

The Importance of Being Earnest

Oscar Wilde

Background Information

- 1 Irish
- 2 mother, her
- 3 Oxford
- 4 good
- 5 poems
- 6 beauty
- 7 children
- 8 novel
- 9 not always
- 10 French
- 11 divorced
- 12 light-hearted
- 13 several
- 14 twice

Multiple Choice

- 1 b
- 2 c
- 3 a
- 4 c
- 5 c
- 6 a
- 7 c
- 8 d
- 9 b
- 10 b
- 11 b

Word Focus

- 1 wickedness
- 2 equality
- 3 hypocrisy

- 4 carelessness
- 5 pleasure
- 6 ignorance
- 7 romance
- 8 amazement

Complete the sentences with one of the verbs from the table.

- 1 romantic
- 2 careless
- 3 ignorance
- 4 pleasure
- 5 wicked
- 6 hypocrisy
- 7 equality
- 8 amazed

Vocabulary: Negative prefixes

- 1 disapproves
- 2 unwell
- 3 unbelievable
- 4 unfashionable
- 5 unpleasant
- 6 indecisive, misbehaviour
- 7 unpacks
- 8 untrue
- 9 displeasure
- 10 unexpectedly, inconvenient
- 11 disliking

Vocabulary: Opposites

- 1 b
- 2 d
- 3 b
- 4 b
- 5 a
- 6 b

Vocabulary: Formal language

- 1 Papa
- 2 Good heavens!
- 3 one
- 4 My dear fellow
- 5 Let us
- 6 scoundrel
- 7 It would be a pleasure
- 8 I beg your pardon
- 9 dine
- 10 perfectly disgraceful

Useful Phrases

- 1 runs in families
- 2 blessing in disguise
- 3 bitter trials
- 4 call a spade a spade
- 5 bores her to death
- 6 come of age
- 7 out of the question
- 8 in her own hands

Grammar: Question tags

- 1 is it not?
- 2 can't I?
- 3 won't you?
- 4 does it?
- 5 may I not?
- 6 don't you?

Which two of the question tags above are old-fashioned and formal?

- 1 may I not?
- 2 is it not?

How could they be said in a less formal, more modern way?

- 1 can't I?
- 2 isn't it?

Now add modern question tags to the following questions.

- 1 are you?
- 2 doesn't she?
- 3 will he?
- 4 isn't it?
- 5 can you?
- 6 didn't he?

Grammar: Relative clauses

- 1 Miss Prism left a bag which/that contained a baby at Victoria station.
- 2 Thomas Cardew, who found Jack as a baby, made him the guardian of Cecily. OR
Thomas Cardew found Jack, who he made the guardian of Cecily, as a baby.
- 3 Lady Bracknell does not want her daughter to marry Jack, who has no known relations.
- 4 Algernon writes down the address of Jack's country home, where Cecily lives.
- 5 Cecily is frightened of meeting Ernest, whose behaviour is wicked.
- 6 Cecily keeps a diary which she writes her secrets in.
- 7 Jack refuses to consent to Cecily's marriage, which means she cannot marry until she is thirty-five.
- 8 Jack's father, whose name was Ernest, baptized his son with the same name.