LINGUA E CIVILTA' INGLESE – COMPITI PER LE VACANZE ESTIVE A.S. 2016-2017

- Eseguire tutti gli esercizi di seguito elencati in entrambi i testi di riferimento.
- Scegliere un testo dall’elenco alla pagina 2 da leggere in versione originale completa e non abbreviata

VISIONS AND PERSPECTIVES – vol.1

General Overview p. 66-67
“Living in Britain during the Renaissance” p. 74-75

Esercizi relativi al testo “Much Ado About Nothing” W. Shakespeare contenuti nel file pdf allegato.

READY FOR FIRST – 3rd Edition – Coursebook

Unit 5
p.66 “Language focus 2: Noun phrases” ex. 1 A-B-C-D-2 ex.2

Unit 6
p. 70 Vocabulary A Romance ex. 1-2
p. 72 Language focus 1: Defining relative clauses ex. 5
p.73 Multiple-choice cloze ex 2 “Renting family and friends”
p.74-75 Multiple choice reading ex. 2
p.76 Open cloze: relative clauses “Family members’ yawns are most contagious”
p.77 Vocabulary 2: Describing people A Personality ex. 1-2 / B Appearance ex. 1-2
p. 80-81 Review tutto tranne il Writing
LIST OF BOOKS (Scegliere un solo testo da questo elenco da leggere in versione originale non abbreviata o semplificata in lingua inglese)

William Shakespeare “Othello”
William Shakespeare “Macbeth”
Daniel Defoe “Robinson Crusoe”
Jonathan Swift “Gulliver’s Travels”
Samuel Richardson “Pamela”
Jane Austen “Pride and Prejudice”
Jane Austen “Sense and Sensibility”
Mary Shelley “Frankenstein”
William Shakespeare

*Much Ado About Nothing* (1598)

The plot

The play begins just after the battle between Don Pedro and his villainous brother Don John. Don Pedro is triumphant and goes to stay with Leonato, the Duke of Messina, with his good friend Claudio and a group of soldiers. Claudio soon falls in love with the Duke’s daughter, Hero, and as the feeling is reciprocal a wedding is organised.

At the same time some friends try to bring another couple together: Beatrice, Hero’s cousin, with a soldier, Benedick, but they seem to take an instant dislike to each other. Meanwhile Don John, who hates Claudio, plans to ruin his wedding. He cunningly convinces Claudio that Hero has been unfaithful. Claudio is devastated and rejects Hero during the wedding ceremony in front of her father. Soon after, however, Leonato discovers that Claudio had been tricked and Hero is actually innocent. Claudio is told that Hero has died from grief and that they have both been the victims of a terrible plot. To compensate Hero’s ‘death’ Claudio is asked to marry Leonato’s ‘niece’ and the wedding takes place. The ‘niece’ wears a mask during the ceremony and does not reveal herself until the end. She is, of course, Hero and they are both delighted to be reunited.

The play ends with a double wedding as the plan to bring Beatrice and Benedick together is also successful, despite their stubborn characters.

Finally, Don John is exposed as the villain he really is and is captured.

Shakespeare’s sources

Ludovico Ariosto’s *Orlando furioso* (1516), Matteo Bandello’s *Novelle* (1554-73) and Edmund Spenser’s *The Faerie Queene* (1596) all seem to have provided different elements for Shakespeare’s play *Much Ado About Nothing*. However, the introduction of the second couple, Benedick and Beatrice, which provides a parallel love-story seems to be an added invention of Shakespeare, providing more intrigue, irony and humour to the play.

The themes

The theme of appearances and deception is dominant throughout the play. Nothing is ever quite what it seems. This comes out clearly with the frequent use of disguises and the negative consequences they have. Also, Beatrice and Benedick’s mask of cold realism in the beginning is destined to crumble when their true feelings are encouraged to rise to the surface, again through the use of disguises and deception. Connected with the theme of appearances is also the frequent mentioning of fashion and how its ephemeral state can be linked to those who follow it. At the beginning of the play Beatrice says of Benedick: ‘He wears his faith but as the/fashion of his hat, it ever changes with the next block.’

So, appearance and deception/seeming and being are dominant themes and ones which affect every character of the play except Friar Francis. He is never taken in by how things ‘seem’ to be but trusts his knowledge and experience. For this reason he never doubts Hero’s innocence and is determined to discover the truth behind the accusations.

The language

The play is written largely in prose but with passages in blank verse and iambic pentameter, as Shakespeare was becoming more flexible and rhythmically varied with his language. In typical Elizabethan style, Shakespeare contrasts playful and
metaphorical pieces with others that are formal and poetic (especially with the characters of Claudio and Hero). Then there are the more natural and realistic speeches of Benedick and Beatrice. This variety of styles would have been very popular with Elizabethan audiences. Shakespeare’s use of language, however, is skilfully tied up with the theme of appearances, seeming and being. The different styles of language are often used to represent some form of distortion in the plot and can be seen as another theme in itself – that of the different functions of language.

**Text 1**

**Before Reading**

Do people change when they fall in love? Read the following extract when Benedick is reflecting on the changes in his love-struck friend, Claudio.

**BENEDICK.** He was wont to speak plain and to the purpose, like an honest man and a soldier, and now is he turned orthographer; his words are a very fantastical banquet, just so many strange dishes. May I be so converted, and see with these eyes? I cannot tell. I think not: I will not be sworn but love may transform me to an oyster; but I’ll take my oath on it, till he have made an oyster of me he shall never make me such a fool. One woman is fair, yet I am well; another is wise, yet I am well; another virtuous, yet I am well; but till all graces be in one woman, one woman shall not come in my grace.

1. How, according to Benedick, has Claudio’s behaviour changed? Choose 1 or 2.
   - 1. He has begun to talk in an elaborate way.
   - 2. His speech has become plain and simple.

2. Read lines 6-8 again. What effect does Benedick say love has on people?

3. He describes himself as ‘fair’, ‘wise’ and ‘virtuous’ but why is he so confident about never finding a woman to love?
**Much Ado About Nothing**

*This is the final scene of the play, the denouement. Claudio has agreed to marry Leonato’s ‘niece’ to compensate his daughter’s ruined reputation and ‘death’. He is now standing at the altar facing Leonato’s masked ‘niece’ who is about to reveal herself as Hero. Beatrice, also wearing a mask, has accompanied her.*

**HERO.** [unmasking] And when I lived I was your other wife; and when you lov’d, you were my other husband.

**CLAUDIO.** Another Hero!

**HERO.** Nothing certain. One Hero died defiled, but I do live, and surely as I live, I am a maid.

**DON PEDRO.** The former Hero, Hero that is dead!

**LEONATO.** She died, my lord, but whiles her slander lived.

**FRIAR.** All this amazement can I qualify: when after that the holy rites are ended, I’ll tell you largely of fair Hero’s death: meantime, let wonder seem familiar, and to the chapel let us presently.

**BENEDICK.** Soft and fair, Friar. Which is Beatrice?

**BEATRICE.** [Unmasking.] I answer to that name. What is your will?

**BENEDICK.** Do not you love me?

**BEATRICE.** Why, no; no more than reason.

**BENEDICK.** Why, then, your uncle and the prince and Claudio have been deceived; for they swore you did.

**BEATRICE.** Do not you love me?

**BENEDICK.** Troth, no; no more than reason.

**BEATRICE.** Why, then, my cousin, Margaret, and Ursula, are much deceived, for they did swear you did.

**BENEDICK.** They swore that you were almost sick for me.

**BEATRICE.** They swore that you were well-nigh dead for me.

**BENEDICK.** ‘Tis no such matter. Then, you do not love me?

**BEATRICE.** No, truly, but in friendly recompense.

**LEONATO.** Come, cousin, I am sure you love the gentleman.

**CLAUDIO.** And I’ll be sworn upon’t that he loves her, for here’s a paper written in his hand, a halting sonnet of his own pure brain, fashioned to Beatrice.

**HERO.** And here’s another, writ in my cousin’s hand, stolen from her pocket, containing her affection unto Benedick.

**BENEDICK.** A miracle! Here’s our own hands against our hearts. Come, I will have thee, but by this light, I take thee for pity.

**BEATRICE.** I would not deny you; but, by this good day, I yield upon great persuasion, and partly to save your life, for I was told you were in consumption.

**BENEDICK.** Peace, I will stop your mouth. [Kisses her.]

**DON PEDRO.** How dost thou, Benedick the married man?
BENEDICK. I'll tell thee what, prince: a college of witcrackers cannot flout me out of my humour. Dost thou think I care for a satire or an epigram? No; if a man will be beaten with brains, a' shall wear nothing handsome about him. In brief, since I do purpose to marry, I will think nothing to any purpose that the world can say against it; and therefore never flout at me for what I have said against it, for man is a giddy thing, and this is my conclusion. For thy part, Claudio, I did think to have beaten thee; but in that thou art like to be my kinsman, live unbruised, and love my cousin. CLAUDIO. I had well hoped thou would'st have denied Beatrice, that I might have cudgelled thee out of thy single life to make thee a double-dealer, which, out of question, thou wilt be, if my cousin do not look exceeding narrowly to thee. BENEDICK. Come, come, we are friends, let’s have a dance ere we are married, that we may lighten our hearts and our wives’ heels.
Choose the answer a or b.

1. The final scene of the play focuses mainly on the relationship between:
   [ ] Claudio and Hero
   [ ] Benedick and Beatrice

2. Beatrice and Benedick:
   [ ] find it difficult to admit their love for each other
   [ ] openly declare their love for each other

Answer true or false.

1. Beatrice and Benedick were tricked into writing about their love.  
   T  F

2. Don Pedro is surprised by Benedick’s decision.  
   T  F

3. In the end one couple is married.  
   T  F

4. The whole scene ends in a dance.  
   T  F

Complete the following sentences.

1. Claudio was deceived because he thought (two reasons) ...........................................

2. Hero had Beatrice’s love poem because she ................................................................

3. Benedick says he will marry Beatrice because ................................................................

4. Beatrice says she will marry Benedick because ................................................................

Find the exact words which express the following and write the name of the character who says them;

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exact words</th>
<th>Said by</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Hero was only dead while the scandal surrounding her was alive.</td>
<td>..........</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. We have written things that seem to contradict our feelings.</td>
<td>..........</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Not even the most intelligent people could make me change my happy mood.</td>
<td>..........</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. I think you will be an unfaithful partner unless you are closely watched.</td>
<td>..........</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In this extract Benedick and Beatrice decide to marry. How would you describe their behaviour in this moment? Choose from the following.

[ ] They seem romantic.
[ ] They seem indifferent.
[ ] They seem shocked.

Compare Benedick’s words in lines XX-XX with lines X-X in the Before reading extract. In what way has he changed?

In lines XX-XX Benedick justifies the changes in himself by saying:

1. ’If a man will be beaten with brains, a’ shall wear nothing handsome about him.’
2. ‘For man is a giddy thing, and this is my conclusion.’

What do you think he means by these two statements? Discuss in pairs. Do you agree with him?

This extract and the extract you read from Romeo and Juliet are both declarations of love. Which extract do you personally prefer and why?

Do you think the title of the play is appropriate/inappropriate? Justify your choice.
William Shakespeare

**Much Ado About Nothing** (1598)

**TEXT 2**

**BEFORE READING**

In mine eye she is the sweetest lady
that ever I looked on. (Act I, Scene 1)

Before reading

Ai miei occhi è parsa la creatura più dolce
che abbia mai visto. (Atto I, Scena 1)

These are Claudio’s words as soon as he sees Hero and falls in love with her. Why, then, is he so ingenious to fall into Don John’s trap? Give your own reason/s.

**Much Ado About Nothing**

Constantly playing with words and verbal humour are the main features of *Much Ado About Nothing*: Beatrice and Benedick always joke and verbally fight one with the other about man-woman relationships and love; the rough men of the Watch (Dogberry and Verges) talk about their duty – to patrol and control the area in the Prince’s name – in lively and comic prose. In this comedy the ‘word’ is meant to amuse and enchant, but also to deceive and it is especially with this aim that the word is used by the wicked to counterfeit reality and trick the innocent. In fact, this is what occurs when Don John arouses Claudio’s suspicions about Hero’s faithfulness.

**CLAUDIO.** If there be any impediment, I pray you discover it.

**JOHN.** You may think I love you not; let that appear hereafter, and aim better at me by that I now will manifest. For my brother, I think he holds you well, and in dearness of heart hath help to effect your ensuing marriage - surely suit ill spent, and labour ill bestowed!

**PEDRO.** Why, what’s the matter?

**JOHN.** I came hither to tell you; and, circumstances shortened, for she has been too long a talking of, the lady is disloyal.

**CLAUDIO.** Who, Hero?

**JOHN.** Even she - Leonato’s Hero, your Hero, every man’s Hero.

**CLAUDIO.** Disloyal?
JOHN. The word is too good to paint out her wickedness. I could say she were worse; think you of a worse title, and I will fit her to it. Wonder not till further warrant. Go but with me tonight, you shall see her chamber-window entered, even the night before her wedding-day. If you love her then, tomorrow wed her; but it would better fit your honour to change your mind.

CLAUDIO. May this be so?

PEDRO. I will not think it.

JOHN. If you dare not trust that you see, confess not that you know. If you will follow me, I will show you enough; and when you have seen more and heard more, proceed accordingly.

CLAUDIO. If I see any thing tonight why I should not marry her, tomorrow in the congregation, where I should wed, there will I shame her.

BEFORE READING

1. Answer true or false.

1. The doctor has a good knowledge of astronomy. [T] [F]
2. Don Pedro arranged the marriage between Hero and Claudio. [T] [F]
3. Claudio is not surprised at the news. [T] [F]
4. John openly declares Hero’s unfaithfulness. [T] [F]
5. John invites Claudio to go and check the truth with his own eyes. [T] [F]
6. Claudio is ready to get married anyhow. [T] [F]

2. Match parts in A with parts in B in order to complete the sentences.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Claudio wants to know</td>
<td>a. because someone enters her chamber window.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. John asserts that</td>
<td>b. he will shame her at the wedding.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Hero is even worse than said</td>
<td>c. if there is any impediment to his wedding.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Claudio promises that if he sees she is unfaithful</td>
<td>d. it was wrong to arrange the wedding with Hero.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. How would you describe Pedro’s and Claudio’s reaction to what John tells them? Choose from the following.

- [ ] impatient
- [ ] indifferent
- [ ] surprised
- [ ] curious
- [ ] firm
- [ ] angry
- [ ] doubtful

4. In order to convince Claudio John uses strong words. Underline them and say what feelings they convey.

5. What do you think the following sentence uttered by John means? ‘Even she – Leonato’s Hero, your Hero, every man’s Hero.’ What is the effect of the repetition of the name Hero?
Love and fidelity are two subjects also dealt with in a song sung in the play by Balthasar, a singer, who expresses his ideas on infidelity in a lively way. In the light of this humorous approach to the topic discuss it, expressing your own reasons.

Sigh no more, ladies, sigh no more,
Men were deceivers ever,
One foot in sea and one on shore,
To one thing constant never:
Then sigh not so, but let them go,
And be you blithe and bonny,
Converting all your sounds of woe
Into Hey nonny nonny.

Sing no more ditties, sing no moe,
Of dumps so dull and heavy;
The fraud of men was ever so,
Since summer first was leavy:
Then sigh not so, but let them go,
And be you blithe and bonny,
Converting all your sounds of woe
Into Hey nonny nonny.