

Task 1 - Speaking

Work in pairs. Discuss the following questions with your colleagues:

1. At what age do people usually get married in your country?
2. How important are the family members' opinions about the suitability of a match?
3. What factors do people generally take into consideration before getting married?
4. What are the traditional roles of husband and wife in your culture?
5. Are these roles changing?

The main character of *Persuasion* is Anne Elliot, who develops a romantic relationship with a clever, attractive, but poor naval officer. Frederick Wentworth proposed marriage to Anne eight years before the action of the novel begins, but is rejected. Anne is persuaded by her godmother that he is not a suitable match for her. According to Claire Tomalin, who wrote a much acclaimed biography of Jane Austen, *Persuasion* is Austen's 'present to herself, to Miss Sharp, to Cassandra, to Martha Lloyd . . . to all women who had lost their chance in life and would never enjoy a second spring.'

Task 2 - Writing

The picture below shows the two main characters of *Persuasion*, Captain Wentworth and Anne Elliot, and also Anne's nephews. What do you think is going on in this picture? Use your imagination and write a short paragraph describing the scene you see.



Image: British Council Jane Austen
(screenshot)

Task 3 - Listening

Watch the film in which Professor Emma Clery talks about *Persuasion* and the scene depicted above. Answer **True** or **False**.

- a. The passage is in chapter 8 of *Persuasion*. ()
- b. Maria Edgeworth thought it represented the sort of writing style other writers should imitate. ()
- c. This episode is a key moment in the plot. ()
- d. This episode illustrates how Jane Austen focused the narrative on Anne's subjective impressions. ()
- e. In this episode Jane Austen describes the second meeting between the two characters after many years without seeing each other. ()
- f. Anne is looking after her nephew. Knowing Anne was there, Captain Wentworth goes to the boy's room to see her. ()

Task 4 - Reading and listening

Work in pairs. What do you think are the missing prepositions? Fill in the gaps, then listen to Professor Clery reading the passage and check your answers.

Chapter 9. Another minute brought another addition. The younger boy, a remarkable stout, forward child, of two years old, having got the door opened for him by some one without, made his determined appearance among them, and went (1) _____ to the sofa to see what was going (2) _____, and put in his claim to anything good that might be giving (3) _____.

There being nothing to eat, he could only have some play; and as his aunt would not let him tease his sick brother, he began to fasten himself (4) _____ her, as she knelt, in such a way that, busy as she was about Charles, she could not shake him (5) _____. She spoke to him, ordered, entreated, and insisted in vain. Once she did contrive to push him (6) _____, but the boy had the greater pleasure in getting (7) _____ her back again directly.

"Walter," said she, "get (8) _____ this moment. You are extremely troublesome. I am very angry with you."

"Walter," cried Charles Hayter, "why do you not do as you are bid? Do not you hear your aunt speak? Come to me, Walter, come to cousin Charles."

But not a bit did Walter stir.

In another moment, however, she found herself in the state of being released (9) _____ him; some one was taking him from her, though he had bent (10) _____ her head so much, that his little sturdy hands were unfastened from around her neck, and he was resolutely borne (11) _____, before she knew that Captain Wentworth had done it.

Her sensations on the discovery made her perfectly speechless. She could not even thank him. She could only hang (12) _____ little Charles, with most disordered feelings. His kindness in stepping (13) _____ to her relief, the manner, the silence in which it had passed, the little particulars of the circumstance, with the conviction soon forced (14) _____ her by the noise he was studiously making with the child, that he meant to avoid hearing her thanks, and rather sought to testify that her conversation was the last of his wants, produced such a confusion of varying, but very painful agitation, as she could not recover (15) _____, till enabled by the entrance of Mary and the Miss Musgroves to make (16) _____ her little patient to their cares, and leave the room. She could not stay.

Task 5 - Language work

Sort out the combinations of verb + preposition in the text by putting them under the appropriate category.

Verb + preposition of place/movement	Verb + dependent preposition	Phrasal verb

Task 6 - Writing

Write a short passage (50 words) for the scene below using at least *five* of the verb + preposition combinations from the table above. Provide information about:

- The characters
- Their feelings
- The situation



Image: Wikimedia Commons

Task 7 - Speaking

Work in small groups. Discuss the following questions with your colleagues:

- Considering what you now know about Anne Elliot, do you think she is an interesting character?
- How do you think the story ends?
- Would you like to read *Persuasion*?

Homework

Choose a short passage of *Persuasion* which you think is interesting, appealing and/or relevant to the story. Check the meaning and the *pronunciation* of key words in the text. Bring the short passage to the next lesson.