The Importance of Being Earnest

About the Author
Page 6 – exercise 1
1 Oscar Fingal O'Flahertie Wills Wilde 2 1854, Dublin 3 Greek and Latin (the Classics), Art 4 Trinity College, Dublin, Oxford University 5 America, Paris 6 two sons 7 Editor, writer (playwright) 8 Possible answers: The Happy Prince and Other Tales; A House of Pomegranates; Lady Windermere’s Fan; A Woman of No Importance; An Ideal Husband; The Importance of Being Earnest; The Picture of Dorian Gray 9 1900

Page 6 – exercise 2
Open answer

CHAPTER ONE
Page 8 – exercise 1

Page 8 – exercise 2
a 3 b 1 c 2 (Bachelor doesn’t match the rest. Doesn’t look after/have responsibility for someone)

Page 8 – exercise 3
vase; curtains; elegant; paintings; colourful; piano; clock; expensive; flowers.

Page 15 – exercise 1
1 b 2 c 3 a 4 d 5 b

Page 16 – exercise 2
2

Page 16 – exercise 3
best man, carriage, dress, hat, bridesmaid, honeymoon, fiancé, proposal, suit, ring, engaged, vicar. 1 proposal 2 bridesmaid

Page 16 – exercise 4
1 He doesn’t think it is romantic. (It is like business.) No, Jack wants to marry Gwendolen because he says he is in love with her. 2 ‘There is not much need for good quality champagne if you are married.’; ‘I’m sure there are many people who are very happily married.’ He was married once but it was a mistake.

Page 17 – exercise 5
champagne 2 silver 3 business card 4 will

Page 17 – exercise 6
Open answer.

Page 17 – exercise 7
Example answers: for fun – listen to music, watch films, play games on the computer, play sport, chat on social media; have to – study, pay bills, go to work, do the housework; both: do the gardening, go to the gym, write emails.

CHAPTER TWO
Page 18 – exercise 1
1 Algernon has eaten them all 2 Lady Bracknell 3 Open answer 4 a, c

Page 18 – exercise 2
1 distinguished 2 dinner parties 3 rarely 4 pretended 5 announced 6 layers 7 slightly 8 necklace 9 slim 10 parasol.

Page 24 – exercise 1
a dinner b ordered c announced d marry e piano f carriage g disappointing h ideal.

Page 24 – exercise 2
a 3 b 4 c 1 d 2

Page 25 – exercise 3
Open answers.

Page 25 – exercise 4
Open answers.

Page 25 – exercise 5
Open answers.

Page 25 – exercise 6
Open answers.

Page 26 – Culture Spot
1 c 2 b 3 a 4 d 5 a 6 b

Page 27 – exercise 7
3.

Page 27 – exercise 8
Open answers.

Page 27 – exercise 9
Open answers.

Page 28 – exercise 10
1 b 2 c 3 a 4 a

CHAPTER THREE
Page 29 – exercise 1
1 Possible answers: when you have a job; for entrance to university; a journalist might interview someone; police interview; a meeting when someone asks you question in a formal setting.

2 Open answers depending on the situation but usually open questions, i.e. what, where,
where, what, etc. Can you give me an example of? In law/police situations these might be more closed, i.e. yes/no. Were you at the scene of the crime? Did you know the victim? (Teacher’s note: Lady Bracknell is interviewing Jack for the job of ‘marriage’. She is also acting as ‘judge’ and guardian of Victorian moral standards. She uses both types of questions and interviews in both ways.)

Page 29 – exercise 2
1 b 2 c 3 b 4 a 5 a 6 d

Page 29 – exercise 2
A d Astonished is not an adverb; it doesn’t begin with the letter ‘c’. (Although too high for the level it is possible they will notice the other words are ‘relaxed/not too worried’. Astonished shows surprise.)
B Open answer.

Page 36 – exercise 1
1 How old are you, Mr Worthing? I am 29. 2 What do you know? Nothing (I don’t know anything.)
3 How much do you earn? I earn 7,000-8,000 pounds a year. 4 Do you have a country house? Yes, I do.
5 What is your address in London? It is 149 Belgrave Square. 6 Was your father a business man or an aristocrat? I don’t know. (I have lost both my parents. I was found.)

Page 36 – exercise 2
1 A 2 J 3 A 4 J 5 A 6 A

Page 36 – exercise 3
Open answers.

Page 37 – exercise 4
1 a 2 c 3 a 4 b

TRACK 05
Presenter: Dr James Long is a railway historian. He is going to tell us a little bit more about the fascinating history of the London and Brighton railway.
Dr Long: In the 19th century, London Victoria Station was not one station; it was a terminus for a number of stations. A group of different businessmen suggested six new routes from London to Brighton. In the end, they built the most expensive and difficult line, but it was also the quickest and the most direct. Over 3,500 men and 570 horses were used to build the railway. It took three years to complete. You can imagine the excitement when the first train arrived in Brighton Railway Station in 1841.
You have to remember that people were travelling more at this time and, of course, Brighton was a very fashionable place to visit. In fact, by the 1830s, it was one of the most popular seaside towns in Britain. The line was often used by wealthy travellers and tourists who wanted to go to the coast for their holidays. In 1881, the first luxury train service, complete with first-class carriages and its own serving staff went to Brighton. At this time, the Brighton line was probably the most prestigious and most respectable line from Victoria Station.

Page 37 – exercise 5
Possible answers. Both: bossy, fashionable, serious; Gwendolen is clever but her mother is stupid. Gwendolen is pretty but Lady Bracknell is ugly.

Page 38 – exercise 6
Possible answers. They both want to have fun; they have invented other people so they can do the things they want. They like food and they are greedy. Jack is more serious than Algernon. Algernon is more interested in music than Jack.

Page 38 – exercise 7
1 d cough 2 e sore 3 i allergy 4 a, f sick, aching 5 c, b cold, sneezing 6 g, h bed, flu. Extra word: incurable.

Page 39 – exercise 8
a

Page 39 – exercise 9
Open answers

Page 39 – exercise 10
How are you feeling? Are you hot or cold? Do you need anything? Have you taken your medicine yet?

Page 39 – exercise 11
Correct answers: 1, 4. Incorrect: 2 (32 teeth), 3 (no, it’s impossible)

Victorian morals and values

Page 42 – exercise 1
1 F 2 T 3 T 4 F 5 T 6 F

CHAPTER FOUR
Page 43 – exercise 1
1 The house is a large manor house with columns and steps. Cecily/Jack/Miss Prism live here.
2 Cecily is wearing a white dress with a ribbon in her hair; Miss Prism is wearing a jacket and a hat.
3 A governess teaches children in a family; governess usually work for wealthy families, families where a child is too far from other places to go to school or when the parent(s) or family move between places/countries a lot.

Page 43 – exercise 2
1 Best answer is a (b The man with the car might have lots of money and spend wisely, c The person might show politeness tolerance not hypocrisy.)
2 A
3 C. Possible answers: because it’s the furthest away from Britain; he knows people in Australia; in the past criminals were sent to Australia. Cultural note: the British sometimes sent criminals to Australia instead of the death sentence. This is relevant for the next chapter.

Page 50 – exercise 1
1 B 2 A 3 A 4 A 5 B 6 A 7 A 8 B 9 B

Page 50 – exercise 2
1 d 2 a 3 b 4 c

Page 51 – exercise 3
Open answers

Page 51 – exercise 4
Open answer
CHAPTER FIVE
Page 52 – exercise 1
1 A feeling of great sadness because someone has died. 2 He is wearing a long black coat, black gloves, a waistcoat, a tie and a tall black hat. 3 Algernon. He is pretending to be his brother. Jack has said his brother is dead.

Page 52 – exercise 2
Open answers

Page 51 – exercise 3
Open answers

Page 59 – exercise 1
1 T 2 F 3 F 4 F 5 F 6 T 7 F 8 T

Page 59 – exercise 2
1 C, Miss Prism 2 B, Reverend Chasuble 3 A, Jack

Page 60 – exercise 3
Sample answer: Hello Emilia, I'm sorry to hear about Giovanni. I hope he feels better soon. I'm free next weekend. You can stay at my flat. It's not a problem. We can meet at the coffee shop opposite the station. I'll see you on Saturday!

Page 60 – exercise 4
1 handbag 2 money 3 medicine 4 room 5 reception 6 driver 7 handles 8 Country 9 Hertfordshire 10 456 321

TRACK 08
Manor House Tours
Hello, and welcome to Manor House Tours. We're delighted to have you with us and we hope you enjoy your stay in England. We have some beautiful houses to show you from small country houses to grand castles. Now before we begin our tour, I just need to explain the arrangements for your luggage. First of all: hand luggage. You are allowed to take one handbag and one small bag with you on the coach. Please bring your money, your passport and any other valuables with you. For the day tours, please remember to take everything you are going to need for the day. For example, make sure you take any medicine you need. You can leave all your larger items and suitcases with us. When we arrive at the first hotel, your luggage will be taken directly to your hotel room from the coach by the hotel porters. When you check out from your room, please leave your suitcases at reception. The driver will make sure that all your luggage is returned to the coach. He will then leave the luggage at the next hotel so that your luggage is there for you when you arrive. In order to make sure we can clearly identify your luggage, I'm going to give you some luggage tags to put around the handles of your bags and suitcases. You should tie them tightly around the handles so they don't come off. On one side of the luggage tag you should write your name, the tour you are on and most importantly your contact number. We suggest that this is your mobile phone number. This tour is called “England’s Country Houses”. On the other side of the tag, please write the name and address of the tour company. You can find this information on the papers you were sent with your booking, but if you want to write it down now the address is: Manor House Tours, 3 Green Tree Road, Little Worthing, Hertfordshire. Hertfordshire is spelled H-E-R-T-T-F-O-R-D-S-H-I-R-E. The contact telephone number for Manor House Tours is – 01791 456 321. So just to repeat that again: Manor House Tours, 3 Green Tree Road, Little Worthing, Hertfordshire. 01791 456 321.

CHAPTER SIX
Page 61 – exercise 1
1 Merriman interrupts 2 been engaged for 3 is called 4 not 5 she was

Page 61 – exercise 2
0 F 1 F 2 T 3 F 4 T 5 T

Page 61 – exercise 3
A desperately, madly, passionately, deeply. Two meanings: “desperately” also means without hope; “madly” also means with a lot of energy or describes stupid/crazy behaviour; deeply – e.g. to breathe deeply – to take a lot of air inside the body.

B Open answers. Most likely: tree, rose bush, castle.

Page 68 – exercise 1
1 Who, Algernon came to see Cecily 2 When, She told him to come back in five minutes 3 Where, She engraved them in/on a tree in a little heart 4 What, Cecily had a/an ring/engagement ring 5 Why, He went to see Reverend Chasuble because he wanted to be christened/change his name to Ernest

Page 68 – exercise 2
A Algernon took a rose from his button hole and gave it to Cecily. B Merriman told Algernon/Cecily/ them that the carriage was ready (or Jack told the servants to prepare the horse and carriage because Algernon had to leave immediately). C Cecily wrote their names on the tree (or Cecily showed Algernon the tree where she wrote their names). D Cecily wrote Algernon’s…. for him/Cecily told Algernon about his letters/The spelling in the letter Algernon wrote when he/they ended the engagement was very bad. E/F Open answers

Page 69 – exercise 3
1 Cecily was already engaged to Ernest. Cecily had written their engagement in her diary on 14th February. 2 Cecily showed Algernon the tree. She had written their names on it. 3 Algernon walked towards the church; he had decided to be christened. 4 A lady had arrived at the manor house looking for Jack. Merriman went to the carriage to greet the lady. 5 At the Manor House Gwendolen discovered that Cecily was Jack’s ward. Jack hadn’t told Gwendolen about Cecily.
Page 70 – exercise 4
A  Open answers
B  possible answers: a, d are perfect; b, c are not perfect
C  a, b

Page 70 – exercise 5
Examples: Bunbury is not real; Earnest doesn’t exist; Cecily imagines Ernest will be perfect for her because he is called Ernest. People are not surprised by the imaginary lives that the others create.

Page 70 – exercise 6
1 c  2 e  3 f  4 b  5 d  6 a

Page 71 – exercise 7
1 a  2 c  3 b  4 c

CHAPTER SEVEN
Page 72 – exercise 1
Possible answers: Three slices of bread and butter. A piece of cake or bread and butter. Two lumps of sugar. A couple of sandwiches, scones or muffins. A pot of tea, e.g. herbal tea, green tea, etc. A cup of tea. A glass of champagne or lemonade. A selection of pastries.

Page 72 – exercise 2
b

Page 72 – exercise 3
No. She gives her sugar in the tea and cake instead of bread and butter.

Page 79 – exercise 1
1 A  2 A  3 B  4 B  5 A  6 A  7 B  8 B.

Page 79 – exercise 2
a C b G c G d C e G f C.

Page 80 – exercise 3
Possible answers: Three slices of bread and butter. A piece of cake or bread and butter. Two lumps of sugar. A couple of sandwiches, scones or muffins. A pot of tea, e.g. herbal tea, green tea, etc. A cup of tea. A glass of champagne or lemonade. A selection of pastries.

Page 79 – exercise 5
b possible answers: a, d are perfect; a open answers

Page 79 – exercise 6
Possible answers: the drawing room, garden, whistling; pretended to be her guardian’s brother/he wanted to meet Cecily; pretended to be Ernest/he wanted to see Gwendolen; believe/they are not called Ernest (their names are not Ernest).

Page 92 – exercise 1
Possible answer: no, they are not honest (about Ernest/Bunbury); they are not very serious but they are determined to marry the women. 3 Open answer.

Page 92 – exercise 2
1 c, because 2 b, because 3 e, so 4 g, so 5 h, because 6 f, but 7 g, so c, because 2 a, and 3 e, so 4 g, so 5 h, because 6 f, but 7 g, so 1 c – because; 2 a – so; 3 b because; 4 e – so; 5 h – because; 6 d – but; 7 f but; 8 g – so

Page 93 – exercise 2
1 church 2 pretended 3 guardian

Page 93 – exercise 3
1 2 Open answers 3 b.

Page 93 – exercise 4
1

Page 94 – exercise 5
a c d g

Page 94 – exercise 6
1 The qualities of the name Ernest were important qualities for a good member of Victorian society. 2 Possible answer: no, they are not honest (about Ernest/Bunbury); they are not very serious but they are determined to marry the women. 3 Open answer.
I'm terrible with money. I should a

Money is very important. It's a b

people believe she has money c

she behaves like she has money so d

 Algernon spends all his money. e

Lady Bracknell says he has no money f

He said he had no money in g

Chapter One. It's not a problem h

women's property became their i

wasn't c 4, her j

handbag d 2, pale e 3, Miss Prism f

another room g 5, was left in h 8,

older i 9, first j 10, Earnest. k

I think you should spend what l

you earn. If you earn a lot, you m

can spend a lot! I'm not very rich n

and I don't have much money. o

secret, forest, discover, plays, p

double, painting. Words not q

swapped: theme - subject, babies - r

double; painting. Words swapped from text, in order: s

painting; Secret – Down: t

laurel, Miss Prism, lake, lake, u

pram, cloakroom, lake, lake, v

thought. Words not w

secret, forest, discover, painting, x

secret, forest, forest, painting, y

other i 9, first j 10, Earnest. z

This was not the case when the a

husbands when they married but b

women’s property became their c

respectability is equally d

good reason for Algernon to marry e

her daughter. f

Cecily. But respectability is equally g

important. She won't let Jack marry h

her daughter.

Example answers 1 No. We know i

Algernon spends all his money. j

Lady Bracknell says he has no money k

in Chapter One. It’s not a problem l

because he comes from a m

respectable family. Cecily has n

money so it isn’t a problem. o

Algernon would probably live with p

her. (Cultural Note: until 1870, q

women's property became their r

husbands when they married but s

this was not the case when the t

play was written.) 2 No, she u

didn’t. Yes, it’s an example of irony. v

(If student’s level allows expansion: w

she behaves like she has money so x

people believe she has money y

when the opposite is true.) 3 Both. z

Money is very important. It’s a {w}

good reason for Algernon to marry {x}

Cecily. But respectability is equally {y}

important. She won’t let Jack marry {z}

her daughter.

Example answers 1 No. We know {a}

Algernon spends all his money. {b}

Lady Bracknell says he has no money {c}

in Chapter One. It’s not a problem {d}

because he comes from a {e}

respectable family. Cecily has {f}

money so it isn’t a problem. {g}

Algernon would probably live with {h}

her. (Cultural Note: until 1870, {i}

women's property became their {j}

husbands when they married but {k}

this was not the case when the {l}

play was written.) 2 No, she {m}
didn’t. Yes, it’s an example of irony. {n}

(If student’s level allows expansion: {o}

she behaves like she has money so {p}

people believe she has money {q}

when the opposite is true.) 3 Both. {r}

Money is very important. It’s a {s}
good reason for Algernon to marry {t}

Cecily. But respectability is equally {u}

important. She won’t let Jack marry {v}

her daughter.

Example answers 1 No. We know {w}

Algernon spends all his money. {x}

Lady Bracknell says he has no money {y}

in Chapter One. It’s not a problem {z}

because he comes from a {a}

respectable family. Cecily has {b}

money so it isn’t a problem. {c}

Algernon would probably live with {d}

her. (Cultural Note: until 1870, {e}

women's property became their {f}

husbands when they married but {g}

this was not the case when the {h}

play was written.) 2 No, she {i}
didn’t. Yes, it’s an example of irony. {j}

(If student’s level allows expansion: {k}

she behaves like she has money so {l}

people believe she has money {m}

when the opposite is true.) 3 Both. {n}

Money is very important. It’s a {o}
good reason for Algernon to marry {p}

Cecily. But respectability is equally {q}

important. She won’t let Jack marry {r}

her daughter.

Example answers 1 No. We know {s}

Algernon spends all his money. {t}

Lady Bracknell says he has no money {u}

in Chapter One. It’s not a problem {v}

because he comes from a {w}

respectable family. Cecily has {x}

money so it isn’t a problem. {y}

Algernon would probably live with {z}

her. (Cultural Note: until 1870, {a}

women's property became their {b}

husbands when they married but {c}

this was not the case when the {d}

play was written.) 2 No, she {e}
didn’t. Yes, it’s an example of irony. {f}

(If student’s level allows expansion: {g}

she behaves like she has money so {h}

people believe she has money {i}

when the opposite is true.) 3 Both. {j}

Money is very important. It’s a {k}
good reason for Algernon to marry {l}

Cecily. But respectability is equally {m}

important. She won’t let Jack marry {n}

her daughter.
EXIT TEST ONLINE

1 Possible answers:
A will not allow him/does not agree/is not happy about it/doesn’t want him to marry her.
B they become friends/they call each other sister.
C wicked/handsome/Jack’s brother Ernest/her fiancé.
D was found in a handbag/ was left in a station classroom/doesn’t know anything about this parents.
E Ernest. F - Bunbury (his friend Bunbury who he visits in the country).
G get married/find a wife.
H died in Paris of a cold.
Suggested order (may change according to answers):
1 – F  2 – A  3 – D  4 – C  5 – G  6 – H  7 – B  8 – E

2
1 – A  2 – C  3 – D  4 – B  5 – B  6 – A  7 – D  8 – C

3
1 hungry/Algernon;
2 trivial/Lady Bracknell;
3 careful/Miss Prism;
4 studious/Reverend Chasuble;
5 sincere/Jack;
6 ignorant/Lady Bracknell;
7 beautiful/Cecily
8 determined/Gwendolen.