The Importance of Being Earnest
Oscar Wilde

1 Are these sentences true (T) or false (F)?

a Gwendolen is Algernon’s sister.
b Miss Prism teaches Cecily.
c Jack’s brother Ernest died in London.
d Gwendolen likes a lot of sugar in her tea.
e Algernon and Jack both ask Dr Chasuble to christen them.
f Miss Prism lost a baby.
g Algernon is Jack’s cousin.
h Mr Cardew found Jack in a handbag.
i Gwendolen loves the name Ernest.
j Jack’s real name is Ernest.

2 Put these sentences in the right order. Number them 1–10.

a Algernon visits Jack’s country house and meets Cecily.
b Jack asks Gwendolen to marry him.
c Cecily tells Algernon that they are already engaged.
d Miss Prism tells the true story of the handbag.
e Algernon discovers that Jack is a secret Bunburyist.
f Jack discovers his real name.
g Lady Bracknell approves the marriage of Algernon and Cecily.
h Cecily and Gwendolen come to tea with Algernon.
i Lady Bracknell and Gwendolen discover that Jack was found in a handbag.

3 Who said this? Algernon, Jack, Gwendolen, Lady Bracknell, Miss Prism, Cecily

a ‘Young women are green.’ .................
b ‘Mother, I am engaged to Mr Worthing.’ .................
c ‘So when did we get engaged?’ .................
d ‘Cecily, I’ll wait for you!’ .................
e ‘I put the book in the pram, and I put the baby in the bag.’ .................
f ‘My dearest daughter cannot possibly marry something from a station cloakroom.’ .................
g ‘Before you can marry her, you must explain about Cecily.’ .................
h ‘Some aunts are tall, some are not.’ .................
i ‘Losing both is a little careless, is it not?’ .................
j ‘I’d like to meet that terrible young brother of his.’ .................

4 Who in the play ...? Jack, Algemon, Lady Bracknell, Cecily, Miss Prism

a ... puts a lot of sugar in Gwendolen’s tea? .................
b ... lost a handbag? .................
c ... pretends to have a friend called Bunbury? .................
d ... wrote a novel? .................
e ... was adopted by Mr Cardew? .................
f ... is Algernon’s older brother? .................
g ... has lost both parents? .................
h ... has a daughter called Gwendolen? .................
i ... lives in her uncle’s house in the country? .................
j ... pretends to be Jack’s brother? .................

5 Fill in the gaps. Use these words: Bunbury, ill, interested, kill, kill, country, Cecily, brother, pretends, pretends

Jack Worthing lives in the (a) ................., and he (b) ................. to have a terrible (c) ................. called Ernest. He can come to London to visit him when he wants. Algernon (d) ................. to have a friend called (e) ................. . This friend is often (f) ................. , and Algernon has to visit him. Both these people are useful, but in the end they decide to (g) ................. them. Jack has to (h) ................. Ernest because (i) ................. is getting too (j) ................. in him.
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Setting

Choose the best answer.

1. Algernon’s flat is in _____.
   a) London  b) Oxford
   c) Cambridge  d) Worthing

2. Jack and Algernon are both interested in _____.
   a) gardening  b) sport
   c) pleasure  d) helping poor people

3. Last week, Jack left ____ at Algernon’s flat.
   a) a bag  b) a cigarette case
   c) an umbrella  d) a hat

4. At the flat, Lady Bracknell wants to eat ____ sandwiches.
   a) a tomato  b) salad
   c) cheese  d) cucumber

5. When Jack was a baby somebody left him in the ____ at Victoria Station.
   a) cloakroom  b) waiting room
   c) ticket office  d) shop

6. Jack was left inside a _____.
   a) small basket  b) big box
   c) black handbag  d) red pram

7. Algernon has a ‘friend’ called Bunbury _____.
   a) in the next flat  b) in the country
   c) in London  d) in Paris

8. Jack has a big house _____.
   a) near Victoria Station  b) in Paris
   c) in Bunbury  d) in the countryside

9. Dr Chasuble plans to ____ Jack and Algernon at the local church.
   a) talk to  b) christen
   c) adopt  d) pray for

10. At the end, Jack learns about his real _____.
    a) name  b) age  c) address  d) sister

Characters

Choose the best answer.

11. When Jack comes to London he says his name is _____.
    a) Algernon  b) Ernest
    c) Bunbury  d) Peter

12. At the beginning, Algernon is Jack’s _____.
    a) friend  b) servant  c) uncle  d) doctor

13. Jack wants to marry _____.
    a) Miss Prism  b) Lady Bracknell
    c) Cecily Cardew  d) Gwendolen Fairfax

14. Lady Bracknell is Algernon’s _____.
    a) friend  b) sister  c) mother  d) aunt

15. Lane and Merriman are both _____.
    a) servants  b) gentlemen
    c) vicars  d) teachers

16. ____ is Cecily Cardew’s governess.
    a) Gwendolen Fairfax  b) Miss Prism
    c) Lady Bracknell  d) Lane

17. Cecily and Gwendolen both like the name _____.
    a) Augusta  b) Algernon
    c) Jack  d) Ernest

18. When Algernon is unhappy he always _____.
    a) sings  b) cries  c) eats  d) sleeps

19. Dr Chasuble is a _____.
    a) servant  b) vicar
    c) friend of Jack’s  d) dentist

20. At the end, Jack learns that he is the son of _____.
    a) Miss Prism  b) Dr Chasuble
    c) Lady Bracknell’s sister  d) Merriman

Dialogue

Who said or wrote this?

21. ‘I’m in love with Gwendolen.’
    a) Jack  b) Algernon
    c) Merriman  d) Dr Chasuble

22. ‘There were no cucumbers at the market today, sir. I went there twice.’
    a) Jack  b) Algernon
    c) Lane  d) Dr Chasuble

23. ‘My dearest daughter cannot possibly marry something from a station cloakroom!’
    a) Miss Prism  b) Lady Bracknell
    c) Gwendolen  d) Dr Chasuble

24. ‘I once wrote a novel in my younger days.’
    a) Jack  b) Algernon
    c) Miss Prism  d) Lane

25. ‘My only business is enjoying myself, and I’m enjoying myself very much here. Cecily is a sweet little thing.’
    a) Jack  b) Lane
    c) Merriman  d) Algernon

26. ‘Oh no, I couldn’t love a man called Algernon.’
    a) Cecily  b) Miss Prism
    c) Lady Bracknell  d) Gwendolen

27. ‘My tea is full of sugar!’
    a) Miss Prism  b) Jack
    c) Gwendolen  d) Dr Chasuble
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28 ‘A hundred and thirty thousand pounds! Now that I look at Miss Cardew again, I find her a very sweet young lady.’
   a Jack  b Lady Bracknell  
   c Miss Prism  d Algernon

29 ‘But both these young men have asked me to christen them immediately!’
   a Jack  b Algernon  
   c Merriman  d Dr Chasuble

30 ‘I knew that I had a brother! I always said that I had a brother!’
   a Jack  b Algernon  
   c Cecily  d Gwendolen

20 marks

Vocabulary

Choose the best answer.

31 when somebody or something is very bad
   a happy  b beautiful  
   c wicked  d wonderful

32 when two people have agreed to get married in the future
   a engaged  b immediate  
   c careful  d comfortable

33 a man who comes from a good family
   a uncle  b lady  c vicar  d gentleman

34 when a person is hardworking and serious
   a lazy  b earnest  c funny  d wild

35 the child of your uncle or aunt
   a cousin  b brother  c sister  d father

36 when you try to make people believe something that is not true
   a play  b prefer  c pretend  d plan

37 a small cart for a baby; you can push the baby around in this
   a car  b bed  c bike  d pram

38 a book that tells a story about people and things that are not real
   a magazine  b dictionary  
   c novel  d newspaper

39 someone who works for another person in their house
   a servant  b doctor  
   c teacher  d manager

40 to give a name to a person in church; this is usually for a baby
   a christen  b marry  
   c engage  d pray

20 marks

Plot

Choose the best answer.

41 Algernon asks Jack about the name _____ on the inside of the cigarette case.
   a Gwendolen  b Cecily  
   c Mary  d Augusta

42 Algernon decides to go to Jack’s house in the country because he wants to meet _____.
   a Dr Chasuble  b Miss Prism  
   c Cecily Cardew  d Gwendolen Fairfax

43 Algernon secretly writes Jack’s address _____.
   a on some paper  b in his diary  
   c in his cigarette case  d on his hand

44 Jack is very _____ when Algernon arrives at his house.
   a happy  b angry  c hungry  d busy

45 Cecily and Gwendolen both think they are engaged to Jack’s _____, Ernest.
   a friend  b uncle  c son  d brother

46 Cecily and Gwendolen are both unhappy when they learn about the _____ of Jack and Algernon.
   a first name  b family name  
   c mother  d father

47 Lady Bracknell is interested in Algernon marrying _____ young women.
   a an intelligent  b a beautiful  
   c a nice  d a rich

48 Twenty-eight years ago, Miss Prism left Lady Bracknell’s house with _____.
   a a pram  b a dog  
   c a cigarette case  d some money

49 Jack learns his name is really _____.
   a Algernon  b Ernest  
   c Oscar  d Alfred

50 At the end, everybody is _____.
   a angry  b unhappy  c happy  d afraid

20 marks

Total marks