



## Jane Austen (B1 - Lower Intermediate)

### A – Before you start

Answer the questions with a partner.

1. Do you like stories set in previous periods of history? Why (not)?
2. Do you like reading novels or do you prefer to watch the film versions of them?
3. Have you read any of Jane Austen's novels? If so, did you enjoy them?

### B – Listen and answer

Read these statements. Then listen (without reading) and write T (True) or F (False).

1. Jane Austen wrote a large number of novels.
2. She was only 41 when she died.
3. She had seven brothers and sisters.
4. The family lived mostly in London.
5. She was married for a short time.
6. Her novels were published under her brother's name.
7. The public enjoyed reading her books.
8. By the time of her death, her fame had spread all over the country.

### C – Read and answer

Read the article and answer the questions.

1. How were Jane Austen's novels different from those of Daniel Defoe and Henry Fielding?
2. What does the article say about her family background?
3. Why don't we know much about her personal life?
4. What did the literary critics of the time like about her works?
5. What was the main theme of her novels?
6. Why did readers find her books both amusing and entertaining?

### D – Learn it! Use it!

Complete these sentences with words from the glossary. (You may have to adapt the expression in some way; e.g. change the verb tense, or change from plural to singular.)

1. This journalist's articles are very amusing. They're always full of \_\_\_\_\_ comments.
2. Our new neighbours aren't very \_\_\_\_\_. They never say hello.
3. The company sent the documents by first-class post to \_\_\_\_\_ they arrived in time.
4. The meeting was \_\_\_\_\_ because of the rail strike.
5. Although Charlotte is in her eighties, she still has \_\_\_\_\_ energy.
6. The hotel isn't very luxurious but it's in a beautiful \_\_\_\_\_ on the river bank.

## E – Ready for the B1 PRELIMINARY English Exam? (Paper 1, Reading: Part 6)

Write one word only in each space.

Most critics agree that the 1995 BBC drama series *Pride and Prejudice* is the most faithful adaptation of a Jane Austen novel that has ever <sup>1</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ made. The story was broadcast in six episodes that <sup>2</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ 55 minutes. Jennifer Ehle and Colin Firth starred <sup>3</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ the main characters, Elizabeth Bennet and Fitzwilliam Darcy.

The series was a <sup>4</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ success with the public and <sup>5</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ several awards, including a BAFTA Television Award for Jennifer Ehle for “<sup>6</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ Actress”. It inspired author Helen Fielding to write her popular *Bridget Jones* novels.

## F – Write about it

Write about a classic novel written by one of your country's most famous authors. Mention:

- where the story is set;
- when it was written;
- who the main characters are;
- what the story is about;
- why it has become a classic novel.

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## Lithium (B2 - Upper Intermediate)

### A – Before you start

Answer the questions with a partner.

1. Which of the devices that you use frequently have batteries in them?
2. Are they single-use batteries or rechargeable batteries?
3. Do you know whether any of them are lithium batteries?

### B – Listen and answer

Read these incomplete statements. Then listen (without reading) and fill in the blanks.

1. The word lithium comes from a \_\_\_\_\_ word meaning '\_\_\_\_\_'.  
2. It is extremely light and \_\_\_\_\_.
3. The lithium on Earth was produced by the \_\_\_\_\_.
4. It was discovered by a Swedish chemist in \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Scientists began working on a rechargeable lithium battery during the \_\_\_\_\_ crisis of the '70s.
6. The three countries with the largest reserves of lithium are \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and Argentina.
7. One of the problems with lithium is that it's difficult to \_\_\_\_\_.
8. In the EU, new petrol and diesel cars will be banned from \_\_\_\_\_ onwards.

### C – Read and answer

Read the article and answer the questions.

1. Why is the use of lithium-ion batteries expected to grow in the near future?
2. What lithium safety issue is mentioned in the article?
3. When was the first rechargeable lithium battery produced?
4. Why did it take so long for the use of this kind of battery to become widespread?
5. What are the two methods used to extract lithium?
6. Why are both considered controversial?
7. Why are electric vehicles still too expensive for most people?
8. What positive developments does the article foresee in the future?

## D – Learn it! Use it!

Complete these sentences with words from the glossary. (You may have to adapt the expression in some way; e.g. change the verb tense, or change from singular to plural.)

1. Last summer the grass in our local parks turned brown because of the \_\_\_\_\_.
2. We bought a special \_\_\_\_\_ to keep pigeons off our balcony, but it was a waste of money.
3. When I saw James a few minutes ago, he frowned at me. Is he angry or just in a bad \_\_\_\_\_?
4. Don't forget you promised to help us with the project. We're \_\_\_\_\_ you.
5. In the EU, the sale of single-use plastic cups, plates and cutlery has been \_\_\_\_\_ since 2021.
6. The robbers \_\_\_\_\_ to kill the shopkeeper unless he handed them the money from the till.

## E – Ready for the B2 FIRST Certificate in English? (Reading and Use of English, Part 4)

Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. Do not change the word given. Use between 2 and 5 words including the word given.

**Example:** The word **lithium** originates from **Greek**.

**DERIVED** The name **lithium** is derived from a **Greek** word.

1. Lithium is soft enough to cut with a knife  
**BE** Lithium is so soft \_\_\_\_\_ with a knife.
2. In 1855, enough pure lithium was produced for measurement.  
**SUITABLE** In 1855 pure lithium was produced \_\_\_\_\_ for measurement.
3. Only in 2019 was lithium-ion technology optimised.  
**NOT** It \_\_\_\_\_ that lithium-ion technology was optimised.
4. Demand for lithium is on the point of skyrocketing.  
**SET** Demand for lithium \_\_\_\_\_ skyrocket
5. Most people can't afford EVs because they are still very expensive.  
**TOO** EVs are still \_\_\_\_\_ to afford.
6. Some types of depression are treated using lithium, too.  
**TREATING** Lithium \_\_\_\_\_ some types of depression.

## F – Talk about it

*In pairs or groups.*

1. What are the advantages of electric vehicles?
2. Are there any disadvantages?
3. Are there many electric vehicles in your town or area?
4. Are they mostly private vehicles, or also public transport and car-sharing vehicles?
5. Where are the charging points? Are there enough?

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## Old London Bridge (B2 - Upper Intermediate)

### A – Before you start

*Answer the questions with a partner.*

1. There are still some medieval inhabited bridges in Europe. Do you know where they are?
2. Are any of them in your country?
3. Are there any very old bridges near you? If so, where? When were they built?

### B – Listen and answer

*Read these statements. Then listen (without reading) and choose the correct answer.*

1. Old London Bridge was built  
a) 600 years ago.                      b) 500 years ago.                      c) in the 13th century.



## Watergate (B2 - Upper Intermediate)

### A – Before you start

What do you know about the Watergate scandal? Can you answer these questions?

1. Where did it take place?
2. Which head of state was involved?
3. Which famous newspaper uncovered the scandal?

### B – Listen and answer

Listen to the main article (without reading) and write T (true) or F (false) beside these statements.

1. The Watergate affair started in June 1972.
2. Watergate is the name of an office complex in Los Angeles.
3. Five men were arrested for burglary after entering the office building illegally.
4. Carl Bernstein and Bob Woodward were the journalists who uncovered the scandal.
5. They were helped by an acquaintance in the local police force.
6. As a result of the scandal, President Richard Nixon was re-elected with a narrow majority.
7. Nixon was forced to resign by members of his own party.
8. He was only the second US president to do so.

### C – Read and answer

Read the article and answer the questions.

1. Why did the security guard think there were burglars in the office building?
2. Who supported Bernstein and Woodward in their investigations?
3. What did Nixon and members of his staff do as the scandal started to unfold?
4. Which important state agencies were involved in the affair? How?
5. What other examples does the article give of the illegal activities of the Nixon administration?
6. How has the Watergate affair affected the way we describe political scandals?

### D – Listen to the interview (Optional)

N.B. This interview is graded as C1, so don't be discouraged if you find it difficult. Try to understand the main points.

Listen to the interview with Carl Bernstein and Bob Woodward and write T (true) or F (false).

1. A book by the two journalists was published in 1974.
2. The government tried to get them to hand over their notes and reveal their sources.
3. Their publisher Katharine Graham was sent to jail.
4. Bernstein and Woodward found it was easier to get people to talk in public places.
5. They discovered that John Mitchell, the head of the Justice Department, was involved.
6. Their main informant, Deep Throat, was a CIA agent.
7. Nixon was impeached because he had recorded secret White House conversations.
8. According to Bernstein, nowadays fewer people are interested in knowing the truth.

### E – Listen, read and check your answers

Listen to the interview while reading the text. (If you did Exercise D, check your answers while reading.)

### F – Learn it! Use it!

Complete these sentences with words from the glossary. (You may have to adapt the expression in some way; e.g. change the verb tense.)

1. These plans are confidential. Don't tell Andy about them. I don't \_\_\_\_\_ him.
2. Marla's father was angry about her school report, but her mother \_\_\_\_\_ for her.
3. While the Smiths were on holiday, there was an attempted \_\_\_\_\_ at their house.
4. If someone keeps teasing you, ignore them and \_\_\_\_\_ it \_\_\_\_\_. They'll get tired of doing it.
5. We had an appointment with Mrs Green yesterday morning but she didn't \_\_\_\_\_.
6. That child's behaviour is abominable. If he were my child, I wouldn't \_\_\_\_\_ it.

## G – Ready for the FIRST Certificate in English? (Reading and Use of English, Part 3)

Use the word in brackets to form a word that fits in the space given.

1. Bernstein and Woodward worked under the \_\_\_\_\_ (GUIDE) of senior colleagues.
2. Deep Throat told the reporters the burglary was part of a vast \_\_\_\_\_ (POLITICS) plot.
3. Despite the \_\_\_\_\_ (MOUNT) evidence against Nixon, he was re-elected.
4. In 1973, witnesses told of the illegal activities \_\_\_\_\_ (TAKE) by Nixon and his aides.
5. By 1974, the \_\_\_\_\_ (PERCENT) of people who wanted Nixon to go had risen to 57%.
6. When impeachment \_\_\_\_\_ (PROCEED) were initiated against him, Nixon finally resigned.
7. Even today, the Washington Post has an \_\_\_\_\_ (STAND) reputation.
8. The Watergate story is still a \_\_\_\_\_ (WORLD) symbol of investigative reporting.

## H – Write about it

Write about a political scandal that occurred in your country. Mention:

- when it occurred;
- who it involved;
- what it was about;
- how it was discovered;
- what the consequences were.

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## Answers (Jane Austen B1 - Lower Intermediate)

### B – Listen and answer

1. She only wrote six books/novels. 2. T 3. T 4. F – They lived in the country and visited London. 5. F – She was almost married. 6. F – They were published anonymously. 7. T
8. When she died she was still unknown to much of the country.

### C – Read and answer

1. Her stories were realistic; they were about normal people living ordinary lives. 2. Her father was a rector in a country village and the family had land. They were minor landed gentry.
3. Because after her death her letters were censored or destroyed. 4. They liked her morality, her entertaining dialogues and character description. They also liked the domestic realism in her stories. 5. The main theme was young women's journeys of self-discovery through love to marriage. 6. Because she was witty and was very good at telling stories.

### D – Learn it! Use it!

1. witty 2. sociable 3. ensure 4. called off 5. astonishing 6. setting

### E – Ready for the B1 PRELIMINARY English Exam?

1. been 2. lasted 3. as 4. great/huge/big 5. won/got 6. Best

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## Answers (Lithium B2 - Upper Intermediate)

### B – Listen and answer

1. Greek – stone 2. soft 3. Big Bang 4. 1817 5. oil 6. Chile – Australia 7. recycle 8. 2035

### C – Read and answer

1. Because these batteries are critical to the clean energy transition and they power the most-used electronic devices. 2. The issue of lithium fires, which are very difficult to put out. 3. It was produced in 1991. 4. Because the technology for its development needed to be optimised. 5. The two methods are ore mining and extraction from salt deserts. 6. Mining is controversial because it damages the environment and makes use of chemicals. Extraction from salt deserts is controversial because locals say it can cause droughts. 7. Because the lithium used to produce their batteries is expensive. 8. The article foresees the discovery of more environmentally-friendly sources of lithium, better techniques for its extraction as well as battery recycling programmes.



**D – Learn it! Use it!**

1. drought 2. device 3. mood 4. relying on 5. banned 6. threatened.

**E – Ready for the B2 FIRST Certificate in English?**

1. (that) it can be cut 2. in a suitable quantity/amount (or: in suitable quantities/amounts)  
3. was not until/till 2019 4. is set to 5. too expensive for most people 6. is also used in/  
for treating

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**Answers (Old London Bridge B2 - Upper Intermediate)****B – Listen and answer**

1. c 2. b 3. c 4. a 5. a 6. b

**C – Read and answer**

1. Because it was the longest inhabited bridge in Europe. 2. By fires and by a tornado.  
3. Because it's wide at that point and it's a powerful tidal river. 4. The article mentions a fire,  
in 1212, in which all the buildings were destroyed and 3000 people were killed. 5. The sight  
of traitors' heads on spikes. 6. He had to parboil the heads and cover them in tar to preserve  
them. 7. Because a new bridge had opened at Westminster and people preferred to go shop-  
ping in the West End. 8. It was sent to Arizona.

**D – Learn it! Use it!**

1. provided 2. landmark 3. Gateway 4. drowned 5. pilgrimage 6. spike

**E – Ready for the B2 FIRST Certificate in English?**

1. longer 2. crossed 3. replace/substitute 4. land 5. unable 6. climate 7. should/  
could 8. ahead

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**Answers (Watergate B2 - Upper Intermediate)****B – Listen and answer**

1. T 2. F – It's the name of an office complex in Washington D.C. 3. T 4. T 5. F – They  
were helped by an anonymous informant. 6. F – He was re-elected with a landslide majority.  
7. T 8. F – He was the first to do so.

**C – Read and answer**

1. Because he found some tape holding a basement door open. He removed it but it rea-  
ppeared. 2. Their senior colleagues supported them. 3. They took steps to cover up their  
involvement in the break-in. 4. The FBI, the CIA and the IRS were involved. They were used  
as political weapons to protect the presidency. 5. It mentions the bugging of the offices of  
opponents and the ordering of investigations of activist groups. 6. The suffix '-gate' is often  
used when talking about political scandals.

**E – Listen, read and check your answers**

1. T 2. T 3. F – She said she was prepared to go to jail to protect them. 4. F – They said  
it was better to go and see them in their homes. 5. T 6. F – He worked for the FBI. 7. F –  
He was impeached because he refused to give the tapes of White House conversations to the  
committee which was investigating the affair. 8. T

**F – Learn it! Use it!**

1. trust 2. stood up 3. break-in 4. let – go 5. turn up 6. stand for

**G – Ready for the FIRST Certificate in English?**

1. guidance 2. political 3. mounting 4. undertaken 5. percentage 6. proceedings  
7. outstanding 8. worldwide

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