

The Importance of Being Earnest

Oscar Wilde

The story step by step

- 1
- a *Lady Bracknell's.*
 - b Cucumber sandwiches.
 - c In Lane's notebook.
 - d Eight bottles.
 - e On Thursday night.
 - f Lord Shoreman and Mr Worthing.
 - g Because champagne in married people's homes is rarely very good.
 - h Yes, he has once because of a misunderstanding.
- 2
- a F; b F; c T; d F; e T; f F; g T; h F; i T; j T
- 3
- a *Have* you had my cigarette case all this time?
 - b I wish you had told me.
 - c I have been writing letters to the police about it.
 - d I nearly offered a large reward.
 - e Well, I wish you would offer a large reward.
 - f I am very poor at the moment.
 - g There is no point in offering a large reward now that you've found it.
 - h You have seen me with it a hundred times.
 - i I am not going to discuss modern culture.
 - j You said you don't know anyone called Cecily.

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Noun	Adjective	Adverb
honesty	honest	<i>honestly</i>
seriousness	<u>serious</u>	seriously
responsibility	<u>responsible</u>	responsibly
goodness	<u>good</u>	<u>well</u>
<u>health</u>	healthy	healthily
<u>happiness</u>	happy	happily
terribleness	<u>terrible</u>	terrible
<u>truth</u>	true	truly

- 5 a are you going to
 b am going to
 c will you
 d I will
 e will
 f will
 g will

6

Information about Jack	Lady Bracknell's opinion
He <u>smokes</u> .	This is <u>good</u> because it means he has an <u>occupation</u> .
Aged <u>29</u> .	A very <u>good</u> age to <u>get married</u> .
He knows <u>nothing</u> .	She approves of <u>ignorance</u> . She doesn't approve of <u>modern education</u> .
He has an income of between <u>seven</u> and <u>eight</u> <u>thousand pounds</u> a year. His income comes from <u>investment</u> not <u>land</u> .	That is <u>satisfactory</u> because owning land is neither <u>profitable</u> nor <u>pleasurable</u> .
He owns a <u>country house</u> and a <u>town house</u> in Belgrave Square, but it is <u>rented</u> to Lady Bloxham who's very <u>old</u> .	She doesn't <u>know</u> Lady Bloxham, who is not necessarily <u>respectable</u> even if she is <u>old</u> .
The house is number <u>149</u> Belgrave Square.	That is the <u>unfashionable</u> side of the <u>street</u> .
He has <u>lost</u> both his <u>parents</u> .	To <u>lose</u> one <u>parent</u> is <u>unfortunate</u> ; to <u>lose</u> both seems like <u>carelessness</u> .
He doesn't <u>know</u> who his father was. He was <u>found</u> by Mr Thomas Cardew and given the name <u>Worthing</u> because he had a train <u>ticket</u> for <u>Worthing</u> in this <u>pocket</u> . He was found in a large, <u>black leather</u> handbag – an <u>ordinary</u> handbag with <u>handles</u> . The handbag was in the <u>cloakroom</u> at <u>Victoria Station</u> in <u>London</u> .	She is <u>shocked</u> by this news. She <u>doesn't think</u> it's right to be <u>born</u> in a handbag even if it has <u>handles</u> . It is not the <u>way</u> to <u>become</u> a <u>respectable</u> gentleman with a <u>good</u> position in <u>society</u> .

7

People	Details
Cecily	<i>doesn't like German</i> keeps a diary to write the secrets of her life doesn't pay attention to her lessons
Jack	<i>is very serious</i> young good sense of duty and responsibility worried about brother Ernest usually likes to spend Sundays in London earnest young man who does not always look for pleasure
Ernest	<i>unfortunate young man</i> weak and indecisive
Miss Prism	<i>knows German and geology and all kinds of things that influence a young man</i> doesn't approve of this modern desire to turn bad people into good people wrote a three volume novel

8 *wicked; frightened; afraid; little; strange; tall; good; bad; glad; proud; pleasant; anxious*

9 a 14; b 5; c 1; d 13; e 4; f 3; g 9; h 2; i 12; j 10; k 7; l 11; m 8; n 6

10

/æ/	/ɑ:/	/eɪ/	/ə/
<i>J<u>a</u>ck</i>	<i>h<u>a</u>lf</i>	<i>ch<u>a</u>nge</i>	<i>arr<u>i</u>ved</i>
<i>mat<u>t</u>er</i>	<i>pa<u>s</u>t</i>	<i>tooth<u>a</u>che</i>	<i>ab<u>o</u>ut</i>
<i>happ<u>y</u></i>	<i>he<u>a</u>r<u>t</u>less</i>	<i>beh<u>a</u>ved</i>	<i>h<u>a</u>ve</i>
<i>h<u>a</u>ven't</i>	<i>l<u>a</u>st</i>	<i>sh<u>a</u>ke</i>	<i>in<u>v</u>alid</i>
<i>bad<u>y</u></i>	<i>tas<u>k</u></i>	<i>disgr<u>a</u>ceful</i>	<i>ag<u>r</u>ee</i>

11 Algernon: *Well, I don't like your clothes. You look perfectly ridiculous in them. Why don't you go upstairs and change? It is perfectly childish to be wearing black clothes for a man who is going to stay in your house for a whole week as a guest.*

Jack: You are certainly not staying with me for a whole week. You have got to leave ... by the four o'clock train.

Algernon: I certainly won't leave you while you are in black clothes. That would be very unfriendly.

Jack: Well, will you go if I change my clothes?

Algernon: Yes, if you are not too long. I never saw anybody else who took so long to get dressed, and with such uninteresting results.

Jack: Well, at least that is better than always being overdressed like you.

Algernon: If I am occasionally overdressed, I make up for it by being extremely overeducated.

Jack: Your vanity is silly, your behaviour is outrageous and your presence in my garden is ridiculous.

12 *five minutes*

next week at the same time

for the last three months

three months on Thursday

the fourteenth of February

three times a week

sometimes

more often

the twenty-second of March

today

at least once

the end of the week

half an hour

the fourteenth of February

today

for the first time

twenty minutes

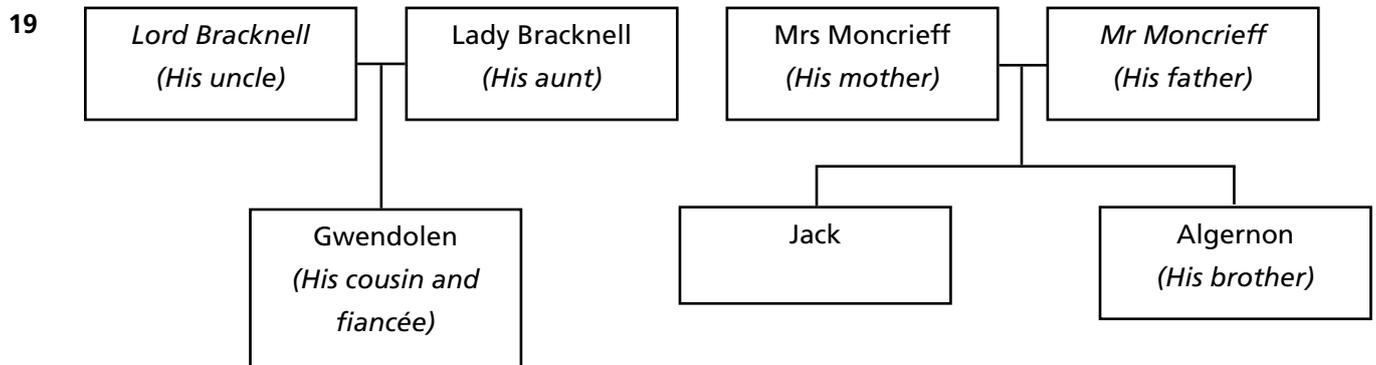
13 1 H; 2 E; 3 A; 4 G; 5 D; 6 B; 7 C; 8 F

14

Polite and friendly	Defensive and offensive
<i>Please do!</i>	<i>Are you calling me an entanglement, Miss Cardew?</i>
I beg your pardon,	You are presumptuous.
I am sorry to say...	On an occasion of this kind, it becomes more than a duty to speak one's mind. It becomes a pleasure.
Dearest Gwendolen...	Do you suggest, Miss Fairfax, that I trapped Ernest into an engagement?
My darling Cecily, I think that there must be some small mistake.	How dare you?
I am afraid that you are mistaken.	This is no time to pretend to have good manners.
Please check for yourself.	When I see a spade, I call it a spade.
It would make me very sad, dear Gwendolen, to cause you any pain.	It is obvious we do not live in the same social circle.
I'm glad you like it, Miss Fairfax.	Hateful girl!
Would you like some tea, Miss Fairfax?	I am known to be sweet-tempered, but I warn you, Miss Cardew, you may go too far.
Yes, thank you.	I would go any distance to save my poor, innocent, trusting boy from being trapped by a girl like you.
No, thank you.	I have distrusted you from the moment I saw you. I felt you were false and deceitful.

- 15 a It is not a very pleasant position for a young girl suddenly to find herself in, is it?
 b They will not follow us into the house, will they?
 c No, men are so cowardly, aren't they?
 d I suppose that this awful business is what you call Bunburying, is it?
 e Your brother isn't very well, is he, Jack?
- 16 1 c; 2 a; 3 a; 4 b; 5 b; 6 a; 7 b
- 17 a I don't care about her fitting into good society.
 b Do not be dismissive of good society, Algernon.
 c Only people who can't get into good society speak like that.
 d He has nothing but his debts to bring to a marriage.
 e But I do not approve of marrying for money.
 f I didn't allow that to stand in my way.
 g Well, I suppose I must give my consent to this marriage.
 h They give people a chance to find out about each other's character before marriage.
 i She cannot marry without my consent until she comes of age.

- 18 a 'I beg of you to think again about your decision.'
- b My dear Lady Bracknell, the decision is entirely in your own hands.
- c 'When you consent to my marriage with Gwendolen, I will gladly consent to your nephew's marriage with my ward.'
- d 'You must know that your marriage with my daughter is not possible.'
- e 'I cannot agree to Gwendolen never getting married.'
- f 'Come, dear, we have already missed five, if not six, trains.'
- g 'My husband, Lord Bracknell, would be very displeased to hear that you were wasting your time and money like this.'
- h 'Do I understand you correctly?'
- i 'Is this Miss Prism a rather ugly female who is remotely connected with education?'



- 20 Mr Ernest Moncrieff and Miss Gwendolen Bracknell
invite you to their wedding
- Mr Algernon Moncrieff and Miss Cecily Cardew
invite you to their wedding
- Canon Frederick Chasuble and Miss Laetitia Prism
invite you to their wedding