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c. Mrs Gardiner thought that Darcy had another motive for helping Lydia. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d. Wickham didn't really want to marry Lydia. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| e. Elizabeth considered the possibility that Darcy was still in love with her. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| f. When Bingley and Darcy visited Longbourn Mrs Bennet was very rude to both of them. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| g. Mrs Bennet knew that Darcy had helped her daughter Lydia. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| h. Bingley proposed to Jane. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

2 A. Look back over Chapter Ten and find the antonyms to the following words.

- a. humility
- b. deterrent
- c. agreed
- d. sorrow
- e. polite
- f. elated
- g. humble
- h. rudeness
- i. horrible
- j. ugliness

B. Now use some of the words to fill in the gaps in the following sentences.

- a. Mrs Gardiner believed that Darcy had another.....
for helping Lydia.
- b. Darcy.....to take back the money.
- c. Elizabeth was.....when she thought of what she had
said to Darcy in the past.
- d. Mrs Bennet received Darcy with a cold.....which
embarrassed her daughters.
- e. Mrs Bennet said it was.....to have a daughter well
married.



CHAPTER ♦ ELEVEN

Triumph over Pride and Prejudice

One morning, about a week later, the family were sitting in the dining room, when a carriage came up to the door. It was Lady Catherine de Bourgh.



She entered the room with a manner more than usually unfriendly and sat down. After a moment she turned to Elizabeth and said,

'I hope you are well, Miss Bennet. That lady I expect is your mother.'

Elizabeth answered that it was.

'And that I expect is one of your sisters.'

Mrs Bennet said that it was. 'May I ask your ladyship if you left Mr and Mrs Collins well?' she asked.

'Yes, very well. I saw them last night.'

3 Using *who* / *which* / *where* / *whose* join up the following sentences.

- a. At the ball Darcy made some unpleasant remarks about Elizabeth.
His remarks were overheard by her.
.....
- b. Mr Collins proposed to Elizabeth. Elizabeth's first reaction was to
laugh.
.....
- c. Elizabeth and the Gardiners went to Pemberley. They met Darcy
there.
.....
- d. Elizabeth talked about Darcy to the housekeeper of Pemberley.
Her opinion of him was very good.
.....
- e. When Elizabeth received the bad news about Lydia she told
Darcy. He took the news very seriously.
.....
- f. Mr Gardiner went to London. He found Lydia and Wickham there.
.....
- g. Elizabeth read the letter. The letter was from her aunt.
.....

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At that Lady Catherine got up and asked Elizabeth to walk with her in the garden where she said,

'You must understand, Miss Bennet, the motive for my journey.'

Elizabeth looked surprised and assured her that she was mistaken.

'Miss Bennet,' answered her Ladyship in an angry tone, 'you must know that it is in my character always to say what I think. I shall not change now. I was told a most scandalous story two days ago. That you, that Miss Elizabeth Bennet, would probably soon marry Mr Darcy. I knew of course that it was not true, that he would never do such a thing. I decided to come here immediately to tell you of my feelings on the matter.'

'If you did not believe it true,' said Elizabeth, 'why did you come?'

'I came to hear you say it is not true. Has Mr Darcy made you an offer of marriage?'

'Your Ladyship has said that is impossible.'

'It should be so. But you may have made him forget how he should behave.'

'If I had, I would be the last person to say so.'

'Miss Bennet! Nobody speaks to me like this. You must understand me. This marriage can never take place. Mr Darcy is to marry my daughter. Now what have you to say?'

'If that is so, you can have no reason to imagine he will make an offer to me.'

Lady Catherine was silent for a moment and then said,

'From the beginning they were meant for each other.¹ It was

1. **meant for each other** : destined to marry.

Triumph over Pride and Prejudice

the favourite wish of his mother and mine. Are they not to be married because of a young woman of no importance in the world?'

'Is there no other objection to my marrying Mr Darcy, but an agreement between his mother and you? Has Mr Darcy no choice in the matter? And if I am that choice, why may I not accept him?'

'I am ashamed of you. Is this your thanks for my attentions to you, you a young woman without family, connections or fortune.'

'Mr Darcy is a gentleman. I am a gentleman's daughter.'

'You are a gentleman's daughter. But who was your mother? Who are your uncles and aunts?'



Pride
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'Whatever my connections may be,' said Elizabeth, 'if Mr Darcy does not object, they can be nothing to you.'

'Tell me now. Are you to marry him?'

'I am not.'

'And will you promise me never to marry him?'

'I will make no promise of the kind.'

'Miss Bennet, I know the story of your sister's marriage to Mr Wickham. Is such a girl to be Mr Darcy's sister?'

'You have now said everything possible to offend me. I have nothing more to say.' Elizabeth got up and they walked back to the house.

For many hours after Lady Catherine's departure, Elizabeth could not think clearly. She had said she would prevent their marriage. Would she now speak to Mr Darcy? With his idea of family pride, he might feel his aunt was not wrong. If in the next few days he wrote to Bingley saying that he could not return to Netherfield, she would understand. She would then stop thinking of him.

No letter came from Mr Darcy, but a few days later he came to Longbourn himself. Bingley, who wanted to be alone with Jane, had the idea of walking out together. They walked slowly behind while Elizabeth and Mr Darcy walked ahead. Now was the moment to speak.

'Mr Darcy,' Elizabeth began, 'I must thank you for your great kindness to my poor sister. Ever since I have known it, I have been anxious to tell you how grateful I am.'

'I am very sorry that you were informed of it. I did not think Mrs Gardiner would tell you.'

'It was Lydia who spoke thoughtlessly. Let me thank you again and again in the name of all my family.'



'If you will thank me,' he answered, 'thank me for yourself. Much as I respect your family, I thought only of you.'

Elizabeth was too much embarrassed to say a word. After a moment he said,

'You are too generous to play with my feelings. My affections and wishes are unchanged. If you feel the same as you did last April, tell me so immediately and I will be silent.'

Elizabeth, feeling all the anxiety of his situation, told him that her feelings had changed so much that she would now receive his proposal with gratitude and pleasure. The happiness this caused him was greater than any he had ever known. He spoke as intelligently and warmly as a man violently in love can



do. Elizabeth could not look at him. She could only listen in delight as he told of his feelings for her.

They walked on, not knowing where. There was too much to be thought and felt and said. She soon heard that they could thank his aunt for their present happiness. She had visited him and told him of her conversation with Elizabeth.

'It taught me to hope,' said he, 'as I had never hoped before. I knew your character well enough to be certain that if you had decided against me, you would have told Lady Catherine so.'

Elizabeth blushed and laughed. 'Yes. After saying the worst things to your face, I could say them to your relatives too.'

'What did you say that was untrue? My behaviour to you was despicable.'

'We shall not disagree on who was more at fault,' said Elizabeth. 'Since then I hope we are both changed for the better.'

'I cannot so easily forget the things I said... my manners to you... your words when you said to me, "...had you behaved in a more gentleman-like manner..." You do not know how those words have made me suffer.'

'I had no idea you would feel them like that.'

'I can believe it. You thought me without any proper feeling, I am sure you did. I shall never forget your face when you said that I could not propose to you in any way that would make you accept me.'

'Oh! do not repeat what I said then. I have long been so ashamed of it.'

Darcy mentioned his letter. 'Did it,' said he, 'soon make you think better of me?'

She explained how she had felt and how, slowly, all her prejudices had disappeared.



They spoke about their meeting at Pemberley.

'I only wanted to show you that I was not angry about the past,' Darcy said. 'I hoped for your forgiveness. How soon I felt other wishes I cannot say, but I believe about half an hour after I had seen you.'

After walking a long way they found at last that it was time to be at home. Where could Bingley and Jane be? Darcy expressed his delight at the news his friend had given him. In picturing Bingley's happiness, which would only be less than his own, he continued the conversation till they got home.

That night Elizabeth opened her heart to her sister who could not believe the news.

'You are not serious, Lizzy. This cannot be, to marry Mr Darcy! I know it is not true.'

'This is a bad beginning indeed! I am sure nobody else will believe me if you do not. But I am speaking the truth. He still loves me and we are to be married.'

'Oh Lizzy! It cannot be. I know how much you dislike him.'

'You know nothing of the matter. Perhaps I did not always love him as well as I do now. But that must all be forgotten.'

'I must believe you,' cried Jane. 'My dear, dear Lizzy, forgive the question, but are you quite sure that you can be happy with him?'

'Quite. It is settled between us already that we shall be the happiest people in the world.'

'And do you really love him well enough? Oh Lizzy, do anything, but do not marry without affection. Are you quite sure that you feel what you should?'

When Jane was satisfied about the strength of Elizabeth's affection for Darcy she said, 'Now I am quite happy, for you will be as happy as myself.'

Pride
AND
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'Oh no!' cried Mrs Bennet the next morning. 'That disagreeable Mr Darcy is here again with our dear Bingley. What shall we do with him? Lizzy, you must walk out with him again.'

That evening when Mr Bennet left the drawing room, Darcy got up and followed him. When he appeared again he smiled at Elizabeth and sent her to her father.

When Elizabeth came into the room, her father was walking around looking anxious.

'Lizzy,' said he, 'what are you doing? Have you not always hated this man?'

How she wished then that she had not expressed her former opinions so strongly! She tried to assure her father of her affection for Darcy.

'Lizzy,' said he, 'I know that you could never be happy unless you truly loved and respected your husband.'

Elizabeth explained the slow change of her feelings. She assured her father that Darcy had loved her for many months and that he was not the proud, disagreeable man she had thought. At last she told him what he had done for Lydia.

'Well, my dear,' he said, 'if this is true, then he is indeed the man for you.'

Later that night Elizabeth told her mother. On hearing the news, Mrs Bennet could not say a word. It was many, many minutes before she could understand. Finally she said,

'Dear me! Mr Darcy! Who would have thought it! And is it really true? Oh! My sweetest Lizzy! How rich and great you will be! Jane is nothing to it. I am so happy - such a charming man! So handsome! So tall! Oh my dear Lizzy, please apologise for my having disliked him so much before. I hope he will forget it. Dear, dear Lizzy. Three daughters married!'



Happy for all her maternal feelings was the day on which Mrs Bennet saw her two oldest daughters married. How she delighted in visiting Mrs Bingley and talking of Mrs Darcy.

Mr Bennet missed his second daughter greatly. His affection for her often brought him to Pemberley.

Mr Bingley and Jane stayed at Netherfield only a year. To the satisfaction of the two sisters Mr Bingley then bought an estate only thirty miles from Pemberley.

Pemberley was Georgiana's home now and the attachment of the two sisters was just what Darcy had hoped. They learned to love each other very much.

Lady Catherine sent Darcy such an angry letter on hearing about the marriage that, for a time, all contact stopped.

With the Gardiners they were intimate. Darcy as well as Elizabeth really loved them and they were always grateful to the people who, by bringing her into Derbyshire, had united them.

1 Answer the following questions.

- a. Who comes to visit the Bennets?
- b. What are her manners like?
- c. Who does she ask to speak to?
- d. Why does she come to Longbourn?
- e. Who is Darcy supposed to marry?
- f. What are Lady de Bourgh's objections to Elizabeth?
- g. What is Elizabeth's reaction?
- h. What is the direct outcome of Lady de Bourgh's visit?
- i. How does the family react to Elizabeth's news?

FCE 2 Read this summary of Chapters Nine to Eleven. Seven sentences have been removed from the summary. Chose the most suitable sentence from the list A-H for each part (1-6) of the summary. There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use. There is an example at the beginning (0).

While she was at Lambton, Elizabeth received some very bad news from Jane: Lydia had run away with Mr Wickham. At first it seemed that they were going to marry in Scotland, but they had gone to London instead. Elizabeth hurried home. (0).....F.....Mr Bennet realised that no man would marry Lydia for just £100 a year and so Mr Gardiner must have given Wickham some money. (1)..... Lydia and her new husband returned for a visit to Longbourn before going north. Lydia was proud of her new husband. She even described her wedding to Elizabeth, who did not want to hear about it. Then it came out that Mr Darcy was present at the wedding. (2)..... Soon after she received a letter from her aunt in which she explained that Mr Darcy felt that it was his fault that Mr Wickham's true character had remained unknown. He said that his mistaken pride had been the cause of this whole sad affair. So, to make up for this, he himself gave Wickham money so that he would marry Lydia. (3)..... A day or two after Lydia and Wickham's departure for the north of England, they heard that Mr Bingley was

coming to Netherfield again, and three days after his arrival he came to Longbourn along with Mr Darcy. (4)..... Over the next few days Mr Bingley visited Longbourn often, and in the end he asked Jane to marry him.

About a week later Lady Catherine de Bourgh came to Longbourn with the intent of speaking with Elizabeth. When the two were alone, she told Elizabeth that she had heard that she was going to marry Mr Darcy. Elizabeth denied this but she would not promise the pompous old woman that she would never marry Mr Darcy.

A few days later Mr Darcy came to Longbourn. During a walk, Elizabeth finally had the chance to thank him for all he had done for Lydia and her family. (5)..... Then he asked her to marry him. Elizabeth accepted. Darcy then explained to her that it was in part thanks to Lady Catherine that he asked: she had told him that Elizabeth had refused to say that she would not marry him.

(6).....

So it was that Elizabeth went to live at Pemberley, where she and her husband often received the visits of Mr Gardiner and Mr Bennet. Pride and prejudice had both been defeated.

- A During their visit it was clear that Mr Bingley was still in love with Jane, but Mr Darcy was cold and serious.
- B Elizabeth for her part worried that Mr Darcy would never marry her now that her family was connected with Mr Wickham.
- C For a brief moment, Elizabeth's heart told her that he had done this for her.
- D He told her that he had really done it for her.
- E He knew that if she had decided against him he would have told her so.
- F Then Mr Gardiner wrote that Mr Wickham had not even been planning to marry Lydia but that he would if Mr Bennet assured him of £1000 upon his death and £100 a year while he was living.
- G She could not believe that Lydia would want to marry such a dreadful man.
- H Elizabeth, of course, was shocked by this news and wrote to her aunt to find out why.

JANE AUSTEN AND THE ROMANTIC MOVEMENT

Although Jane Austen lived at the height of the Romantic movement, she has been called a neo-classicist and a traditionalist for the balance she maintains between reason and feelings, her realistic description of people and her great sense of irony.

Her belief in the importance of reason and sense is clearly seen in all her novels. Those characters who lack these qualities, like Mrs Bennet and her daughter Lydia are ridiculed.

However, Jane Austen also criticises those characters in whom reason dominates over feeling, like Mr Bennet.

Moderation and control are important to Jane Austen. It is important to have feelings, but also to be able to control them. Jane Bennet almost loses Mr Bingley because she does not show her feelings enough. Mr Darcy is described as cold and proud until he begins to change. In the end when Elizabeth tells her sister she is to marry Darcy, Jane says, 'And do you really love him quite well enough? Oh, Lizzy! do any thing rather than marry without affection.' When this is contrasted with Charlotte Lucas telling Elizabeth that she is not romantic, it can be seen that Jane Austen does not disapprove of the concept of romantic love, but only of its extremes.

Jane Austen's style, too, is an example of elegance, clarity and precision.

The plots of her novels exploit the complexity of character

interaction. She seems to observe people with amused and good-humoured detachment and her work is often satirical but never too harsh in judgement.

The use of different registers for the different characters helps the reader understand their psychology as we can see, for instance, in the pedantic monologue of Mr Collins's proposal to Elizabeth which sounds more a sermon than a courtship.

Jane Austen's care for details have made critics compare her to a miniaturist.

Today she is considered one of the great masters of the English novel.

Answer the following questions.

- a. Which elements make Jane Austen be considered a neo-classicist and a traditionalist in literature in spite of the period she lived in?
- b. What are the characteristics of her style?
- c. What are her plots based on?
- d. What does the use of different registers contribute to?
- e. How is Jane Austen considered today?

INTERNET PROJECT

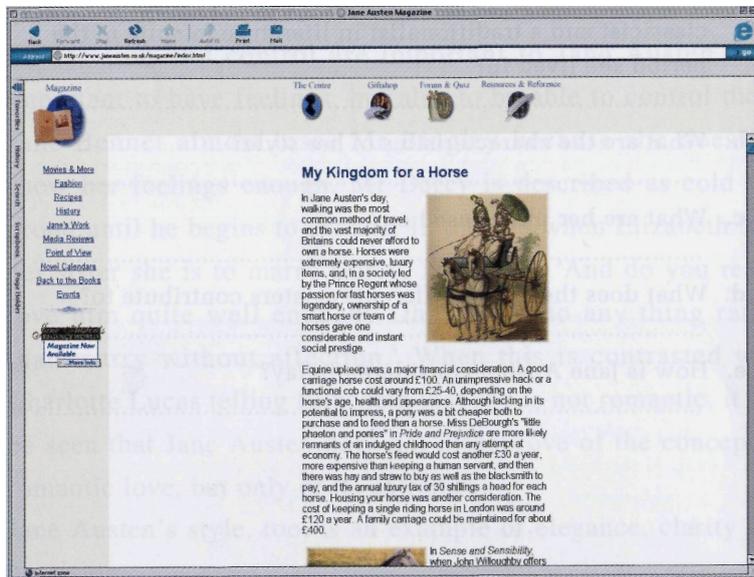
Using one of the major search engines or the sites suggested by your teacher, find out about the following subjects.

Jane Austen's House in Steventon, England.

- Where exactly is Steventon?
- When can you visit the museum?
- What can you see there?

Jane Austen Centre in Bath, England

- What is the city of Bath like today?
- What was it like when Jane Austen visited there?
- Take a virtual tour of the centre and describe what you have seen.



Other writings

- What did Jane Austen write to amuse her family?
- How does Jane Austen describe herself as a historian?
- What did she think of the great English queen, Elizabeth I?

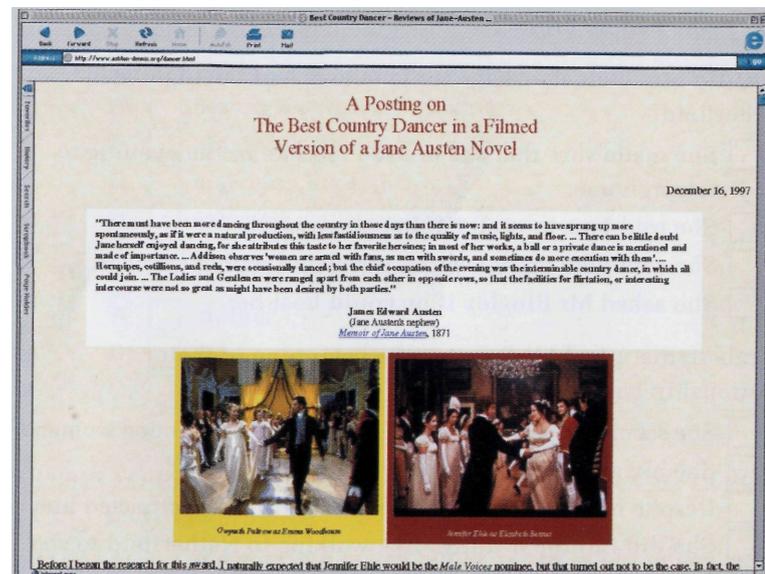
Film versions of *Pride and Prejudice*

Jane Austen has also been a great favourite of film directors.

- What are some of the famous film versions of *Pride and Prejudice*?
- Download and print some photos of the actors and actresses, and show them to the class. Say which ones best fit your idea of the characters.

I must confess that I think her as delightful a creature as ever appeared in print, and how I shall be able to tolerate those who do not like her at least I do not know.

Jane Austen, on the character of Elizabeth Bennet



FCE 1 Choose the best answer A, B, C or D.

1. Mr Darcy insulted Elizabeth the first time he met her by
 - A sitting near her without saying a word.
 - B saying that she was not attractive enough to dance with.
 - C looking at her in a cold and proud manner.
 - D dancing with all the other young women but her.
2. When Elizabeth turned down Mr Darcy's invitation to dance he began thinking of
 - A dancing with Jane.
 - B leaving the party.
 - C how rude Elizabeth was.
 - D how beautiful her eyes were.
3. Elizabeth's connections were not considered very good because
 - A her mother's father was in business and was not a gentleman.
 - B her father was not a real gentleman.
 - C her sisters ran after officers.
 - D she had no brothers.
4. How did Mrs Bennet arrange for Jane to spend the night at Netherfield?
 - A She made sure that she arrived too late in the evening to return home.
 - B She told Jane to pretend that she was ill.
 - C She sent Jane on horseback instead of with a carriage.
 - D She asked Mr Bingley if he could host her.
5. Elizabeth disturbed Mr Darcy at the beginning of their relationship because
 - A She seemed to have too strong a character for a young woman.
 - B She always responded badly to him.
 - C Despite her social and family situation, she still attracted him.
 - D She did improper things like walking to Netherfield to see her sister.

6. Mr Collins was going to inherit Mr Bennet's estate because
 - A Mr Bennet owed him large amounts of money.
 - B Mr Collins was Mr Bennet's favourite relative.
 - C Mr Bennet thought his daughters were too silly to possess his estate.
 - D Since Mr Bennet had no sons, his estate had to go to a male relative.
7. Mr Collins had a great talent for
 - A making marriage proposals.
 - B flattery.
 - C discussing religious matters.
 - D dancing and playing the piano.
8. Mr Collins decided not to marry Jane Bennet because
 - A Mrs Bennet told him that she was going to marry Mr Bingley.
 - B Mr Bennet would not allow him.
 - C Jane paid no attention to him.
 - D he thought that Elizabeth, even though she was not as attractive, would make a better wife.
9. According to Mr Wickham, Mr Darcy stopped him from
 - A having a career in the law.
 - B obtaining a good living in the Church.
 - C marrying his sister.
 - D inheriting a large estate.
10. Lady Catherine de Bourgh was Mr Darcy's
 - A mother.
 - B aunt.
 - C patroness.
 - D cousin.
11. Mr Bennet told Elizabeth that if she accepted Mr Collin's marriage proposal
 - A she would one day be the mistress of Longbourn.
 - B she would never see her mother again.

- C** [] she would have to learn to be polite to Lady Catherine.
D [] she would never see him again.
- 12.** Elizabeth felt that she could no longer be close friends with Charlotte Lucas because
A [] she was marrying without any real affection for her husband.
B [] she could not tolerate Mr Collins.
C [] she was jealous of the fact that Charlotte was marrying before her.
D [] she would move away after her marriage.
- 13.** Mrs Gardiner advised Elizabeth to be cautious with regard to Mr Wickham because
A [] he did not have a fortune.
B [] he came from a lower social class.
C [] he did not seem to be truly in love with her.
D [] he was an officer.
- 14.** Mr Darcy convinced Mr Bingley not to marry Jane by telling him about Jane's
A [] sisters.
B [] mother.
C [] lack of a fortune.
D [] indifference.
- 15.** When Lydia came home with her new husband, Mrs Bennet was
A [] ashamed that her daughter had married someone like Mr Wickham.
B [] worried about her daughters financial situation.
C [] proud that one of her daughters was married.
D [] sad for Jane who was not yet married.
- 16.** Mr Darcy knew that Mr Wickham would agree to marry Lydia if
A [] he would inherit Longbourn.
B [] Mr Bennet gave him £100 pounds a year.
C [] Mr Darcy gave him the chance to study law.
D [] Mr Darcy gave him enough money.

- 17.** Who had decided that Mr Darcy should marry Miss de Bourgh?
A [] Mr Darcy himself.
B [] Lady Catherine and her sister.
C [] Lady Catherine and Miss de Bourgh.
D [] Mr Bingley and his sisters.
- 18.** When Elizabeth told her mother that she was going to marry Mr Darcy her mother said that
A [] she could not understand since Elizabeth had always hated Mr Darcy.
B [] Darcy was a charming and handsome man.
C [] Mr Darcy was too proud to make a good husband.
D [] she never wanted to see her daughter again.

2 THE WEDDING GAME

- A. Judging from *Pride and Prejudice*, what importance do you think that Jane Austen gave to the following things when choosing a future wife or husband?**
1. pleasing physical appearance
 2. good personality and character
 3. sufficient personal wealth
 4. good family connections
 5. good social connections
 6. the feelings you have for this person
- B. In what order of importance do you think the following characters would place them?**
- Elizabeth Bennet
 - Charlotte Lucas
 - Mr Collins
 - Lady Catherine
 - Lydia Bennet

3 Pride and Prejudice

How does the title of the novel relate to the story and its characters?

4 Sense and Sensibility

Jane Austen wrote another novel called *Sense and Sensibility*. (Here 'sense' means the ability to make good, intelligent decisions, and 'sensibility' means the ability to respond emotionally, especially to the feelings of others.) In that novel Jane Austen showed how both sense and sensibility are important when choosing your husband or wife.

How does this title relate to the story you have read?

EXERCISE 1 page 154

1.B / 2.D / 3.A / 4.C / 5.C / 6.D /
7.B / 8.A / 9.B / 10.B / 11.D / 12.A /
13.A / 14.D / 15.C / 16.D / 17.B /
18.B

EXERCISE 2A page 157

1. **pleasing physical appearance:** although it is clearly not essential, Jane Austen's opinion might be summed up with the expression, 'It doesn't hurt!' Also, we can see that the physical appearance of the characters is always mentioned. For example, Elizabeth's lovely eyes seem to have been one of the reasons why Darcy felt attracted by her.
2. **good personality and character:** a good personality is an important element but not essential, but a good character would seem to be essential. For example, Mr Darcy has a somewhat closed personality, but his character is strong, which allows him to see the error of his ways. Elizabeth has both a pleasant personality, and a good strong character. Her strong character is what, in the end, shows Mr Darcy that she is worthy to be his wife.
3. **sufficient personal wealth:** this is clearly essential for a happy marriage. Still, Jane Austen does not seem to think that both the woman and the man must have a fortune; in this, she was probably different from many of her class and time. Again, Elizabeth is a good example: after all, Mr Darcy has enough money for both of them.

4. good family connections:

this too would seem to be essential to Jane Austen, but again, as with regard to personal wealth, she was probably more flexible in this regard than others of her time and class. Elizabeth's father is a gentleman, but her mother is clearly not a 'lady'. But her aunt and uncle seem to more than make up for this negative aspect of her family.

5. good social connections:

clearly, one must marry with somebody of the same social class. Mr and Mrs Bennet's unhappy marriage and Wickham's behaviour would seem to show Jane Austen's prejudices against marrying out of one's social class.

6. the feelings you have for this person:

perhaps this is where Jane Austen is least flexible. She seems to think that true affection and love for one's partner are essential, and without these, all the other prerequisites for marriage mean nothing. Charlotte and Mr Collin's marriage is an example of a marriage of pure interest which Jane Austen seems to condemn.

EXERCISE 2B page 157

- **Elizabeth Bennet:** feelings you have for this person, good personality and character, sufficient personal wealth, good family connections, pleasing physical appearance, good social connections
- **Charlotte Lucas:** sufficient personal wealth, good social connections, good family connections, good personality and character, the feelings you have

for this person, pleasing physical appearance

- **Mr Collins:**
good family connections, pleasing physical appearance, good personality and character, the feelings you have for this person, good social connections, sufficient personal wealth
- **Lady Catherine:**
good family connections, good social connections, sufficient personal wealth, pleasing physical appearance, good personality and character, the feelings you have for this person.
- **Lydia Bennet:**
the feelings you have for this person, pleasing physical appearance, good personality and character, sufficient personal wealth, good social connections, good family connections

EXERCISE 4 page 158

Sense in *Pride and Prejudice* is shown to be essential in choosing a husband or wife. Wickham, for example, is indeed a charming man but he lacks fortune and so Elizabeth must be cautious. Also, all the characters involved in the marriage game must evaluate and analyse carefully their future husband or wife: their family connections, wealth, character etc. Jane Austen shows that this must be done calmly and intelligently. Sensibility in *Pride and Prejudice* is shown to be just as essential as 'sense'. In other words, if there is no real love between a man and woman then the marriage is not a good one, even if all the other elements are perfect. Again Charlotte, who marries without true love, is the best example.

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Since the story is basically that of how Elizabeth and Mr Darcy finally get together we can say that the 'pride' of the story is probably that of Mr Darcy. His pride keeps him from appreciating Elizabeth; he feels himself to be above her socially and so does not see that he himself has had shameful things in his family. In addition, his pride keeps him from telling Elizabeth the truth about Mr Wickham.

The 'prejudice' of the title belongs to Elizabeth who allows herself to judge Mr Darcy from appearance alone. Her prejudice against him also does not allow her to see that her own family may actually have defects which could put off a future husband.