

Pride and Prejudice

Lingo

Jane Austen's masterpiece "Pride and Prejudice" was written in 1813. Here are some of the words commonly used in that era, along with excerpts from the book. Try using them in everyday conversation!



Surmise

Meaning: infer from incomplete evidence

–
They attacked him in various ways--with barefaced questions, ingenious suppositions, and distant surmises; but he eluded the skill of them all, and they were at last obliged to accept the second-hand intelligence of their neighbour, Lady Lucas.

Countenance

Meaning: the appearance conveyed by a person's face

–
Mr. Bingley was good-looking and gentlemanlike; he had a pleasant countenance, and easy, unaffected manners.

Deign

Meaning: do something that one considers to be below one's dignity

–
Mrs. Bennet deigned not to make any reply, but, unable to contain herself, began scolding one of her daughters.

Fastidious

Meaning: giving careful attention to detail

–
"I would not be so fastidious as you are," cried Mr. Bingley, "for a kingdom!"

Affectation

Meaning: a deliberate pretense or exaggerated display

–
Affectation of candour is common enough--one meets with it everywhere.

Haughty

Meaning: having or showing arrogant superiority

–
He was at the same time haughty, reserved, and fastidious, and his manners, though well-bred, were not inviting.

Commendation

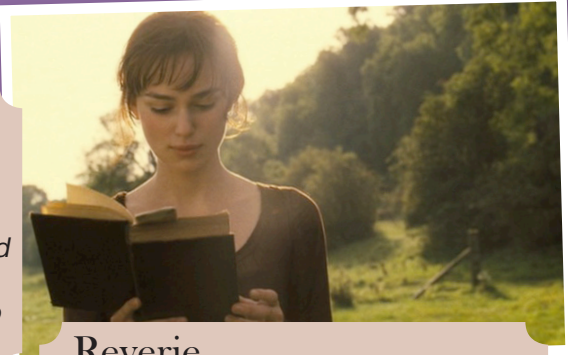
Meaning: a message expressing a favorable opinion

–
Miss Bennet was therefore established as a sweet girl, and their brother felt authorized by such commendation to think of her as he chose.

Supercilious

Meaning: having or showing arrogant superiority to

–
For, though elated by his rank, it did not render him supercilious; on the contrary, he was all attention to everybody.



Reverie

Meaning: an abstracted state of absorption

–
"I can guess the subject of your reverie."

Stricture

Meaning: severe criticism

–
What would I give to hear your strictures on them!

Contrived

Meaning: showing effects of planning or manipulation

–
Elizabeth then contrived to sit by her aunt.

Impute

Meaning: attribute or credit to

–
I find myself very unwell this morning, which, I suppose, is to be imputed to my getting wet through yesterday.

Solicitude

Meaning: a feeling of excessive concern

–
When breakfast was over they were joined by the sisters; and Elizabeth began to like them herself, when she saw how much affection and solicitude they showed for Jane.

Entreaty

Meaning: earnest or urgent request

–
After a song or two, and before she could reply to the entreaties of several that she would sing again, she was eagerly succeeded at the instrument by her sister Mary, who having, in consequence of being the only plain one in the family, worked hard for knowledge and accomplishments, was always impatient for display.

