

# Marriage à-la-Mode

## Vocabulary exercises



### Introduction

**Match these words with their definitions.**

- |                 |                                                                  |
|-----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. scathing     | results of an action or situation                                |
| 2. satire       | very bad, harmful or unsuccessful; catastrophic                  |
| 3. disastrous   | criticising someone very severely in a way that shows no respect |
| 4. consequences | humour used to criticise people or society                       |

5. Hogarth's Marriage à-la-Mode is a satire on the **arranged marriages** of the rich.

Why are the fathers **arranging their children's marriage** in Hogarth's series of paintings?

- a) They want their children to move out of home
- b) One father wants the money and the other wants an aristocratic title
- c) They are doing what their children asked them to do
- d) The daughter is pregnant

### Scene 1

6. Who is an aristocrat?
- a) a member of the highest social class
  - b) someone related to the royal family
  - c) a friend of the President
  - d) someone who is very rich

7. The Alderman will gain an **aristocratic title** and **social prestige**.

What is an **aristocratic title**?

- a) a large amount of land
- b) a large amount of money
- c) a word in front of someone's name to show his or her rank, e.g. Earl, Viscount, Duke, Countess etc.
- d) a name in capital letters

8. What is **social prestige**?

- a) a wider network of friends
- b) recognition for doing good works
- c) promotion to a higher position
- d) respect and admiration because of social position

9. The design of the Earl's new mansion is **flawed**.

What is the meaning of **flawed**?

- a) not correct; damaged or spoiled
- b) ugly; unattractive
- c) beautiful
- d) broken

10. The Earl has **poor artistic taste** and **poor morals**.

What is the meaning of **poor**?

- a) great
- b) reliable
- c) not good
- d) not expensive

11. The Alderman is **peering** through his spectacles.

How is he **looking** through his glasses?

- a) very clearly
- b) very closely
- c) very easily
- d) very quickly

12. **Gloomy** Old Master paintings line the walls.

What is the meaning of **gloomy**?      a) happy  
b) depressing  
c) beautiful  
d) decorative

## **Scene 2**

**Match these adjectives with their meanings.**

|                |                                                              |
|----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| 13. battered   | very silly                                                   |
| 14. ridiculous | old, used a lot, not in good condition                       |
| 15. excessive  | looking or feeling too pleased about something you have done |
| 16. smug       | more than what is necessary or reasonable                    |

**Match these nouns with their meanings.**

|                 |                                                                |
|-----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| 17. bust        | enjoyable but harmful behaviour                                |
| 18. foliage     | a look on someone's face that shows their thoughts or feelings |
| 19. expression  | model of a person's head, shoulders and chest                  |
| 20. dissipation | the leaves of a tree or plant                                  |

**Match these adjectives with their corresponding nouns.**

|                |            |
|----------------|------------|
| 21. battered   | design     |
| 22. ridiculous | expression |
| 23. excessive  | bust       |
| 24. smug       | foliage    |

### **Scene 3**

25. The young prostitute is **dabbing** an open sore.

- What is the meaning of **dabbing**?
- a) wiping away
  - b) pressing really hard again and again
  - c) scratching with her nails
  - d) touching it lightly several times

26. The doctor is **riddled** with the disease.

- What is the meaning of **riddled**?
- a) recovering from
  - b) being cured of
  - c) full of something bad or unpleasant
  - d) living with

### **Scene 4**

27. Silvertongue is offering the Countess a ticket to a **masquerade**.

- What is a **masquerade**?
- a) a play at the theatre
  - b) a film at the cinema
  - c) a party where people wear special costumes and masks to hide their identities
  - d) a music concert

28. A collection of playing cards and visiting cards are **scattered** on the floor.

- What is the meaning of **scattered**?
- a) thrown or dropped in different places
  - b) put down very carefully
  - c) arranged very neatly
  - d) placed in order

29. The visiting cards are from aristocratic acquaintances.

Who are acquaintances?

- a) best friends
- b) people you know but who are not close friends
- c) neighbours
- d) people you want to avoid

### **Scene 5**

**Match these adjectives with their meanings.**

- |                 |                                                        |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| 30. respectable | showing a critical attitude towards someone; insulting |
| 31. derogatory  | easy to see; likely to attract attention               |
| 32. conspicuous | considered by society to acceptable, good or correct   |

**What do the adjectives refer to?**

- |                 |                |
|-----------------|----------------|
| 33. respectable | term           |
| 34. derogatory  | black spot     |
| 35. conspicuous | establishments |

**Match these nouns with their meanings.**

- |                |                                                                                   |
|----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 36. wound      | a flow of cool air                                                                |
| 37. draught    | sudden noisy confusion                                                            |
| 38. proprietor | an injury to the body, especially where a hole is made in the skin using a weapon |
| 39. commotion  | the owner of a business                                                           |

40. Silvertongue deserted the Countess and fled.

What is the meaning of deserted?

- a) left some sweet food
- b) said goodbye
- c) helped
- d) left her without help or support

41. What is the meaning of **fled**?

- a) ran away very quickly because of possible danger
- b) climbed out of the window
- c) got caught
- d) apologised for not helping

### **Scene 6**

42. The Countess has returned to her **miserly** father's house.

What is the meaning of **miserly**?

- a) having a lot of money
- b) enjoying spending money
- c) hating spending money
- d) spending a lot of money

43. Silvertongue has been **hanged** at Tyburn.

What happened to him?

- a) he was imprisoned
- b) he was killed with a rope around his neck as punishment
- c) he was released from custody
- d) he escaped

44. The Countess has probably drunk the **entire contents** of the bottle of laudanum. How much has she drunk?

- a) all of it
- b) some of it
- c) a few sips
- d) none of it

45. The Countess has **committed suicide**.

What has she done?

- a) killed herself
- b) made herself ill
- c) got drunk
- d) taken drugs

46. When someone committed suicide their possessions had to be given up to **the Crown**.

- Who or what is **the Crown**?
- a) the head of the family
  - b) the government, represented by the king or queen
  - c) the Tower of London
  - d) the aristocracy

47. The Alderman's house is **bare**.

- What is the meaning of **bare**?
- a) full of stuff
  - b) empty
  - c) unattractive
  - d) plain

48. The table is set for a **meagre meal**.

- What kind of **meal** is it?
- a) a feast with exotic foods
  - b) food for the dog
  - c) a small amount of poor quality food
  - d) food for the whole family

49. The **apothecary** is accusing the servant of getting laudanum for the Countess.

- Who was an **apothecary**?
- a) a doctor
  - b) someone who made and sold medicines
  - c) a barber
  - d) a surgeon

**Collocations: match the words that go together.**

- |              |          |
|--------------|----------|
| 50. miserly  | meal     |
| 51. entire   | dog      |
| 52. commit   | father   |
| 53. meagre   | contents |
| 54. starving | suicide  |

