

# Much Ado About Nothing

William Shakespeare

## The story step by step

1 Listen to the start of Act 1, Scene 1 (from 'I see from this letter...' to '...all his money on medicine.'). Look at the lines below. Are they talking about Benedick (B) or Claudio (C)? Write the correct letter after each line. The first one is an example. Check your answers on pp.10–11 or in the answer key.

- a '... Don Pedro of Aragon praises a young man from Florence'   C
- b 'He's a good soldier. He fought well, lady.'
- c 'That young man behaved like an experienced soldier. I don't have the words to tell you how brave he was.'
- d '... the man who challenged Cupid, god of love, to a shooting match'
- e 'Well, he can fight a lady. He's brave enough for that.'
- f '... is like a disease – easy to catch and difficult to get rid of.'
- g '... he'll have to spend all his money on medicine.'

2 Listen to Act 1, Scene 2 and write the direct speech you hear under the reported speech below. The first one is an example. Check your answers on p.18 or in the answer key.

- a Leonato asked Antonio if his son had arranged the music for that evening.  
Leonato: *'Has your son arranged the music for tonight?'* \_\_\_\_\_
- b Antonio told his brother not to worry, that all would be ready.  
Antonio: \_\_\_\_\_
- c Leonato asked if it was good news or bad.  
Leonato: \_\_\_\_\_
- d Leonato asked if Antonio was sure and if his servant had really heard that.  
Leonato: \_\_\_\_\_
- e Antonio said he was sure he'd got it right, but that he would question him again.  
Antonio: \_\_\_\_\_
- f Leonato advised him not to do that.  
Leonato: \_\_\_\_\_
- g Leonato ordered everyone to get to work  
Leonato: \_\_\_\_\_

- 3 Listen to the start of Act 1, Scene 3 (from 'What the devil's the matter sir?' to 'Anger is all I have.'). Match the beginnings of the sentences you hear Don John say about himself (1–10) with the endings (A–J). The first one is an example.

1	No clever talk	A	and care for no one.
2	It is my nature	B	of a bastard,
3	I do what I want,	C	will change me.
4	I look after myself	D	what I am not?
5	I'd rather be a sharp thorn	E	that I am a villain
6	I have the bad blood	F	to be sad
7	Why should I try to be	G	who has to wear a muzzle
8	I am an angry man	H	to hurt my brother
9	I am like a bad dog	I	and I don't try to hide it.
10	The truth is	J	when I want to.

- 4 Listen to Act 2, Scene 1 (from 'Daughter, remember what I told you.' to 'Will you not tell me who told you that about me?') and list all the musical references. Check your answers on pp.22–24 of the book or in the answer key.

*dance*

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- 5 Listen to Act 2, Scene 2 (from 'So, Count Claudio is to marry ...' to 'Will they really believe that?'). Complete the sentences from the scene with the correct imperative verbs below. Check your answers on p.33 of the book or in the answer key. The first one is an example.

do find go poison praise say x 3 talk tell x 3

- a Then do it any way you can.  
 b \_\_\_\_\_ me your plan.  
 c \_\_\_\_\_ on.  
 d \_\_\_\_\_ to your brother.  
 e \_\_\_\_\_ his mind in any way you like.  
 f \_\_\_\_\_ him you have made a mistake.  
 g \_\_\_\_\_ the honest Claudio and \_\_\_\_\_ that Hero is not a worthy wife for him.

- h \_\_\_\_\_ that she has courted other men – lots of them.
- i Then \_\_\_\_\_ a good time to speak to Don Pedro and Claudio together.
- j \_\_\_\_\_ them that you know Hero loves me.
- k \_\_\_\_\_ that Hero is not a virgin and she doesn't care who she courts.

6 Listen to Act 2, Scene 3 (from 'I think you are right.' to 'That is very true.'). Who says the following things about Beatrice and Benedick; Claudio (C), Don Pedro (DP) or Leonato (L)? The first one is an example. Check your answers on p.39 of the book or in the answer key.

**Speaking about Beatrice**

- a She is a sweet lady and a good woman. DP
- b And she is very sensible. \_\_\_\_\_
- c But I am her uncle. I should try to help her. \_\_\_\_\_

**Speaking about Benedick**

- d Yes, and sometimes he says things which almost seem witty. \_\_\_\_\_
- e And I understand that he is a brave soldier. \_\_\_\_\_
- f But he keeps out of trouble and prefers to make a joke rather than argue with anyone. \_\_\_\_\_

7 Listen to Act 3, Scene 1 (from 'The only love she has is for herself.' to 'She's truly full of scorn.'). Complete the 'if' clauses with the words you hear. The first one is an example. Check your answers on p.43 of the book or in the answer key.

- a If she *finds out* that Benedick's in love *she'll make* a joke of it.
- b If he \_\_\_\_\_ fair, she' \_\_\_\_\_ he's like a woman.
- c And if his skin \_\_\_\_\_ dark, more \_\_\_\_\_ a devil.
- d If \_\_\_\_\_, his head' \_\_\_\_\_ too \_\_\_\_\_
- e If \_\_\_\_\_, too \_\_\_\_\_.
- f And if he \_\_\_\_\_ too much that \_\_\_\_\_ a fault.

8 Listen to Act 3, Scene 2 (from 'I can't see any of the usual signs.' to 'He's in love, for sure.'). List all the signs mentioned that Benedick is in love. The first one is an example. Check your answers on p.45 of the book or in the answer key.

*He's always changing his clothes.* \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

- 9 Listen to the start of Act 3, Scene 3 (from 'Are all these men honest?' to 'Now, goodnight neighbours.'). Complete the following information that Dogberry gives the Watch about what to do in each situation. Check your answers on pp.50–51 of the book or in the answer key.

**Orders for the watch!**

If you see a man out walking, late at night, *ask for his name*.

Tell him to stop \_\_\_\_\_.

If he doesn't stop \_\_\_\_\_.

You must be quiet, too. \_\_\_\_\_!

If you meet any men who are drunk, \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

And if they won't go then \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

Do the same \_\_\_\_\_.

Don't have anything to do \_\_\_\_\_.

Keep the city quiet \_\_\_\_\_.

Be sure that you watch \_\_\_\_\_.

Keep your \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_!

- 10 Listen to Act 3, Scene 3 (from 'Hey! Conrad!' to 'Then you'll all be in trouble!'). Count the number of times you hear references to 'devil' and 'villain'. Check your answers on pp.51–52 of the book or in the answer key.

devil	
villain	

- 11 Listen to Margaret's description of Hero's wedding dress in Act 3, Scene 4 (from 'You should be!' to 'Yes, this dress is just perfect!'). Underline the correct alternatives below to complete the description. The first one is an example. Check your answers on p.54 of the book or in the answer key.

The material's made of gold/silver, with a design of diamonds/pearls and gold/silver on the skirt/shirt. The over-/under-skirt is a thick/thin, silver/white material and so are the loose/tight sleeves. These double sleeves/veils are so fashionable/unfashionable now and they are covered/decorated with pearls/swirls too. The top/skirt's a very clear/clever shape. Yes, this dress is just perfect!

- 12 Listen to Act 3, Scene 5. Tick the adjectives you hear. The first one is an example. Check your answers on pp.58–59 of the book or in the answer key.

*bad* ✓ good private public busy idle dishonest honest old young  
calm nervous quick slow best worst

- 13 Listen to the start of Act 4, Scene 1 (from 'Friar Francis, ...' to 'you must hear me.'). You will hear the words below. One sound of each word is underlined. Put the words in the correct column according to the underlined sound. There are five words for each sound. The first four have been done for you: 'stop' /ɒ/; 'daughter' /ɔ:/; 'count' /aʊ/; and 'know' /əʊ/. Check your answers in the answer key.

daughter count know stop no lord what about course honest not  
how ground brought sound oh more don't spoke sorry

/ɒ/	/ɔ:/	/aʊ/	/əʊ/
<i>stop</i>	<i>daughter</i>	<i>count</i>	<i>know</i>

- 14 Listen to Act 4, Scene 2. Complete the following notes on the prisoners' court hearing. Check your answers on pp.69–70 of the book or in the answer key.

Prisoners' names: *Borachio* and \_\_\_\_\_

What the Watch heard the prisoner say: \_\_\_\_\_

The amount of money Borachio received from Don John: \_\_\_\_\_

The reason why he received the money: \_\_\_\_\_

Other information from the Watch: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What happened to Don John: \_\_\_\_\_

What prisoner calls Dogberry: \_\_\_\_\_

- 15 Listen to Act 5, Scene 1 (from 'Officers, why are these men your prisoners?' to 'Everything they say is lies.'). Match the discourse markers with the points Dogberry makes. Listen carefully! Not all of the discourse markers can be matched to a point. Check your answers on p.77 of the book or in the answer key.

Firstly,	they are both bad men, sir, very bad indeed
Secondly,	they have said bad things about a good lady
Thirdly,	
Fourthly,	sworn those lies were true
Fifthly,	
Sixthly and lastly,	they have told lies

- 16 Listen to Act 5, Scene 2 (from 'Only bad words.' to 'Very badly.'). Put the sentences in the correct order to complete the conversation you hear between Beatrice and Benedick. The first and the last are done for you. Check your answers on p.82 of the book or in the answer key.

- a And how soon is that? \_\_\_\_\_
- b Are you praising yourself? \_\_\_\_\_
- c As soon as the death-bell stops ringing and his friends stop crying. So a wise man like me, must praise himself while he is alive. But please tell me how your cousin is doing. \_\_\_\_\_
- d From bad words straight to kisses? I don't think so. \_\_\_\_\_
- e If a man doesn't praise himself, no one will. Unless he builds his own tomb, he will soon be forgotten. \_\_\_\_\_
- f Only bad words. We argued, that's all. Now I must kiss you. 1
- g That's right. We're so clever that we show our love by arguing. \_\_\_\_\_
- h The first pain of love? You are right. Love is a pain – I love you because I can't stop myself, not because I want to. \_\_\_\_\_
- i Very badly. 12
- j Well, all of them at once. You have so many faults. But now, please tell me this. What was it about me that gave you the first pain of love? \_\_\_\_\_
- k You are too sharp for me, lady. Now listen. I have challenged Claudio and I am waiting for his answer. And now I want to ask you something too. Which of my bad parts first made you fall in love with me? \_\_\_\_\_
- l Your heart is giving you good advice but, because of me, you don't listen to it. And I will do the same. Do both of us hate to love or love to hate? I only know one answer to that. When you love, I must love, although I hate to. Oh dear, we shall never agree on anything. \_\_\_\_\_

17 Listen to Act 5, Scene 3. Complete the rhyming couplets by filling in the words that rhyme with those underlined. The first one (a/a) has been done for you: 'tongues' and 'wrongs'. Check your answers on p.84 of the book or in the answer key.

'Killed by men with wicked tongues – a  
Was the virgin who here lies. – b  
In death, we try to right her wrongs – a  
And give her praise that never \_\_\_\_\_. – b  
So the life that died of shame – c  
Takes again a worthy \_\_\_\_\_. – c  
I hang this poem on her tomb, – d  
Praising her when I have \_\_\_\_\_. – d

Diana, goddess of the night  
Forgive the men who caused the death  
Of your sweet Hero. Hear their \_\_\_\_\_ – e  
As round her tomb they walk with many sighs. – e  
Night is your time and at this time they mourn – f  
And think of death that comes to all those \_\_\_\_\_. – f  
Sadly, sadly sing this song – g  
And we will praise you all night \_\_\_\_\_. – g

Now, my sweetest girl, goodnight and for my wrongs – h  
Year after year will I sing these mourning \_\_\_\_\_. – h  
Dawn's fair first light is shining in the sky – i  
So thanks to all – now we must say \_\_\_\_\_. – i

18 Listen to Act 5, Scene 4 (from 'Did I not tell ...' to 'To the church now, everyone!'). Decide if the following sentences are true (T) or false (F). Check your answers on pp.85–87 or in the answer key.

- a Friar Francis always thought Hero was innocent.   T
- b Leonato thinks the prince and Claudio are guilty. \_\_\_\_\_
- c Hero's waiting lady, Margret realised what she was doing. \_\_\_\_\_
- d All the ladies disguise their identities. \_\_\_\_\_
- e Antonio pretends to be Hero's father. \_\_\_\_\_
- f Benedick doesn't want to marry Beatrice. \_\_\_\_\_
- g Leonato is happy for Beatrice and Benedick to marry. \_\_\_\_\_
- h Claudio doesn't know he is marrying Hero. \_\_\_\_\_
- i Claudio won't marry without seeing his bride's face. \_\_\_\_\_
- j Nobody is surprised that Hero is alive. \_\_\_\_\_