

David Copperfield and Miss Betsey

Exercise 1

There are three characters in the passage; David Copperfield, Aunt Betsey, Mr Dick. Match these three names with the character descriptions below. You have 4 minutes to do this.

	Description	Name
1	A man who has a bad memory and finds it hard to decide what to do. He is very vague.	
2	A young boy who has had a difficult journey and is very tired, and not well.	
3	A woman who wants to do the best thing but doesn't know what that is.	

Exercise 2

Answer the following questions about the text. For the last two questions, you will not find the answer in the text alone, you will have to make some sort of guess.

1. Was Miss Betsey expecting David to come? How do you know?
2. Does David look like his mother, or like his father?
3. How does Miss Betsey tell Mr Dick to concentrate on the subject she wants to talk about?
4. Do you think Miss Betsey is David's maternal or paternal aunt (is she his mother's sister, or his father's?)
5. What is unusual about the names of David Copperfield and his father?

Exercise 3.

Adverbs describe how something is done, or said. In novels they are very common in dialogue, and tell us how we can read the character's words. They can also tell us how someone looked, or how someone did something, and so help us to make a picture in our minds. Find the following three adverbs, which are underlined in the text. For each one, what adjective are they taken from? What does the adjective mean? With your partner, practise acting out the action, expression or words described by the adverb.

1. Softly (line 5)
2. Vacantly (line 34)
3. Briskly (line 35)