

READING & TRAINING

Jane Austen

Pride and Prejudice



free Audiobook



VICENS VIVES - PRIDE AND PREJUDICE (BLACK CAT. READING AND TRAINING) - ISBN: 9788853007780

Jane Austen

Pride and Prejudice

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end



These symbols indicate the beginning and end of the passages linked to the listening activities.



Jane Austen: *an English novelist*

Jane Austen was born on 16 December, 1775, in the village of Steventon in Hampshire. Her father was the rector¹ of the local parish² and both he and his wife came from the upper classes or landed gentry.³ However, the family was not wealthy. Jane was the seventh

of eight children, six boys and two girls. She was educated at home by her father and lived a quiet life, very similar to the one she describes in her stories. Her only sister Cassandra was her life-long friend and confidante.⁴

Jane started writing at an early age. In her early twenties she wrote the novels that she later reworked and published as *Sense and Sensibility*, *Pride and Prejudice* and *Northanger Abbey*. Their original titles were *Elinor and Marianne*, *First Impressions*, and *Susan* respectively.

As a young woman she enjoyed dancing, an activity which features frequently in her novels, and she attended balls in many of the great

1. **rector** : priest in an Anglican church.
2. **parish** : district with its own church and priest.
3. **landed gentry** : old word for people from a high social class.
4. **confidante** : woman who you trust and can share your secrets and private feelings with.



The Royal Crescent, Bath, 1777.

houses of the neighbourhood.⁵ She loved the country and enjoyed going for long country walks. However, in 1801 her father retired and took the family to the fashionable spa town⁶ of Bath. The next four years were difficult ones for Jane because she missed her Steventon life. While the Austens were in Bath, they went on holidays to seaside resorts including Lyme Regis in Dorset, which gave Jane the background for her novel *Persuasion*.

It was also at this time that, while on holiday, Jane fell in love. Unfortunately, the young man died and this event upset her deeply. In 1805 her father also died and the Austen ladies moved to Southampton, a city on the south coast.

5. **neighbourhood** : area that surrounds someone's home.

6. **spa town** : place where people go to drink the natural mineral water.



Jane Austen's house in Chawton.

It wasn't until 1809 that Mrs Austen and her two daughters were able to move back to Hampshire. Their small but comfortable cottage in the village of Chawton, not far from their old home in Steventon, finally provided the settled home that Jane needed in order to write. In the seven and a half years that she lived in this house, she revised *Sense and Sensibility* and *Pride and Prejudice* and published them. A period of intense productivity followed. *Mansfield Park* came out in 1814, followed by *Emma* in 1816. She also completed *Persuasion*, which was published posthumously⁷ in 1818, together with *Northanger Abbey*. None of the books published in her life-time had her name on them — they were described as being written "By a Lady".

At the beginning of 1816 her health started to decline⁸ but she continued writing. She started her last novel *Sanditon*, but her illness

7. **posthumously** : published after a writer's death.

8. **decline** : get worse.



The Cloakroom, Clifton Assembly Rooms (1817) by Rolinda Sharples.

prevented its completion. By May 1817 she was so ill that she and Cassandra rented rooms in Winchester to be near Jane's doctor. Tragically, there was then no cure for the disease she had contracted and she died in her sister's arms in the early hours of 18 July, 1817. She was 41 years old. She is buried in Winchester Cathedral.

1 Comprehension check

Decide if each sentence is correct or incorrect. If it is correct, mark A. If it is not correct, mark B.

- | | A | B |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 Jane came from a poor upper class family. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2 Her father moved to Bath because of his work. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3 Jane wrote <i>Persuasion</i> while she lived in Bath. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4 She was very happy to return to Hampshire in 1809. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5 She published six novels in her lifetime. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

The Characters



From left to right: Mr Darcy, Mr Bingley, Mr Collins, Mr Wickham, Elizabeth, Mr Bennet,
Mrs Bennet, Miss Bingley, Jane, Charlotte, Lady Catherine.

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Before you read



1 Listening

track 02

Listen to the beginning of Chapter One. Decide if each sentence is correct or incorrect. If it is correct, mark A. If it is incorrect, mark B.

	A	B
1 Mrs Long lives at Netherfield.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2 Mr Bennet isn't particularly interested in the news his wife gives him.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3 Mr Bingley is a local man.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4 Mr Bingley has fallen in love with one of the Bennet girls.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5 Mrs Bennet wants her husband to go and visit Mr Bingley.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6 Elizabeth is her father's favourite daughter.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7 Mr Bennet has known Mrs Bennet for over twenty years.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8 Mrs Bennet is expecting more young men to move to the neighbourhood.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2 Vocabulary

Match the words (1-6) with their synonyms (A-F).

1 <input type="checkbox"/> chance	A noble
2 <input type="checkbox"/> good-humoured	B property
3 <input type="checkbox"/> astonishment	C not easily upset
4 <input type="checkbox"/> aristocratic	D rude, not pleasant
5 <input type="checkbox"/> estate	E opportunity
6 <input type="checkbox"/> disagreeable	F surprise

3 Characters

Look at the pictures of the characters on pages 8 and 9. Which of the adjectives in the list below would you use to describe them?

agreeable disagreeable elegant fashionable friendly
good-humoured handsome intelligent lively pretty
proud rich single snobbish



A newcomer at Netherfield

It is common knowledge that a single man with a fortune must be looking for a wife. The man himself might not know this but, when he moves into a new neighbourhood, all the families there immediately consider him to be the rightful¹ property of one of their daughters.



track 02

‘My dear Mr Bennet,’ said Mrs Bennet one day. ‘Have you heard that Netherfield Park is let² at last?’

Mr Bennet replied that he hadn’t.

‘But it is,’ she said. ‘Mrs Long has just been there and she told me all about it.’

Silence.

‘Don’t you want to know who has taken it?’ cried his wife.

‘You want to tell me, my dear, and I have no objection to hearing it.’

Mrs Bennet took this as an invitation to continue.

1. **rightful** : officially or legally accepted as correct.

2. **let** : rented.



CHAPTER ONE

‘Well, my dear! Mrs Long says that Netherfield has been let to a rich young man from the north of England. He came down on Monday to see the place and agreed to take it immediately.’

‘What’s his name?’

‘Bingley.’

‘Is he married or single?’

‘Oh, single, my dear! A single man - and wealthy! What a good thing for our girls!’

‘Why do you say that?’

‘My dear Mr Bennet!’ answered his wife. ‘Don’t you understand? I’m hoping that he’ll marry one of them.’

‘Is that his reason for coming here?’

‘Oh, don’t be so tiresome!³ Of course it isn’t his reason. But it’s very likely that he might fall in love with one of them, so you must visit him as soon as he gets here.’

‘Why me? You and the girls can go. No, on the other hand, it might be better for them to go alone. You are just as pretty as they are and Mr Bingley might prefer you.’

‘My dear, you flatter⁴ me. I used to be a beauty it’s true, but when a woman has five daughters she must stop thinking about herself. However, I insist that you go and see Mr Bingley when he comes.’

‘I can’t promise to do that.’

‘But Mr Bennet! Think of your daughters! Think of Jane and Elizabeth. Think of Mary, Kitty and Lydia. It would be a wonderful chance for one of them. You must go because it will be impossible for the girls and myself to visit him if you don’t.’

‘I am sure Mr Bingley will be very glad to see you. I’ll write to him and give him my permission to marry one of the girls. And I’ll

3. **tiresome** : making you feel annoyed or bored.

4. **flatter** : praise, compliment.

A newcomer at Netherfield

put in an especially good word for my little Lizzy.’

‘I forbid you to do that! Lizzy is no better than the others. She isn’t as pretty as Jane or as good-humoured as Lydia. I don’t know why she’s your favourite.’

‘All our daughters are silly but Lizzy is more intelligent than her sisters.’

‘Mr Bennet, how can you speak like that about your own children? You have no respect for my poor nerves.’

‘On the contrary, my dear. I have a lot of respect for your nerves. They are my old friends. You’ve talked about them constantly for at least twenty years.’

‘Oh! You don’t know how much I suffer.’

‘Well, I hope you’ll feel better soon and see many rich young men come into the neighbourhood.’

‘There’s no point in them coming if you refuse to visit them.’

‘My dear, when there are twenty, I’ll visit them all.’



end

Despite what he told his wife, Mr Bennet had always intended to visit Mr Bingley and was one of the first people to do so.

He casually mentioned his visit one evening and the ladies’ astonishment delighted him. They asked many questions about the new occupant of Netherfield, but he cleverly managed to avoid giving away too much information. They therefore had to be content with the opinion of their neighbour and friend Lady Lucas. Her report was very encouraging, however. Mr Bingley was young, very handsome, extremely agreeable and, best of all, he intended to be at the next ball at the assembly rooms⁵ with a party of friends. That was surely a good sign. To be fond of dancing was a sure step towards falling in love.

5. **assembly rooms** : hall where dances and other social events were held.



CHAPTER ONE

The day of the ball finally arrived and Mr Bingley turned up with four guests: his two sisters, the husband of the eldest and another young man. His sisters were fashionable, elegant women. Mr Hurst, his brother-in-law, was ordinary-looking but his friend Mr Darcy was a very striking⁶ man – tall and handsome with aristocratic features. He received many admiring looks from the ladies. A rumour quickly went round that he had a large estate⁷ in Derbyshire and a fortune to go with it.

Mr Bingley had a friendly, pleasing manner and had soon made the acquaintance of everyone in the room. He danced every dance and was unhappy that the ball finished so early. He talked about having one at Netherfield.

How different he was from his friend!

Mr Darcy danced once with Mrs Hurst and once with Miss Bingley. He refused to meet any of the local ladies and spoke only to his friends all evening. He was judged to be the proudest, the most disagreeable man in the world.

Mrs Bennet was particularly cross with Mr Darcy because he had been rude about one of her daughters. Elizabeth had overheard⁸ the following conversation between him and Mr Bingley.

‘Come on, Darcy,’ Bingley said. ‘You must dance.’

‘Certainly not. I hate dancing with women I don’t know. Your sisters aren’t free and you are dancing with the prettiest girl here.’

Mr Darcy looked at Jane.

‘It’s true,’ replied Bingley. ‘Jane is very beautiful, but one of her sisters is also quite pretty. She’s sitting behind you. I can ask my partner to introduce you.’

6. **striking** : attracting your interest or attention.

7. **estate** : house and grounds.

8. **overheard** : heard what people were saying in a conversation that you were not involved in.



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g



CHAPTER ONE

‘Which one?’ Darcy turned around and looked at Elizabeth. Feeling his eyes on her, she looked up. He immediately turned away and said coldly: ‘She’s alright, but not pretty enough for me.’

When Darcy had gone, Elizabeth told her friends the story. She had a good sense of humour and was able to laugh at Darcy’s remark.

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.’

‘He is also good-looking,’ remarked Elizabeth.

‘I was surprised that he asked me to dance twice,’ Jane went on. ‘I didn’t expect such a compliment.’

‘I did. It was natural. You were five times as pretty as all the other women in the room.’

‘Dear Lizzy!’

‘And what did you think of his sisters?’

‘At first they didn’t seem very friendly but when I spoke to them, I found them very pleasant women. I think they’ll be good neighbours.’

Elizabeth was not convinced. She was always less generous in her judgement of people than her sister was. She hadn’t formed a good impression of the Bingley sisters. Rich and beautiful they were, and they could also be charming when they wanted to be. But Elizabeth suspected them of being proud, snobbish and conceited.⁹

9. **conceited** : (neg.) behaving in a way that shows the person thinks (s)he is intelligent, skilful or attractive.

The text and **beyond**

FCE 1 **Comprehension check**

For questions 1-5 choose the best answer – A, B, C or D.

- 1 Why didn't Mr Bennet tell his family he intended to visit Bingley?
A He made the decision to go at the last minute.
B He enjoyed surprising them.
C He didn't want them to know.
D He never told them about his plans.
- 2 Why did Mr Bingley want to have a ball at Netherfield?
A Because he wanted to dance with Jane again.
B Because he liked entertaining.
C Because he enjoyed dancing.
D Because he wanted to get to know his neighbours better.
- 3 Why didn't Mr Darcy dance?
A He didn't like dancing.
B All the girls there already had partners.
C The girls he wanted to dance with weren't free.
D He was too shy to ask girls he didn't know.
- 4 How did Elizabeth feel about Darcy's comment about her?
A Amused.
B Offended.
C Upset.
D Angry.
- 5 Why did Jane like the Bingley sisters?
A They were very nice women.
B They had been very friendly and welcoming.
C She enjoyed their intelligent conversation.
D She tended to think well of everyone.

FCE 2 Sentence transformation

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.

- 0 Can you describe Netherfield Park to me in detail?

DETAILED

Can you of Netherfield Park?

- 1 Mr Bingley is rich and single so he surely wants to get married.

MUST

Mr Bingley is rich and single so he
for a wife.

- 2 'I have no objection to hearing who has taken Netherfield,' Mr Bennet said.

MIND

'I tell me who has taken Netherfield,'
Mr Bennet said.

- 3 Lizzy is far more intelligent than Lydia.

NEARLY

Lydia is not Elizabeth is.

- 4 Mr Bennet cleverly managed not to give them much information.

SUCCEEDED

Mr Bennet cleverly them little
information.

- 5 Bingley arrived just before the ball started.

TURNED

Bingley for the start of the ball.

- 6 Darcy couldn't be compared with his friend.

BETWEEN

There was and his friend.

- 7 Perhaps Darcy didn't want to dance.

MAY

Darcy to dance.

- 8 'I was surprised that he asked me to dance twice,' said Jane.

EXPECT

'I ask me to dance twice,' said Jane.

FCE 3 Word formation

Use the word in capitals at the end of the lines to form a word that fits in the gap.

A rich young man called Bingley has just moved into the (1) Mr Bennet went to visit him, much to the (2) of the Bennet ladies. He has a very pleasant manner, unlike his friend Darcy, who everyone finds extremely (3) Bingley's sisters are elegant, (4) women but Elizabeth hasn't formed a good (5) of them.

NEIGHBOUR
ASTONISH

AGREE
FASHION
IMPRESS

4 Writing

Imagine you work for the local newspaper in Meryton, the nearest town to Longbourn. Write a short article about the ball at the assembly rooms for the gossip column. Use between 100 and 120 words. Begin like this:

The carriages started to arrive just before seven o'clock last Saturday for the ball at the assembly rooms. ...

Before you read**1 Listening**

track 03

Listen to the beginning of Chapter Two. Choose the correct word.

- 1 Charlotte is a *sensitive/sensible*, intelligent young woman of twenty-seven.
- 2 Charlotte had been Bingley's first *choice/chance* as a dance partner.
- 3 Mrs Bennet thinks that Darcy is very *disagreeable/handsome*.
- 4 According to Miss Bingley, Mr Darcy is perfectly *polite/charming* when he is among friends.
- 5 Charlotte thinks that Darcy's *arrogance/pride* can be excused because he's rich, handsome and comes from a good family.



CHAPTER TWO

A violent cold

Sir William and Lady Lucas, had several children. Charlotte, the eldest of them, a sensible, intelligent young woman of about twenty-seven, was one of Elizabeth's closest friends. The morning after the ball, she went to visit the Bennets at Longbourn to talk over the events of the previous evening.



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

'He liked his second better.'

'Oh! I suppose you mean Jane because he danced with her twice.'

'I overheard him talking to Mr Robinson. He asked Mr Bingley which woman he thought was the prettiest and Mr Bingley immediately answered "Oh! The eldest Miss Bennet of course."

'Well, that really seems as if ... but you never know, it may all come to nothing.'

'What I overheard was nicer than what you overheard, Lizzy,' said Charlotte to her friend. 'Poor Lizzy! — to be only 'alright''

'Mr Darcy is certainly a very disagreeable man,' said Mrs Bennet.

‘Mrs Long told me that he sat near her for half an hour without speaking to her once. Too much pride I suspect.’

‘Miss Bingley told me that he never speaks much unless he’s among friends,’ said Jane. ‘With them he’s perfectly charming.’

‘I don’t mind his not talking to Mrs Long,’ said Charlotte, ‘but I wish he’d danced with Lizzy.’

‘I think I can promise you that I’ll **never** dance with him,’ Elizabeth said.

‘His pride,’ continued Charlotte, ‘doesn’t offend me as much as pride in other people often does because there’s an excuse for it. He’s a handsome young man from a good family with a fortune and everything in his favour. It’s right he should be proud.’

‘That’s very true,’ said Elizabeth. ‘And I could forgive his pride, if he hadn’t hurt mine.’



end

Naturally the ladies of Longbourn and Netherfield exchanged visits after the ball. Mrs Hurst and Miss Bingley found the two older Bennet girls pleasing, especially Jane, perhaps because their brother admired her. Mrs Bennet, however, was considered intolerable and the three younger sisters uninteresting.

Mr Bingley’s admiration for Jane was obvious to all who saw them together. It was also obvious to Elizabeth that Jane was beginning to fall in love with him. Elizabeth mentioned this to Charlotte.

‘Bingley obviously likes your sister but he might never do more than like her if she doesn’t encourage him,’ Charlotte replied.

While Elizabeth was busy observing her sister and Mr Bingley, she didn’t notice that Mr Darcy’s eyes were often on her.

He had refused to admit that she was pretty at first but later he had discovered the intelligent expression in her dark eyes. Then he had noticed her attractive figure and her good humour. He began to want to know her better.



CHAPTER TWO

He got his opportunity one evening at a party at Sir William Lucas's house. He was in conversation with his host¹ when Elizabeth walked past. Sir William called to her: 'My dear Miss Elizabeth, why aren't you dancing? Mr Darcy, allow me to introduce this young lady to you as a partner.'

He took Elizabeth's hand and offered it to Mr Darcy, who looked surprised, but not unhappy to take it.

Elizabeth, however, moved away saying to Sir William: 'Sir, I have no intention of dancing this evening. Please don't think that I came here to find a partner.'

Neither gentleman was particularly offended by her determination not to dance but Darcy couldn't forget her easily. He was still thinking about her when Miss Bingley came up to him and said: 'I can guess what the subject of your thoughts is.'

'I'm not sure you can.'

'You are thinking how unbearable² it is to spend evenings in this way – with such people. And I agree with you completely. They are all so boring!'

'You are wrong. I was thinking of the pleasure that a pair of beautiful eyes in the face of a pretty woman can give.'

Miss Bingley immediately wanted to know who the pretty woman in question was.

'Miss Elizabeth Bennet.'

'Miss Elizabeth Bennet!' repeated Miss Bingley. 'I'm surprised. How long has she been such a favourite? And when can I congratulate you?'

'I knew you'd ask that. A woman's imagination is very agile.³ It

1. **host** : person who invites people to a meal, a party or to stay in their home.

2. **unbearable** : intolerable.

3. **agile** : able to move quickly and easily.

jumps from admiration to love and from love to marriage in just a few seconds.'

'It's only because you are so serious about everything that I consider the matter settled.⁴ You'll have a charming mother-in-law. Of course she will live at Pemberley with you.'

One morning a note came for Jane from Miss Bingley. It was an invitation to dine with her that day.

'Can I have the carriage?'⁵ asked Jane.

'No, my dear. It's better if you take the horse,' said Mrs Bennet. 'I think it's going to rain. If it does, you'll have to stay overnight.'

'That would be a good plan,' said Elizabeth, 'if you were sure that they wouldn't offer to send her home.'

'But I've heard that the gentlemen are taking Mr Bingley's carriage to go to Meryton,' replied her mother.

So Jane had to ride to Netherfield.

Soon after she left it began to rain hard. Her mother was delighted. That night Jane remained at Netherfield.

Early the following morning Elizabeth received a note from her sister. She had got wet in the rain and had caught a very bad cold. She was in bed and her friends had called the doctor.

'Well, my dear,' Mr Bennet said to his wife, 'if your daughter dies, it will be a comfort to know that it was all in pursuit of Mr Bingley and under your orders.'

'Oh! People don't die of little colds. Anyway, they'll look after her well at Netherfield.'

But Elizabeth was anxious about her sister. She decided to go and see her.

4. **settled** : (here) decided.

5. **carriage** : horse-drawn vehicle.



CHAPTER TWO

‘It isn’t far,’ she said. ‘Only three miles. I’ll walk.’

By the time she arrived at Netherfield, her dress was very muddy⁶ and her hair untidy. Everyone, except Jane, was having breakfast in the parlour.⁷ They were very surprised to see her. Mrs Hurst and Miss Bingley clearly disapproved of women walking alone in bad weather. Mr Darcy said very little, and Mr Hurst nothing at all.

Jane, however, was delighted to see her, but was too ill to talk much. A little later the doctor came. He examined her and said that she would have to stay in bed for a few more days.

Elizabeth kept her company until three o’clock, when she said she had to go back home. Jane was so unhappy about her sister going that Miss Bingley felt obliged to invite Elizabeth to stay at Netherfield.

Dinner at Netherfield was at half past six. When Elizabeth was called, she left her sister and went downstairs. Mr Bingley asked how Jane was and seemed genuinely concerned about her health. His sisters only said how shocking it was to have a bad cold and then immediately started talking about something else.

Elizabeth returned upstairs after dinner. After she had gone, Miss Bingley immediately started criticizing her — her muddy dress, her wild look, her lack of decorum.⁸

‘I’m afraid, Mr Darcy,’ said Miss Bingley very quietly, ‘that after this adventure you no longer admire her fine eyes.’

‘On the contrary,’ he answered. ‘The exercise made them shine even more.’

Elizabeth went down again later to say that Jane was worse. Bingley wanted to call the doctor immediately but they decided to wait until the morning.

6. **muddy** : covered in mud.

7. **parlour** : old word for a room in a house, used for entertaining guests.

8. **lack of decorum** : absence of polite behaviour.



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The text and **beyond**

FCE 1 **Comprehension check**

For questions 1-5 choose the best answer – A, B, C or D.

- 1 Charlotte was sorry that
 - A Darcy hadn't danced with her.
 - B she hadn't danced with Bingley.
 - C Darcy hadn't danced with Elizabeth.
 - D Jane had only danced twice with Bingley.

- 2 Mr Darcy began to admire Elizabeth when
 - A she showed an interest in him.
 - B she showed she wasn't interested in him.
 - C she refused to dance with him.
 - D he began to observe her more closely.

- 3 At Lord Lucas's party, Darcy
 - A was offended by Elizabeth's refusal to dance.
 - B asked Miss Bingley to dance.
 - C said something that surprised Miss Bingley.
 - D agreed with Miss Bingley that the guests were boring.

- 4 Mrs Bennet wanted Jane to ride to Netherfield because
 - A it was part of her plan.
 - B it was a nice day.
 - C it wasn't far.
 - D she needed the carriage herself.

- 5 Elizabeth didn't go back to Longbourn that day because
 - A she didn't want to upset Jane.
 - B the weather was too bad.
 - C Mr Bingley insisted that she stayed.
 - D she wanted to look after Jane.

'I wish he'd danced with Lizzy.'

When we want to make a wish about the past, we use **wish + past perfect**.

- 'I wish we **had stayed** at home this evening,' said Miss Bingley.
- Jane wishes she **had gone** to Netherfield in the carriage.
- Elizabeth wished that Jane **hadn't caught** such a bad cold.

When we want to make a wish about the present, we use either **wish + past** (for state verbs like *be, have, know*) or **wish + could + verb** (for action verbs).

- Miss Bingley wishes Darcy **was/were*** more interested in her. (state)
- Darcy wished he **could spend** more time with Elizabeth. (action)
- 'I wish I **could dance** as gracefully as Jane,' thought Charlotte. (action)

* after *wish* we often use *were* for all persons of the verb *be*.

2 Wishes

Complete the sentences in an appropriate way.

- 1 'Why didn't Mr Bingley ask me to dance twice?' said Charlotte.
Charlotte wished to dance twice.
- 2 'I'm sorry Mr Darcy was so rude to Mrs Long,' said Jane.
Jane wished so rude to Mrs Long.
- 3 'Why didn't I speak to Elizabeth more?' said Darcy.
Mr Darcy wished Elizabeth more.
- 4 'It's a pity I haven't got a better carriage,' said Mr Bennet.
Mr Bennet wishes a better carriage.
- 5 'It's a pity Mr Darcy is so proud,' thought Elizabeth.
Elizabeth wished so proud.
- 6 'I'm sorry Mr Bingley didn't send his carriage for me,' thought Jane.
Jane wished his carriage for her.
- 7 'I can't dance very well,' said Charlotte sadly.
Charlotte wishes better.
- 8 'Why didn't we stay in London? I hate it here!' said Miss Bingley.
Miss Bingley wishes they in London.

Before you read



1 Listening

track 04

Listen to the beginning of Chapter Three. Choose the correct answer A, B or C.

- 1 Mrs Bennet arrived at Netherfield
 - A in the morning.
 - B in the afternoon.
 - C in the evening.
- 2 Mrs Bennet found Jane
 - A dangerously ill.
 - B well enough for her not to worry.
 - C worse than she expected.
- 3 In the evening Elizabeth noticed that Mr Darcy
 - A kept looking at her.
 - B looked bored.
 - C was enjoying Miss Bingley's company.
- 4 Elizabeth didn't answer Mr Darcy's question because
 - A she thought he was being rude.
 - B she couldn't decide what to say.
 - C she didn't hear him speak to her.
- 5 Darcy
 - A thought that Elizabeth was impertinent.
 - B was offended by her manner.
 - C felt more and more attracted to her.
- 6 Miss Bingley was anxious for Jane to leave because
 - A she didn't like looking after sick people.
 - B she wanted Elizabeth to leave.
 - C she didn't like her company very much.

2 Reading pictures

Look at the picture on page 31. Who are the people and what are they doing?



CHAPTER THREE



A visit from Mr Collins

Jane was a little better the next morning but, despite the improvement, Elizabeth sent a note to her mother asking her to come and decide what to do. Mrs Bennet wasted no time and soon after breakfast she and her two youngest daughters, Lydia and Kitty, arrived at Netherfield. They went straight to see Jane.



track 04

If she had found her daughter in danger, Mrs Bennet would have been worried. However, satisfied that the illness wasn't serious, she had no wish for a speedy recovery. The sooner Jane was well, the sooner she would have to leave Netherfield.

After she had seen her daughter, she went to find Bingley, who was in the parlour with his sister.

'How did you find Jane, Mrs Bennet?' he asked.

'I'm afraid she is still much too ill to be moved. We must trespass a little longer on your kindness.'¹

1. trespass ... kindness : accept more of someone's kindness than is fair.



CHAPTER THREE

‘Don’t worry, madam,’ said Miss Bingley coldly. ‘Miss Bennet will receive all the care she needs.’

Mrs Bennet thanked them, called for her carriage and left.

Elizabeth spent the rest of the day with Jane only leaving her to go down to dinner at six. Afterwards she stayed in the drawing room and did some needlework.² Mr Darcy started writing a letter to his sister. Miss Bingley sat next to him and repeatedly distracted him with messages to the young lady.

His letter finished, Darcy suggested some music. Miss Bingley quickly moved to the piano and played some Italian songs. Elizabeth couldn’t help noticing how frequently Mr Darcy looked at her while the others were listening to the music. When Miss Bingley started playing a lively Scottish tune, he came over to her and said: ‘Doesn’t this kind of music make you want to dance?’

She smiled, but didn’t answer. He repeated the question.

‘I heard you before,’ she said, ‘but I didn’t know what to answer. I know you want me to say ‘Yes’ to give you the pleasure of making fun of my taste. But I always enjoy cheating a person of their premeditated contempt³ so I’ve decided to tell you that I don’t want to dance. Now make fun of me if you want to!’

‘I have no desire to.’

His gallantry⁴ surprised Elizabeth, who had expected him to be angry. But there was a mixture of impertinence and sweetness in her manner that made it difficult for her to offend anybody. At that moment Darcy had never been attracted to any woman as much as he was to her. He really believed that, if she had belonged to the same social class as himself, he would be in danger of falling in love.

2. **needlework** : sewing.

3. **cheating ... contempt** : not allowing someone the pleasure of making fun of them.

4. **gallantry** : extremely polite behaviour towards a woman.



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CHAPTER THREE

Miss Bingley suspected enough to be jealous. She was then very anxious for Jane to get better quickly so that there would be no reason for her sister to be there.



end

In a couple of days Jane was well enough to come downstairs for a few hours in the evening. Miss Bingley and Mrs Hurst welcomed her warmly and were extremely attentive.⁵ However, when the gentlemen came in, Jane was quickly forgotten. Miss Bingley immediately went to speak to Darcy, who greeted Jane politely, but it was Bingley who was happiest to see her. He sat down by her and talked to nobody else all evening.

Later Darcy and Miss Bingley both read. Mr Hurst went to sleep and his wife spoke to her brother and Jane. Hearing her brother mention a ball, Miss Bingley said: 'Charles, are you really thinking of a dance at Netherfield? I am sure there are some of us who hate the idea of a ball.'

'Do you mean Darcy?' cried her brother. 'He can go to bed before it begins. I'm determined to have a ball.'

The next morning Elizabeth and Jane announced their intention to return to Longbourn the following day. Darcy was glad. It was a good thing that the two sisters were going. He was giving too much attention to Elizabeth and Miss Bingley was teasing⁶ him about it more than usual.

Mr Bennet, unlike his wife, was very happy to see his daughters back home again. Life, and particularly conversation, at Longbourn had been rather dull without them.

'I hope you've planned a good dinner today, my dear,' he said to

5. **attentive** : caring.

6. **teasing** : saying something to embarrass or annoy someone.

A visit from Mr Collins

his wife the next morning. 'I'm expecting a visitor at four o'clock.'

Mrs Bennet immediately assumed that he was referring to Bingley.

'No, my dear, it isn't Bingley,' replied her husband. 'A month ago I received a letter from my cousin Mr Collins, who might turn you all out⁷ of this house if he pleases when I die.'

'Oh, Mr Bennet! I can't bear to hear you say that!' cried his wife.

Mr Collins was Mr Bennet's only male relative. In some families it was agreed by law that property could only be left to men. If those families had no sons, their houses and land would be left to any male relative after the father's death.

'He writes that his father died some time ago,' Mr Bennet said. 'He is now the rector of a small parish and has found an important patroness⁸ in the Honourable Lady Catherine de Bourgh.'

Mr Collins arrived punctually. He was a tall, well-built young man of twenty-five. He had a very formal manner and the first thing he did was to congratulate Mrs Bennet on having such beautiful daughters. He was sure, he said, that she'd see them all well married soon.

'You are very kind, sir. I hope you are right otherwise they'll be very poor indeed, given the way things have been settled,' the lady replied.

At dinner Mr Collins told them about Lady Catherine de Bourgh. He explained how kind this great lady had been to him and how fortunate he was. She didn't object to him mixing with the local people or to his visiting relatives. She had even told him to marry as soon as he could, providing he chose the right wife.

7. **turn you all out** : force you all to leave.

8. **patroness** : someone who supports another, especially by giving them money.

Scriptwriter Andrew Davies loved the character of Elizabeth in the novel. 'Like everybody else, I'm in love with Elizabeth,' he said. He was (9) by her joyful energy and and sense of humour. 'She makes fun of people, she doesn't take herself seriously, but she doesn't (10) herself down, either. She needs to marry money but she's determined to marry the man she loves. She's a great character.'

Twenty-four locations and eight studio sets were used for filming. To reflect the (11) differences between the main characters, the location for Longbourn had to show a comfortable family house, whereas Darcy's Pemberley needed to show the good (12) of the aristocracy. Luckington Court in Wiltshire was used as the interior and exterior of Longbourn and Lyme Hall in Cheshire was chosen as the exterior of Pemberley, Sudbury Hall in Derbyshire being used for the interior.

- | | | | | |
|----|-------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| 1 | A Different | B Unlike | C Diverse | D As |
| 2 | A happening | B fortune | C blockbuster | D success |
| 3 | A design | B decoration | C creativity | D planning |
| 4 | A put | B refused | C turned | D set |
| 5 | A execution | B playing | C performance | D appearance |
| 6 | A point | B corner | C moment | D place |
| 7 | A say | B description | C reference | D mention |
| 8 | A bleached | B tinted | C painted | D dyed |
| 9 | A drawn | B attracted | C interested | D enthusiastic |
| 10 | A put | B hold | C take | D bring |
| 11 | A cash | B money | C wealth | D richness |
| 12 | A life | B flavour | C living | D taste |

4 Writing

Imagine you are Elizabeth. It's six months since your marriage to Darcy. You have just received a letter from Jane. She finishes it saying:

Please write soon, Lizzy, and tell me how you are getting on at Pemberley. What's it like being the mistress of such a big house?

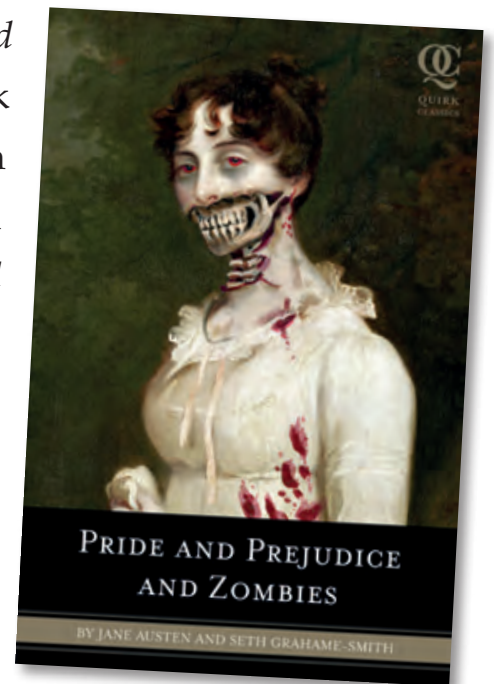
Write your reply in 120-180 words.

The Jane Austen Industry

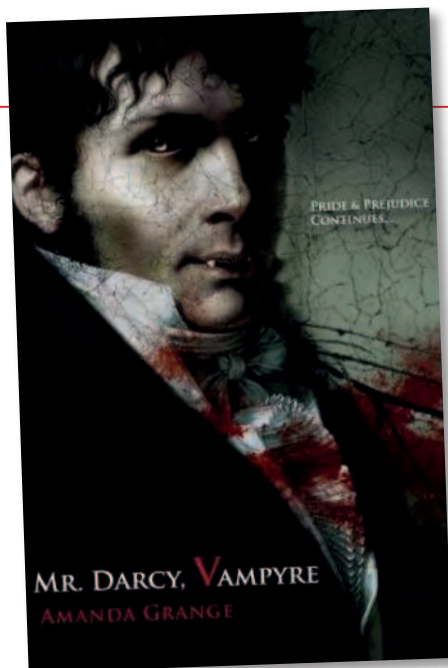
In recent years numerous authors, some well known, have hijacked Jane Austen's classic stories and the characters in them to produce new fiction. The number of prequels,¹ sequels, and recently mashups² with detectives, zombies, vampires and time travellers is continually growing. At the last count there were nearly 200 sequels, adaptations and fictionalised stories based on the six novels Austen published before she died.

In the 1990s, for example, Helen Fielding based her highly successful novels *Bridget Jones's Diary* and its sequel *Bridget Jones: the Edge of Reason* on Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* and *Persuasion*. The success of these books, along with Candace Bushnell's *Sex in the City*, helped to establish the modern literary genre known as chick lit³, whose readers are mostly young women, as an important trend in publishing.

In 2009 Seth Grahame-Smith published *Pride and Prejudice and Zombies*. For his story, the writer took the classic novel and added elements of modern zombie fiction to it, creating what is known as a mashup. The story follows the plot of *Pride and Prejudice* but places the action in an alternative universe version of Regency-era England where zombies wander around the English countryside.



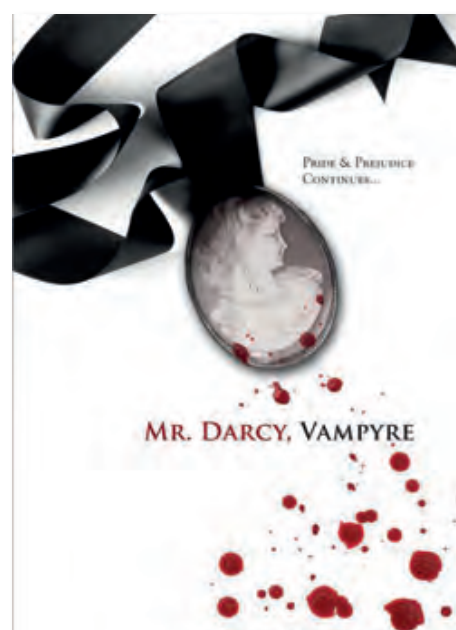
1. **prequels** : books or films about events that happened before the events in another earlier book or film.
2. **mashup** : a book which combines a pre-existing text, often a classic work of fiction, with a certain popular genre such as vampire or zombie narratives.
3. **chick lit** : a combination of the words 'chick' (young girl) and 'lit' (literature).



In the same year Amanda Grange, who had already written some Austen-inspired novels such as *Darcy's Diary* and *Mr Knightley's⁴ Diary*, published *Mr Darcy, Vampyre*. A homage to the Gothic novels that Austen herself loved, the story starts on Darcy and Elizabeth's wedding day and follows the two on their honeymoon trip to Paris, the Alps and Venice during the Napoleonic Wars.

As well as all the book spin-offs,⁵ there are also numerous novels that have the author herself as the central character.

The American writer Stephanie Barron has written a successful series of novels called *Jane Austen Mysteries* that feature Jane as an amateur detective who solves Victorian mysteries. The plots combine actual events from Jane Austen's life with historical facts from her period.



Another American writer Michael Thomas Ford has recently produced a trilogy of books in which he makes fun of the 'Austen and vampire' industry. In *Jane Bites Back* (2010), *Jane Goes Batty* (2011) and *Jane Vows Vengeance* (2012), the two-hundred-year old undead author lives in a college town in New York State and runs a bookshop.

4. **Mr Knightley** : one of the main characters in *Emma*, another Jane Austen novel.
5. **spin-offs** : something new based on something else that already exists.

1 Picture Summary

The pictures from *Pride and Prejudice* are not in the right order. Put them in the order they occur in the book.



This reader uses the **EXPANSIVE READING** approach, where the text becomes a springboard to improve language skills and to explore historical background, cultural connections and other topics suggested by the text.

The new structures introduced in this step of our **READING & TRAINING** series are listed below. Naturally, structures from lower steps are included too. For a complete list of structures used over all the six steps, see *The Black Cat Guide to Graded Readers*, which is also downloadable at no cost from our website, blackcat-cideb.com.

The vocabulary used at each step is carefully checked against vocabulary lists used for internationally recognised examinations.

Step Five B2.2

All the structures used in the previous levels, plus the following:

Verb tenses

Present Perfect and Past Perfect Simple: negative duration

(*haven't ... for ages*)

Present Perfect Continuous: recent activities leading to present situation

Past Perfect Continuous

Verb forms and patterns

Passive forms: Past Perfect Simple; with modal verbs

Reported speech introduced by more examples of precise reporting verbs

(e.g. *threaten, insist, complain*)

Wish and *if only* + past tense

It's time + past tense

Modal verbs

Should(n't) have, ought (not) to have: duty in the past

Must have, can't have, may have, might have, could have: deduction and probability in the past

Types of clause

3rd conditionals with *unless*

Mixed conditional sentences

Complex sentences with more than one subordinate clause