

ФЕДЕРАЛЬНОЕ АГЕНТСТВО ПО ОБРАЗОВАНИЮ
ГОСУДАРСТВЕННОЕ ОБРАЗОВАТЕЛЬНОЕ
УЧРЕЖДЕНИЕ
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УНИВЕРСИТЕТ»

АНГЛИЙСКИЙ ЯЗЫК

Часть II

Учебное пособие

Составители:
Г.И. Коньгина,
Н.А. Портнихина,
Е.С. Селезнева

Издательско-полиграфический центр
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Рецензент канд. филол. наук Н.М. Шишкина

Учебное пособие подготовлено на кафедре английского языка гуманитарных факультетов факультета РГФ Воронежского государственного университета.

Предназначено для студентов 2–3 курсов филологического факультета. Знакомит с образцами оригинальных текстов по специальности «Филология», в частности с текстами литературоведческого характера, освещающими жизнь и творческую деятельность ряда английских и американских писателей XIX века.

В состав учебного пособия входят ключи-ответы к упражнениям.

Для специальности 031001 – Филология

Part II

In Part II you are going to read the text about the life of a famous person whose name is *Jane Austen*.

Lead-in

Work in a small group. Ask your partners the following questions and give detailed answers.

1. What is *Jane Austen* famous for?
2. Do you have sufficient information about Jane Austen? Would you like to expand and enrich your knowledge?
3. What century was she born in?
4. What exactly do you know about Austen's life and literary career?
5. Can you imagine the difficulties encountered by women writers in a man's world of literature?
6. Do you think *Jane Austen* is a pseudonym that the writer assumed to preserve secrecy and avoid the special treatment reviewers accorded to women?
7. Have you ever read Jane Austen's books?
8. Which adjectives from the following list would you use or not use to describe Austen's novels? Why or why not? Give reasons for your answers.

alarming / amusing / plagiarized / brilliant / charming / ironic / ominous / entertaining / gloomy / mocking / monotonous / funny / repulsive / enjoyable / mediocre / witty / sorrowful / threatening / offensive / melancholic / satirical / predictable / exciting / mysterious / cheerful

9. Why do you think filmmakers persistently transform Jane Austen's literary world to the screen?
10. Have you ever seen film or television versions of Austen's novels?
11. Do you think the screenwriters managed to catch the spirit of the original text?
12. Do screen versions retain the wit and verve of Austen's novels?
13. Were you delighted or disappointed with the screen adaptations of Austen's books? Why? Give reasons for your answers.
14. From your point of view, can successful film adaptations revive and increase popular interest in the literary heritage of a writer?
15. How would you feel about these adaptations if you were Jane Austen?

In the text, you will find the following words (1 – 15). Match the words with their definitions (a – o).

- | | | |
|-----------------|---|---|
| 1. exuberant | a | an Anglican priest who is in charge of a church and a parish |
| 2. respectively | b | the small but important details or aspects of something, nuances, particularities, special features |
| 3. parlour | c | a strong desire to achieve something high or great, ambition, longing, craving |
| 4. ridicule | d | a state of being widely acclaimed and highly honoured, fame, popularity, prominence |
| 5. rector | e | a number of people or things that follow each other in time or order, series, sequence, chain, progression |
| 6. subtleties | f | to make someone/something look silly by laughing at them or it in an unkind way, make fun of, mock, deride |
| 7. noteworthy | g | a room in a private house used for the reception and entertainment of guests |
| 8. amusement | h | a person who has done advanced study in a special field, researcher, theoretician, a learned person |
| 9. suitor | i | deserving to be noticed or to receive attention because it is unusual, important or interesting, worth mentioning |
| 10. fruition | j | full of energy, excitement and happiness, cheerful, passionate, enthusiastic |
| 11. socialize | k | a man who courts a particular woman or seeks to marry her |
| 12. succession | l | in the same order as the people or things already mentioned |
| 13. renown | m | a game, an activity, etc. that provides entertainment and pleasure; pastime, recreation |
| 14. scholar | n | the successful result, completion, realization, achievement, fulfilment, termination |
| 15. aspiration | o | to meet and spend time with people in a friendly way, in order to enjoy yourself; mix, mingle |

Reading

The text that follows allows you to become familiar with the face behind the name *Jane Austen*.

Work with a partner. The following text is divided into parts (A – J). Arrange the parts in the correct order to make a complete text about Jane Austen's life and creative activity. There is an example at the beginning.

1 C 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

A After the flurry of literary activity in the late 1790s, which is considered to be the first period of Jane Austen's creative life, there was a long spell of unproductivity. Her vigorous writing career came to a halt. Austen's interest in writing waned, her literary output was not high. However, she never completely abandoned writing and revising her texts.

The second period of Austen's creative life began in 1811 when, after years of scrupulous polishing, her novel *Sense and Sensibility* was finally published. This period is characterized by literary maturity and intense productivity. She critically reworked the manuscripts and renamed her early works. She composed in quick succession three new books - *Mansfield Park* (1814), *Emma* (1816), and *Persuasion* (1818). These years were the most rewarding time of her life. She had the satisfaction of seeing her work in print. Her writings received public recognition. The published novels were widely read and favourably reviewed. She became an established (though anonymous) author.

The best qualities of Austen's writings come to full fruition in her mature novels. The author confirms her talent of a keen observer and sharp analyst. She succeeds in representing a vast collection of characters and locations. Later novels are mainly deep, slow, reflective narrations in which the literary satire, though still present, is less sparkling and more subdued. Austen writes with economy, hardly wasting a word. Her compositions approach perfection.

B According to Austen's biographers, her life was a singularly uneventful one. It lacked dramatic or noteworthy incidents. Jane never married. However, it is known that she had several suitors and once accepted a proposal of marriage from a man she did not love, but reconsidered and rejected it the following morning. It is also thought that she met a gentleman with whom she developed a close relationship, and that they might have become engaged, but a mysterious romantic interest of hers died very suddenly. Jane Austen's novels provide indisputable evidence that their author understood the experience of love and of love disappointed. Otherwise, Jane Austen seems to have lived comfortably with her family in an atmosphere of tranquil and happy domesticity.

C Jane Austen is one of the greatest authors in the history of English literature. Her novels are justly considered the finest books in the English language. The importance of Austen's writing in the development of the English novel cannot be overestimated. Scholars recognize that it is Jane Austen who first gave the novel its distinctively modern character through the realistic treatment of ordinary people in the unremarkable situations of everyday life. Austen is a superb master of the literary genre of the comedy of manners. The novelist renders life of a restricted social milieu of the genteel rural society of her time. Jane Austen's novels are cited for the accurate observation and penetrating analysis of individual problems and subtleties of personal relationships of her literary characters. The author demonstrates sophisticated, detached, and ironical view

of human nature. She ridicules the silly, the affected, and the vain. Austen's finely crafted plots, quick wit, keen commentary and irony are inexhaustible delight to readers.

D Nowadays millions of book-lovers eagerly read and reread Jane Austen's works of fiction. Her writings attract readers greatly and her novels are continuously in print. Modern critics are fascinated by exceptional perfection of plot construction, character presentation and style elegance. In sum, the artist Jane Austen has attained worldwide renown, her genius has gained the universal appreciation which it undoubtedly deserves.

E The steadfast support of her family was crucial to Austen's development as a professional writer. Jane started writing fiction very young. At the age of six, she was writing verses. At the age of fourteen, Jane produced numerous amusing and instructive pieces of writing that were comic imitations and exuberant parodies of the sentimental novels popular at that time.

F In December 1800, Jane's father unexpectedly announced his decision to retire from the ministry, leave Steventon, and move the family to Bath. Jane was dismayed at the perspective of leaving her native place. Soon after the relocation to Bath her father died. The remaining family members were left in a precarious financial situation. For the next four years, they lived in rented quarters and shared houses with relatives.

Eventually, in 1809, the Austen women settled in the village of Chawton. Here they had a cottage which became Jane's last home and which is at present *Jane Austen's House Museum* where one can see an extensive collection of family mementoes and documentary material. Now Jane led a quieter life, did not socialize much with the neighbouring gentry and was at leisure to devote herself to writing. She wrote her novels almost daily, on the small round table, sitting in the busy family parlour.

G Biographical information concerning Austen is "famously scarce", according to one scholar. It is definitely known that Jane Austen was born into the landed gentry on 16 December, 1775 in Steventon, in the south of England. Her father, the Reverend George Austen, served as rector of the rural parish. He supplemented this income by farming and tutoring. Her mother was a woman of ready wit, famed for her impromptu verses and stories. Jane Austen's immediate family was large: six brothers and one sister. They were affectionate and high-spirited people. Jane was greatly attached to her elder sister, Cassandra. She was Jane's lifelong companion and confidante. Of her brothers, Austen felt closest to Henry, who was his sister's literary agent.

H From 1816 onward, Austen's physical condition was not good. She was occupied with several new works some of which remained unfinished owing to Austen's badly declining health. In May 1817, she moved to Winchester to seek medical attendance from an expert doctor. However, the progress of her malady was rapid. It is recorded by her family that she endured the pain and physical suffering with great courage and cheerfulness. She died quietly on July 18, 1817 and was buried in Winchester Cathedral. Just as her novels were published anonymously, the inscription on her tomb makes no mention of her literary talents.

I The family was cultivated and prosperous, although not rich. Their father, an Oxford-educated man, encouraged the love of learning in his children. Jane Austen was mostly tutored at home, and irregularly at school. She acquired the standard accomplishments of young ladies of her class and time. She learnt French and Italian, could draw and sing. Less conventionally, Jane read widely and avidly. Rev. George Austen apparently gave his daughters access to his large and varied library, provided both sisters with expensive paper and other materials for their writing and drawing. In general, Jane Austen's education was superior to that normally given to girls of her time. It is believed that the Austens lived in an optimistic and good-humoured atmosphere. The great family amusement was acting. Private theatricals were frequently staged. Besides the Austens were devoted readers of novels at a time when reading novels was regarded as a questionable activity.

J In her early twenties, Jane Austen wrote in earnest. She produced three novels *Elinor and Marianne*, *First Impressions* and *Susan*, which are original versions of, respectively, *Sense and Sensibility*, *Pride and Prejudice*, and *Northanger Abbey*. Jane's very full and exciting social life at Steventon and her trips to Kent and Bath provided her with the settings, characters, and subject matter of her books. Her early novels are brilliant, light, high-spirited, fast-paced books written in a buoyant, satirical mood. Rev. George Austen supported Jane's writing aspirations, was tolerant of her sometimes risqué literary experiments and tried to help her get a publisher. The tenor of life at Steventon rectory was propitious for Jane Austen's growth as a novelist.

Comprehension Check

Work with a partner. Read the following statements and decide whether they are true or false according to the text. Correct the false ones.

1. Jane was an only neglected child and felt desperately lonely and deeply unhappy living in her father's vicarage.

2. Jane Austen had little formal schooling but she received education at home reading books in her father's personal library.
3. From her earliest childhood Jane was interested in creative writing.
4. When Rev. Austen died, Jane's family encountered serious financial difficulties and had no permanent home.
5. In adulthood, Austen was a total recluse and lived apart from her family.
6. Throughout her life Austen worked scrupulously and painstakingly polishing her writing.
7. Jane Austen's books are very similar in style to the romanticism favoured by her contemporaries.
8. It took Jane Austen more than 15 years to find a publisher for the novels written during the first period of her creative activity.
9. Austen's literary revival commenced in 1811 after the publication of *Sense and Sensibility*.
10. Jane Austen did not use a pen-name and her real name appeared on the title pages of her books.
11. Austen attained fame mainly for her verse and drama.
12. When Austen was an author of solid repute, she left home, preferring the London literary scene to her rural cottage.
13. Fatal illness forced Jane to stop working on her new books some of which remained unfinished.
14. Austen's literary gift was highly influential in the development of the novel.
15. At present, transforming Jane Austen's books into screen versions is in vogue.

Read the following passages presenting additional information about Jane Austen's life and writings. Fill in the gaps with the missing pieces of information that you can infer from the text or guess from the context.

1. Jane Austen was described by a contemporary as "a clear brunette with a rich colour, hazel eyes, fine features, and curling brown (1) ____". Henry Austen, in the *Biographical Notice of the Author* that was published (2) ____ with *Persuasion* (1818), remarked: "Of personal attractions she possessed a considerable share. Her stature was that of true elegance". Jane loved dancing and excelled in it. She was fond of children, and they of her, and some of her most engaging letters were written to her (3) ____ and nieces.
2. At the time when Jane Austen was writing, the (4) ____ was not considered a respectable form of (5) ____ and it was almost impossible for a (6) ____ to publish a book under her own (7) _____. When *Sense and Sensibility* finally appeared in November 1811 the words "By a Lady" were printed on the title (8) _____.
3. The first attempts to publish Austen's (9) _____ were made by her father in 1797. He offered *First Impressions* (later reworked and (10) _____ *Pride and*

Prejudice) to a publishing house, Cadell. The (11) ___ rejected it by return of post, without (12) ___ it.

4. In 1803, the manuscript of *Northanger Abbey* was sold to the publisher Richard Crosby for £10. He took it for immediate (13) ___, but, although it was advertised, unaccountably it never appeared. Later, the firm was happy to sell the manuscript back to Austen's brothers for £10, unaware that it was the (14) ___ of the famous Jane Austen.
5. Jane's (15) ___ Henry helped her negotiate with the publisher Thomas Egerton who agreed to publish first *Sense and Sensibility* (November 1811) and then *Pride and Prejudice* (January 1813).
6. All Austen's (16) ___ that appeared during her lifetime were (17) ___ anonymously. However, their authorship was an open secret to her (18) ___ and friends. After Jane Austen's death, Henry Austen for the first time identified his (19) ___ as the author of the novels in the above mentioned *Biographical* (20) ___.
7. In 1816, Jane began to suffer from ill health. She travelled to Winchester to receive treatment. The last few weeks of her (21) ___ Jane spent there. She bravely kept up her spirits until dying on 18 July (22) ___, her head on Cassandra's shoulder, from what is now known as Addison's disease, at the (23) ___ of 41. Her family mourned her loss deeply. Jane's funeral was held in Winchester Cathedral and she was (24) ___ there. Thus, Winchester is Austen's final resting (25) ___.

Vocabulary practice

In the text, find synonyms for the following words and expressions:

1.background, social environment, surroundings; 2.unbiased, impartial, unprejudiced; 3.spontaneous, unrehearsed, improvised; 4.close, trusted friend, intimate; 5.doubtful, uncertain, suspicious; 6.exceptionally, surprisingly, rarely; 7.event, happening, occasion; 8.relatng to, regarding, pertaining to, with respect to; 9.portray, depict, represent, give a picture of; 10.supply, make available, offer, contribute, furnish; 11.evidently, obviously, unmistakably, clearly; 12.reliable, constant, firm, stable; 13.finally, ultimately, in the end, in the long run; 14.to refuse to accept, repel, rebuff; 15.doubtful, uncertain, dubious

In the text, find antonyms for the following words and expressions:

1.sincere, natural, honest; 2.expenditure, spending, expenses; 3.indifferent, reserved, unfriendly; 4.restless, unstable, turbulent; 5.unfavourable, disadvantageous, harmful; 6.insignificant, unimportant, irrelevant; 7. humble, modest, unassuming, meek; 8.underestimate, fail to appreciate, undervalue, underrate; 9.mistakenly, incorrectly, erroneously, inaccurately; 10.persuade against, be op-

posed to, disapprove of; **11.**stable, secure, safe, firm, protected; **12.**wax, grow, enlarge, mount, increase; **13.**delighted, pleased, happy, satisfied, contented; **14.**slow-moving, sluggish, inactive, passive; **15.**indifferently, without interest, unenthusiastically, apathetically

Which is the word in each group that does not belong? Explain why it does not belong with the other three words.

1. fascinate / escape / charm / attract
2. writer / surgeon / dramatist / novelist
3. poetry / contest / prose / verse
4. responsible / fictional / mythical / legendary
5. evaluate / appraise / purchase / assess
6. student / athlete / bookworm / reader
7. receptionist / scholar / learner / undergraduate
8. write / appoint / compose / inscribe
9. affectionate / intermediate / caring / friendly
10. book / story / tale / photograph
11. manuscript / accommodation / certificate / article
12. declining / triumphant / victorious / flourishing
13. passionate / different / excited / enthusiastic
14. literature / atmosphere / volume / document
15. portray / investigate / depict / describe

Here is a list of words. What are these words associated with? Explain the meaning of the given words and use them in sentences of your own.

e.g. manuscript – a very old book or document that was written by hand before printing was invented

The local library is famous for a rich collection of medieval illuminated manuscripts.

manuscript / literary criticism / biographer / create / satirical / reviewer / literature / literary agent / book / humorous / subject matter / literary output / setting / satire / narration

Put the appropriate words from the list above into the gaps in the following sentences.

1. According to ____, Sir Walter Scott boosted Jane Austen through his review of *Emma* during her lifetime.
2. The atmosphere of Austen's ____ is successfully reproduced in movie adaptations.

3. Dickens's sharp ear for conversation helped him to ___ colourful characters through their own words.
4. *The Concise Oxford Dictionary* defines the word ___ as “writings whose value lies in the beauty of form or emotional effect.”
5. The poet Osip Mandelstam was sent to a concentration camp and his death for composing a ___ poem on Stalin.
6. None of Shakespeare's plays has survived in his handwritten ___.
7. Authors employ ___ ___ to place their books with publishers and to handle negotiations with them.
8. The functions of ___ ___ vary widely, ranging from the reviewing of books as they are published to systematic theoretical discussion.
9. Anton Chekhov began his writing career as the author of anecdotes for ___ journals, signing his early work pseudonymously.
10. It is universally acknowledged that the ___ ___ of literature is as wide as human experience itself.
11. Due to his prolific ___ ___ Georges Simenon is regarded as the most widely published author of the 20th century.
12. In literature, ___ is usually understood as the location and time frame in which the action of a narrative takes place.
13. In his world famous novel *Ulysses* James Joyce makes use of stream-of-consciousness ___ which is believed to be a remarkable means of character portrayal.
14. George Orwell's novel *Nineteen Eighty-Four* is a mordant ___ in which he presents a terrifying picture of life in totalitarian society.
15. Alongside with fiction writing, an American writer Edgar Allan Poe is famous as a book ___, who produced a significant body of criticism.

Grammar

In the text, find and study the substantivized adjectives denoting people collectively.

e.g. *the silly, the affected*

Here is a list of adjectives that can be used either as adjectives proper or as substantivized nouns:

sick / privileged / deaf / poor / handicapped / disabled / dead / blind / homeless / injured / unemployed / elderly / wealthy / good / wounded

Put the appropriate words from the list above into the gaps in the following word combinations:

1. a) to meet the individual needs of ___ children
- b) ___ suffering from serious physical disabilities

2. a) food and shelter provided for ____
b) ____ people not having enough money for basic needs
3. a) the prosperous suburb of Chicago inhabited by ____
b) a generous donation from an extremely ____ benefactor
4. a) ____ people begging for food and living in a “cardboard city”
b) ____ in need of shelter or protection
5. a) a brown Labrador used by a ____ neighbour as a guide dog
b) production of recorded books for ____ and partially sighted people
6. a) a government report on the unmet needs of ____ people
b) provision of medical care for ____ suffering from ill health
7. a) an official examination of a ____ body in order to discover the cause of death
b) a Christian festival *All Souls' Day* in honour of ____
8. a) special rights and advantages enjoyed by ____
b) strong general disapproval of ____ groups
9. a) substantially limited activity of ____ people
b) the Paralympics, an international athletics competition for ____
- 10.a) television subtitles for ____ and hard of hearing
b) sign language to communicate with ____ people
- 11.a) ____ people urgently admitted to hospital for treatment
b) medical care and special benefits provided for ____
- 12.a) people badly ____ in a violent fight of a gun battle
b) health services provided for ____ in the war
- 13.a) ambulances used for taking ____ to nearby hospitals
b) the badly ____ man drifting into unconsciousness
- 14.a) respect for ____ people living a moral life and helping others
b) ____ not expecting to be rewarded for their goodness
- 15.a) a growing militancy amongst ____
b) the government programme to help ____ people find work

Word Formation

In Part II, find and study words with the suffix – *ship*.

e.g. *readership*

Match the following words with the suffix – *ship* (1 – 15) with their definitions (a – o).

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| 1. relationship | a. state of being an owner; the fact of owning something; right of possession |
| 2. authorship | b. severe suffering or discomfort; privation; circumstances causing this; a situation that is difficult and unpleasant because you do not have enough money, food, clothes, etc. |
| 3. membership | c. competition to find the best player or team in a particular sport; contest to decide who is the champion; the position of being a champion |
| 4. partnership | d. legal right to belong to a particular country; status of being a citizen and accepting the responsibilities of it |
| 5. courtship | e. country that is ruled by a dictator, that is, a ruler who has complete power over a country, especially one who has obtained it by force and uses it in a cruel way; rank or office of a dictator |
| 6. leadership | f. feeling or relationship that friends have; the state of being friends |
| 7. censorship | g. origin of a book; the identity of the person who wrote something; state of being an author; the activity or fact of writing a book |
| 8. scholarship | h. state of being a member of an organization, etc.; the members, or the number of members of an organization |
| 9. friendship | i. the act or policy of censoring books, films, etc., that is, removing parts which are considered to be offensive, immoral or a political threat |
| 10. dictatorship | j. state of being a partner or partners, especially in business; two or more people working, playing, etc. together as partners |
| 11. championship | k. the way in which two people, groups or countries behave towards each other or deal with each other; the way in which two or more things are connected |
| 12. ownership | l. fact of being related in a family; blood relationship; a feeling of being close to someone because you have similar origins or attitudes; similarity; likeness |
| 13. citizenship | m. time when two people have a romantic relationship before they get married; the process of developing this relationship |
| 14. hardship | n. amount of money given to someone by an organization to |

- help pay for their education; the serious study of an academic subject and the knowledge and methods involved
15. kinship o. group of leaders of a particular organization, etc.; the ability to be a leader or the qualities a good leader should have

Put the appropriate words with the suffix – *ship* from the previous exercise into the gaps in the following sentences.

1. ___ of the land is currently being disputed.
2. The ___ of the satirical poem published in the latest issue of the magazine is unknown.
3. Who is eligible to apply for ___ of the association?
4. These policies resulted in many elderly people suffering ___.
5. A ___ between the United States and Europe in the sphere of economy is beginning to show results.
6. Last year he won a silver medal at the European ___.
7. Even after meeting only once, they felt a ___.
8. You can apply for ___ after five years' residency.
9. Finally the people revolted against the military ___ and demanded the country's transformation to democracy.
10. Respect and ___ provide a solid foundation for marriage.
11. After a short ___ Harry asked Mary to marry him and she accepted his proposal.
12. The government is considering toughening up the law on ___.
13. A damaging split within the party ___ may cause a serious political crisis.
14. We did not expect him to quit the job because he had established a good working ___ with his boss.
15. It was announced that he had won a ___ to study English abroad.

In the text, find and study words beginning with the prefix *re* – denoting repetition.

e.g. *rework, reread, rename*

Here is a list of words beginning with the letters *re* – :

realization / resort / rewrite / reassess / responsible / recreation / represent / reconstruct / reword / recover / rephrase / relay / reputation / revise / redefine / religious / resign / rework / recount / rehearsal / re-examine / rejoin / reward / reconsider / re-elect / research / respectable

Study the words and decide whether the letters *re* –

a) are used in compounds as the prefix denoting repetition

b) are used within words which do not have the meaning of repetition

c)are used in words which fit into both groups.

Remember to spell and pronounce the words beginning with the letters *re* – differently depending on the meaning.

Put the appropriate words from the previous exercise into the gaps in the following sentences.

1. Accidentally, the secretary spoilt the documents signed by the manager and he had to ___ them.
2. Prokofiev's opera *War and Peace* was ___ from the famous opera house by satellite to audiences all over the world.
3. At the press conference, the speaker ___ all critical comments in a quick and humorous manner.
4. The lecturer explained the necessity to ___ currently used terms to avoid misunderstanding.
5. She turned off her phone and ___ her guests at the table.
6. The book was much in demand and the librarians decided to ___ its card-board binding.
7. Being an excellent stylist, the writer focused efforts on ___ his compositions trying to find the most suitable words to express his ideas.
8. Two members of the standing committee ___ from the board in protest.
9. After finishing the academic essay, the student had time to do a quick edit and ___ some sentences in order to make the meaning clearer.
10. The very first pages of the publication on the causes of the Second World War prove that the author makes an attempt to ___ recent history.
11. Cannes, a popular holiday ___, is famous for its Film Festival.
12. In his new novel, the writer attempts a ___ of the sights and sounds of his childhood.
13. The original version of the medieval book was ___ so considerably that some critics think it was distorted.
14. The interviewer asked the renowned novelist to ___ the details of his early literary experience.
15. It can take many years to ___ from the death of a loved one.

Follow-up Activities

Read the following text and use the word given in capitals to form a word that fits in the space. There is an example at the beginning.

Perhaps as early as 1787, Jane Austen began to write poems, stories, and plays for her own and her family's (1) amusement AMUSE. Austen later compiled "fair copies" of 29 of these early works into three bound notebooks, now referred to as the *Juvenilia*, containing pieces (2) ___ ORIGINAL written between 1787 and 1793. There is manuscript evidence that Austen continued to

work on these pieces as late as the period 1809-1811, and that her niece and nephew, Anna and James Edward Austen, made further additions as late as 1814.

Among these works are a (3) ___ SATIRE novel in letters entitled *Love and Freindship* (usually cited in Jane Austen's original spelling), in which she mocked popular novels of sensibility, and *The History of England* ("by a partial, prejudiced, and ignorant historian"), a manuscript of 34 pages accompanied by 13 watercolour miniatures by her sister Cassandra. Austen's *History* parodied popular (4) ___ HISTORY writing.

Austen's *Juvenilia* are often boisterous and (5) ___ ANARCHY. Scholars compare them to the work of the 18th century novelist Laurence Sterne. Three volumes of Jane Austen's collected young writings were published more than a hundred years after her death.

In 1793, Austen began and then abandoned a short play, later entitled *Sir Charles Grandison or the Happy Man*, a comedy in 6 acts, which she returned to and (6) ___ COMPLETION around 1800. This was a short parody of various school textbook abridgments of Austen's favourite contemporary novel, *The History of Sir Charles Grandison* (1753), by Samuel Richardson.

Scholars speculate that at some point not long after writing *Love and Freindship* [sic] in 1789, Austen (7) ___ DECISION to "write for profit, to make stories her central effort", that is, to become a (8) ___ PROFESSION writer. Whenever she made that decision, beginning in about 1793, Austen began to write longer, more (9) ___ SOPHISTICATION works. In one of her letters, Jane informs her sister: "I write only for Fame" and remarks: "My mind is stored with Ideas worth transmitting."

During the period between 1793 and 1795, Austen wrote *Lady Susan*, a short epistolary novel, usually described as her most (10) ___ AMBITION and sophisticated early work. It is unlike any of Austen's other works. One of Austen's (11) ___ BIOGRAPHY describes the (12) ___ HERO of the novella as a sexual predator who uses her intelligence and charm to manipulate, betray, and abuse her (13) ___ VICTIMIZE, whether lovers, friends or family. The biographer writes: "Told in letters, it is as neatly plotted as a play, and as cynical in tone as any of the most outrageous of the Restoration dramatists who may have provided some of her (14) ___ INSPIRE. It stands alone in Austen's work as a study of an adult woman whose (15) ___ INTELLIGENT and force of character are greater than those of anyone she encounters."

Read the following questions (1-7) and choose the correct answer (a, b or c).

1. Why did Jane Austen create her first literary works?

- a) because she wanted to surpass her sister Cassandra
- b) because she followed her natural inclination for writing
- c) because she wanted to avoid sharing housework

2. What kind of works did Jane Austen create in her adolescence?

- a) dramas and tragedies
- b) political pamphlets
- c) humorous and satirical writings

3. What is the meaning of the word “juvenilia”?

- a) objects such as rings and necklaces that people wear as decoration
- b) writing, poetry, etc. produced by a writer when he/she was still young
- c) a young person who is guilty of committing a crime

4. Why did Jane Austen write *The History of England*?

- a) to extravagantly enliven the real historical facts
- b) to precisely present information
- c) to undertake academic research

5. What literary form did Jane Austen use to write her novel *Lady Susan*?

- a) an epistolary novel
- b) an essay
- c) a poetic ballad

6. In her teens, how did Jane Austen intend to earn her living?

- a) by keeping parish register
- b) by being a lay preacher
- c) by writing books

7. According to the text, what was Austen’s attitude to popular sentimental fiction?

- a) she admired it greatly
- b) she mocked and ridiculed it
- c) she diligently imitated it

Orally summarize the information about Jane Austen’s juvenile writings. Read the following text. Some of the lines are correct and some have an extra word. Indicate the number of the line and the extra word. There is an example at the beginning.

line 2 – from, line 4 – well, etc.

- 1. During her lifetime, Austen's works brought her little fame and only a few
- 2. positive reviews. Critics recognized from the writer’s homely realism as a
- 3. refreshing change from the romantic melodrama then in vogue and welcomed
- 4. blend of instruction well and amusement in her books. A solitary critical
- 5. response in any way adequate to the nature of Austen's literary achievement

6. was contributed by Sir Walter Scott. He hailed this “nameless author” as a
7. masterful exponent of “the modern novel in the new realist tradition.” After
8. Austen’s death, in the 1820s, one of the reviewers drew favourable
9. comparisons between Austen and such acknowledged greats as Homer and
10. have Shakespeare, praising the dramatic qualities of her narrative. Though
11. Austen's novels and were republished in Britain beginning in the 1830s and
12. remained steady sellers, they were not bestsellers. Austen did have many
13. admiring readers who considered themselves part of the literary elite. They
14. viewed their such appreciation of Austen's works as a mark of their cultural
15. taste. With the publication of her nephew's *A Memoir of Jane Austen* in 1870,
16. the novelist was introduced to a wider public, her books were reissued,
17. readers when started to feel a personal identification with Jane Austen,
18. criticism on the author increased in amount. However, critics some continued
19. to assert that Austen's works were sophisticated and only appropriate for
20. those who could truly plumb their depths. As a result, there appeared
21. considerable disconnection between with the popular appreciation of Austen
22. and the academic appreciation. During the 20th century, Austen's reputation
23. her significantly increased. By the 1940s, Austen was firmly ensconced in
24. academia as a "great English writer", and the second half of the twentieth
25. century saw a proliferation of Austen scholarship once that explored many
26. aspects of her novels: artistic, ideological, and historical. In popular why
27. culture, a Jane Austen cult began to develop. Her admirers have elevated
28. Jane Austen to the unprecedented less status. They worship everything
29. connected with Austen's life, works and memorabilia. There are dozens of
30. amateur reading clubs whose “performances” include teas, costume balls,
31. games, weekend study trips, readings, and dramatic representations. Jane
32. Austen’s reputation is steadily was on the increase. Her books attract wide
33. readership all over the world. Beginning in the middle of the nineteenth
34. century, Austen family members published conclusions to her incomplete
35. novels. Nowadays hundreds of sequels and prequels of almost every sort
36. appear regularly. Her novels have recently undergone an his enthusiastic
37. revival and have become particularly successful with the public, in part
38. because of successful motion-picture and television thus adaptations of her
39. novels. It is evident that the books the novelist created two centuries ago
40. retain their irresistible appeal for readers.

Work with a partner. Read the following statements and decide whether they are true or false according to the text. Correct the false ones.

1. Dozens of authoritative periodicals issued reviews of Austen’s literary works immediately after their publication.
2. Numerous critics had no settled opinions of the novels published by Jane Austen during her lifetime.

3. Dissatisfied with negative reviews, Jane Austen published a series of articles raising her objections.
4. Sir Walter Scott was the first to recognize literary merits of Austen's narrative art.
5. Jane Austen was heralded as a new talented writer of Gothic novels.
6. In the first half of the 19th century, reading public could hardly find Austen's novels in bookshops.
7. Through the nineteenth century, only literary connoisseurs admired Austen's novels.
8. Members of the literary elite voiced an opinion that masses did not properly understand Austen's literary works.
9. *A Memoir of the Life of Jane Austen* (1870), written by Austen's nephew, discouraged the public from reading her books.
10. In the second half of the 19th century, literary criticism referred to Austen with strong disapproval.
11. By the middle of the 20th century, Jane Austen's heritage was widely studied by scholars.
12. A rising tide of public interest in Austen's books exceeds artistic merits of her writings.
13. Filmgoers are delighted with screen adaptations of Austen's books.
14. *Jane Austen's House Museum* in Chawton and a collection of things that once belonged to her are held in veneration by her admirers.
15. At present Jane Austen's writings do not enjoy wide popularity and are in disfavour.

Orally summarize the information about Jane Austen's literary reputation among critics, scholars and readers.

Use the following plan to reproduce the information about Austen's biography and writings presented in Part II:

1. biographical information
2. juvenile writings
3. the first stage of her creative career
4. the second stage of her creative career
5. literary techniques used by Jane Austen
6. Austen's literary achievement and reputation

Write a short paragraph summarizing all the information about Austen's life and literary career.

Imagine that one of you is a scholar studying the life and literary career of Jane Austen and the rest of the group are radio listeners or television

viewers. A successful screening of a film based on one of Austen's novels aroused general interest in her creative activity. To satisfy the interest of the public the scholar is invited to participate in radio or television broadcasts. He is asked to present the writer's profile, that is her brief biography, description and evaluation of her writings. He is expected to answer questions of the listeners or viewers during live radio or television programmes.

In writing, comment in detail upon the words of a British author Virginia Woolf who called Austen "*the most perfect artist among women.*"

Answer key

Lead-in

page 4

Key: 1-j, 2-l, 3-g, 4-f, 5-a, 6-b, 7-i, 8-m, 9-k, 10-n, 11-o, 12-e, 13-d, 14-h, 15-c

Reading

page 4

Key: 1.c, 2.g, 3.i, 4.b, 5.e, 6.j, 7.f, 8.a, 9.h, 10.d

Comprehension Check

page 7

Key: 1.F, 2.T, 3.T, 4.T, 5.F, 6.T, 7.F, 8.T, 9.T, 10.F, 11.F, 12.F, 13.T, 14.T, 15.T

page 8

Key: 1.hair, 2.posthumously, 3.nephews, 4.novel, 5. literature, 6.woman, 7.name, 8.page, 9.books, 10.renamed, 11.publisher, 12.reading, 13.publication, 14.work, 15.brother, 16.novels, 17.published, 18.family, 19.sister, 20.*Notice of the Author*, 21.life, 22.1817, 23.age, 24.buried, 25.place

Vocabulary Practice

page 9

Key: 1.milieu, 2.detached, 3.impromptu, 4.confidante, 5.questionable, 6.singularly, 7.incident, 8.concerning, 9.render, 10.provide, 11.apparently, 12.steadfast, 13.eventually, 14.reject, 15.questionable

Key: 1.affected, 2.income, 3.affectionate; 4.tranquil, 5.propitious, 6.crucial, 7.vain, 8.overestimate, 9.justly, 10.encourage, 11.precarious, 12.wane, 13.dismayed, 14.vigorous, 15.eagerly

page 10

Key: 1.escape, 2.surgeon, 3.contest, 4.responsible, 5.purchase, 6.athlete, 7.receptionist, 8.appoint, 9.intermediate, 10.photograph, 11.accommodation, 12.declining, 13.different, 14.atmosphere, 15.investigate

Key: 1.biographers, 2.books, 3.create, 4.*literature*, 5.satirical, 6.manuscript, 7.literary agents, 8.literary criticism, 9.humorous, 10.subject matter, 11.literary output, 12.*setting*, 13.narration, 14.satire, 15.reviewer

Grammar

page 11

Key: 1a)handicapped, 1b)the handicapped; 2a)the poor, 2b)poor; 3a)the wealthy, 3b)wealthy; 4a)homeless, 4b)the homeless; 5a)blind, 5b)the blind; 6a)elderly, 6b)the elderly; 7a)dead, 7b)the dead; 8a)the privileged, 8b)privileged; 9a)disabled, 9b)the disabled; 10a)the deaf, 10b)deaf; 11a)sick, 11b)the sick; 12a)wounded, 12b)the wounded; 13a)the injured, 13b)injured; 14a)good, 14b)the good; 15a)the unemployed, 15b)unemployed

Word Formation

page 13

Key: 1.k, 2.g, 3.h, 4.j, 5.m, 6.o, 7.i, 8.n, 9.f, 10.e, 11.c, 12.a, 13.d, 14.b, 15.l

page 14

Key: 1.Ownership, 2.authorship, 3.membership, 4.hardship, 5.partnership, 6.Championship, 7.kinship, 8.citizenship, 9.dictatorship, 10.friendship, 11.courtship, 12.censorship, 13.leadership, 14.relationship, 15.scholarship

Key: a)rewrite, re-elect, rephrase, rework, redefine, reword, re-examine, reconsider, reassess, reconstruct
b)realization, reward, rehearsal, reputation, religious, represent, research, respectable, responsible, revise
c)recover / re-cover, relay/ re-lay, recount / re-count, rejoin / re-join, resign / re-sign, resort / re-sort, recreation / re-creation

page 15

Key: 1.re-sign, 1.relayed, 3.rejoined, 4.redefine, 5.re-joined, 6.re-cover, 7.rewording, 8.resigned, 9.rephrased, 10.rewrite, 11.resort, 12.re-creation, 13.reworked, 14.recount, 15.recover

Follow-up Activities

page 16

Key: 1.amusement, 2.originally, 3.satirical, 4.historical, 5.anarchic, 6.completed, 7.decided, 8.professional, 9.sophisticated, 10.ambitious, 11.biographers, 12.heroine, 13.victims, 14.inspiration, 15.intelligence

page 17

Key: 1.b, 2.c, 3.b, 4.a, 5.a, 6.c, 7.b

page 18

Key: line 2 – from, line 4 – well, line 10 – have, line 11 – and, line 14 –such, line 17 – when, line 18 – some, line 21 – with, line 23 – her, line 25 – once, line 26 – why, line 28 – less, line 32 – was, line 36 – his, line 38 –thus

page 19

Key: 1.F, 2.F, 3.F, 4.T, 5.F, 6.F, 7.T, 8.T, 9.F, 10.F, 11.T, 12.F, 13.T, 14.T, 15.F

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Составители:

Коньгина Галина Ивановна,
Портнихина Наталия Александровна,
Селезнева Елена Сергеевна

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[http:// www.ppc.vsu.ru](http://www.ppc.vsu.ru); e-mail: pp_center@ppc.vsu.ru

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