

## Unit 3 Integrated skills: 'Pride & Prejudice' by Jane Austen

### 1. Read the extract from *Pride and Prejudice*, in which Mr Collins proposed to Lizzie. First, say if highlighted words are either adjectives or adverbs.

'Believe me, my dear Miss Elizabeth, that your modesty rather adds to your other perfections. You would have been less **amiable** in my eyes had there *not* been this **little** unwillingness. You can **hardly** doubt the purport of my discourse, however your **natural** delicacy may lead you to dissemble. Almost as soon as I entered the house I singled you out as the companion of my **future** life. But before I am run away with by my feelings on this subject, perhaps it will be **advisable** for me to state the reasons for my marrying – and moreover for coming into Hertfordshire with the design of selecting a wife, as I **certainly** did.'

The idea of Mr Collins being run away with by his feelings, made Elizabeth so near laughing that she could not use the **short** pause to stop him, and he continued:

'My reasons for marrying are, **first**, that I think it a **right** thing for every clergyman in **easy** circumstances to set the example of matrimony in his parish. **Secondly**, that I am convinced that it will add **very greatly** to my happiness; and **thirdly** that it is the **particular** advice and recommendation of the **very noble** lady whom I have the honour of calling patroness: Lady Catherine de Bourgh.

Twice has she condescended to give me her opinion on this subject: and it was but the very Saturday that I left Hunsford, while Mrs Jenkinson was arranging Miss De Bourgh's footstool, that she said: 'Mr Collins', she said, 'you must marry. Choose **properly**, choose a gentlewoman for *my* sake; and let her be an **active, useful** sort of person, not brought up **high**, but **able** to make a small income go a good way.'

Thus much of my **general** intention in favour of matrimony; it remains to be told why my views were directed towards Longbourn instead of my own neighbourhood, where I assure you there are many **amiable young** women. But the fact is, that being, as I am, to inherit this estate after the death of your **honoured** father (who, however, may live many years longer), I could not satisfy myself without resolving to choose a wife from among his daughters, that the loss to them might be as **little** as possible, when the **melancholy** event takes place. This has been my motive, my **fair** cousin, and I flatter myself that it will not sink me in your esteem. And now nothing remains for me but to assure you in the most **animated** language of the violence of my affection. To fortune I am **perfectly indifferent**, and shall make no demand on your father, since I am **well aware** that it could not be complied with; and that one thousand pounds in the 4 per cents, which will not be yours till after your mother's decease, is all that you may ever be entitled to. On that head, therefore, I shall be **uniformly silent**; and you may assure yourself that no **ungenerous** reproach shall **ever** pass my lips when we are married.'

### 2. Now highlight all adjectives and adverbs yourself in the second extract and again identify them as either adjectives and adverbs.

It was absolutely necessary to interrupt him now.

'You are too hasty, Sir,' she cried. 'You forget that I have made no answer. Let me do without further loss of time. Accept my thanks for the compliment you are paying me. I am very sensible to of the honour of your proposal, but it is impossible for me to do otherwise than decline them.'

'I am not now to learn,' replied Mr Collins, with a formal wave of the hand, 'that it is usual with young ladies to reject the addresses of the man whom they secretly mean to accept, when the first applies for their favour; and that sometimes the refusal is repeated a second or even a third time. I am therefore by no means discouraged by what you have just said, and shall hope to lead you to the altar ere long.'

'Upon my word, Sir, ' cried Elizabeth, 'your hope is rather an extraordinary one after my declaration. I do assure you that I am not one of those ladies (if such ladies there are) who are daring as to risk their happiness on the chance of being asked a second time. I am perfectly serious in my refusal. You could not make *me* happy, and I am convinced that I am the last woman in the world who would make *you* so.'

3. Next, complete the following text by adding appropriate adjectives and adverbs in the blank spaces. Choose from this list:

*irrelevant – financial – desperate – hugely – closely – keen – unable – difficult – independent – rash – assertive – most – relatively – previous – necessary – evident – undoubtedly – different – well – huge*

In Jane Austen's society, marriage was (1).....(2) .....than that of today. This was (3).....in every aspect of marriage. Marriage was (4).....for women in Austen's society. Without it they would have no income and could not create one for themselves. Women were also (5).....to inherit property after the death of a (6).....landowner. These factors mean that women were (7).....to marry early and not for the reasons associated with marriage of today.

Nowadays, people wouldn't even consider marrying if love wasn't involved. During the time in question, however, love was somewhat (8)..... Public perception of the couple was taken into consideration, however, regardless of the intentions of the couple. Marriage was seen as a status symbol and was (9)..... linked to the class system. Jane Austen knew this society (10)..... as she was the unmarried daughter of a clergyman which fell in the social class known as gentry. She had no income and therefore had to depend on her brothers for support.

All these factors must be considered when looking at the proposal of Mr. Collins. The Bennett family has five daughters ranging in age from fifteen to twenty-five. They have no sons. In Austen's time, this would have been seen as a burden rather than an advantage. For each daughter that is married, a dowry has to be paid and in the case of the Bennett's, you are looking at a (11).....(12).....burden.

The Bennett family is (13).....well off and own land – 'Longbourn House'. As daughters cannot inherit, the land would pass on to Mr. Collins, a cousin of the family. Mrs. Bennett is (14).....to find husbands for her daughters. Because of this, she is somewhat (15).....in making decisions for her daughter's futures.

Elizabeth Bennett is the most (16) .....and (17)..... and unlike most women in Austen's time and society, will only marry for love. She presents a problem for the family as she thinks for herself and will (18).....be the (19)..... (20)..... to get 'married off'.

4. Now summarise Mrs Collins' proposal to Elizabeth in your own words. Make sure you use at least five suitable adjectives and adverbs to describe the scene, and how both Lizzie and Mr Collins come across. (between 60 and 100 words)