

This comedy was first written in 1598, and since then it has been a favourite for theatres, television and the cinema.

In a beautiful Italian town, love is in the air. But the path of true love is never easy, especially when other people try to cause problems.

Do the preparation task first. Then watch the video and do the exercises to check your understanding.

Preparation

Match the vocabulary with the correct definition and write a–h next to the numbers 1–8.

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|--------|-----------------------|----|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1..... | being unfaithful | a. | rich |
| 2..... | to ruin something | b. | a woman servant |
| 3..... | to overhear | c. | having a romantic relationship with someone else |
| 4..... | to mourn | d. | to damage or destroy something |
| 5..... | wealthy | e. | to hear something by accident |
| 6..... | a maid | f. | to do or say things that suggest you are attracted to someone |
| 7..... | to flirt with someone | g. | to lose consciousness temporarily |
| 8..... | to faint | h. | to feel and show sadness after a person's death |

1. Check your understanding: true or false

Circle *True* or *False* for these sentences.

- | | | | |
|----|-------------------------------------------------------|-------------|--------------|
| 1. | Claudio and Hero are in love. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 2. | Beatrice is in love with Benedick. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 3. | Claudio thinks Hero is being unfaithful. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 4. | Beatrice and Benedick's friends play a trick on them. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 5. | Beatrice and Benedick fall in love. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 6. | Claudio tells everyone Hero has been unfaithful. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 7. | Hero dies from the shock. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 8. | Claudio marries one of Hero's relatives. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |

2. Check your understanding: multiple choice

Circle the best answer to these questions.

1. At first, Beatrice is negative about Benedick because ...
 - a. he doesn't feel the same as she does.
 - b. they are actually quite similar and that annoys her.
 - c. she thinks he is a bad friend to Claudio.

2. Claudio thinks Hero is being unfaithful to him because ...
 - a. some people play a trick on him.
 - b. he is paranoid.
 - c. he gets Hero and Beatrice confused.

3. Hero, Claudio and their friends want Beatrice and Benedick to ...
 - a. stop arguing.
 - b. be a couple.
 - c. make friends.

4. Benedick and Beatrice fall in love because ...
 - a. they are tricked into feeling jealous.
 - b. they are each tricked into thinking the other one loves them.
 - c. they start feeling romantic when they see Hero and Claudio together.

5. Claudio accuses Hero of being unfaithful ...
 - a. in the garden.
 - b. at the wedding.
 - c. at Hero's family home.

6. When Hero faints at the wedding, her closest friends and family ...
 - a. think she's dead.
 - b. wish she was dead.
 - c. decide to pretend she's dead for a while.

7. The local policeman ...
 - a. is too stupid to realise what happened.
 - b. catches the people responsible for the trick on Claudio.
 - c. arrests the wrong person.

8. Claudio agrees to ...
- a. never get married.
 - b. marry Beatrice.
 - c. marry another girl from Hero's family.
9. Claudio realises Hero is really alive when ...
- a. her father doesn't seem very upset.
 - b. he is getting married to her!
 - c. Beatrice tells him.
10. The story ends with ...
- a. Hero's funeral.
 - b. a party to celebrate the end of the war.
 - c. two marriages.

Discussion

What is your opinion of Hero and Claudio's relationship?

Do you think they will have a happy marriage?

Vocabulary Box

Write any new words you have learnt in this lesson.