

Task 1 - Speaking

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

1. What is a 'typical' house in your country?
2. What is your idea of a typical English house?
3. How important is it for people in your country to have their own houses?
4. Do houses in your country have 'names'?

Giving names to houses is something traditionally British. The convention started with the great halls and manors of the rich landlords and it then spread to the rest of the society. Nowadays, even simple houses of ordinary people may have names.

Mansfield Park is the title of Jane Austen's third novel and it is also the name of the house that is at the centre of the story. It is the great house where the main character, Fanny Price, goes to live with her relatives. Money, property and social status are important themes in the novel.

Task 2 - Vocabulary and reading

Use your dictionary and find out the meaning of the words below.

Word	Meaning
captivate	
county	
raise	
rank	
income	

Read the opening sentence of *Mansfield Park* and answer **True** or **False**.

Chapter 1. About thirty years ago Miss Maria Ward, of Huntingdon, with only seven thousand pounds, had the good luck to captivate Sir Thomas Bertram, of Mansfield Park, in the county of Northampton, and to be thereby raised to the rank of a baronet's lady, with all the comforts and consequences of a handsome house and large income.

1. Miss Maria Ward was a rich girl. ()
2. Miss Maria Ward got married to Sir Thomas Bertram. ()
3. Mansfield Park was a beautiful house situated in the county of Northampton. ()
4. When she got married Miss Maria Ward became Lady Bertram. ()
5. Sir Thomas Bertram had a title but he did not have much money. ()

Task 3 - More Vocabulary and Reading

Fanny Price is Lady Bertram's niece. Her parents are poor and her mother sent her to live with her rich aunt in Mansfield Park.

Read this description of Fanny's feelings about the house in Mansfield Park and find in the text words with similar meaning.

1. Luxury, greatness:
2. Surprised, amazed:
3. Calm, comfort:
4. Damage:
5. Walk silently and without being seen:
6. Leave a place and go back to a safe location:
7. Bedroom:

Chapter 3. The grandeur of the house astonished, but could not console her. The rooms were too large for her to move in with ease: whatever she touched she expected to injure, and she crept about in constant terror of something or other; often retreating towards her own chamber to cry...

How did Fanny feel in the house?

- Amazed and happy
- Calm and comforted
- Terrified and unhappy

Task 4 - Listening

Mansfield Park was Austen's third novel and the first of her books entirely written in a house in the village of Chawton where she lived the last years of her life.

Listen to the beginning of a video about Jane Austen's house and circle the letter that corresponds to the correct information.

1. Jane Austen moved to the house in..
 - a. 1819
 - b. 1809
 - c. 1890
2. The house belonged to her...
 - a. Father
 - b. Brother
 - c. Friend
3. Before she moved into the house, she lived in rented accommodation with...
 - a. Her sister
 - b. Her sister and her mother
 - c. Her sister, her mother, and a friend
4. Jane and her sister preferred the house in Hampshire because...
 - a. It was located in the county where they grew up
 - b. The house was bigger than the house in Kent
 - c. It was the house their mother preferred

5. The Jane Austen's house is extraordinarily important because...
 - a. It is the house where she died
 - b. It is the house where she wrote her first novel
 - c. It is the house where she revised her first books and wrote new ones

Task 5 - Language work

Use the relative pronouns *where*, *which* and *who* to transform the two sentences into one.

1. Fanny Price is a young lady. Fanny Price is the main character in *Mansfield Park*.

2. Miss Maria Ward was a lady. Miss Maria Ward married Sir Thomas Bertram.

3. Money and property are important themes. Money and property are themes discussed in *Mansfield Park*.

4. Chawton is a village in Hampshire. Jane Austen lived in Chawton.

5. Jane Austen's Museum is in a house in Chawton. Jane Austen reviewed and wrote her books in Chawton.

Homework

Watch the rest of the video *The Life of Jane Austen*, filmed at the Jane Austen's House Museum and write down as much information as you can get in the table below. Bring it to the next lesson. Here is the link: <http://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/austen>

Her education and reading
Her relationship with her sister Cassandra
Her daily routine
Her relationship with music and theatre
Any other information...