

Name \_\_\_\_\_



# Varieties of English

**DIRECTIONS:** The passage below is from *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen. Read the passage, and then answer the questions.

“My dear Mr. Bennet,” said his lady to him one day, “have you heard that Netherfield Park is let at last?”

Mr. Bennet replied that he had not.

“But it is,” returned she; “for Mrs. Long has just been here, and she told me all about it.”

Mr. Bennet made no answer.

“Do you not want to know who has taken it?” cried his wife impatiently.

“You want to tell me, and I have no objection to hearing it.”

This was invitation enough.

“Why, my dear, you must know, Mrs. Long says that Netherfield is taken by a young man of large fortune from the north of England; that he came down on Monday in a chaise and four to see the place, and was so much delighted with it, that he agreed with Mr. Morris immediately; that he is to take possession before Michaelmas, and some of his servants are to be in the house by the end of next week.”

“What is his name?”

“Bingley.”

“Is he married or single?”

“Oh! Single, my dear, to be sure! A single man of large fortune; four or five thousand a year. What a fine thing for our girls!”

“How so? How can it affect them?”

“My dear Mr. Bennet,” replied his wife, “how can you be so tiresome! You must know that I am thinking of his marrying one of them.”

“Is that his design in settling here?”

“Design! Nonsense, how can you talk so! But it is very likely that he may fall in love with one of them, and therefore you must visit him as soon as he comes.”

1. Even when two different countries speak the same language, like England and the United States, there are often distinct differences between how words are used. Fill out the table below, using a dictionary to help you, if needed.

Word	Meaning in Text (British English)	Meaning in U.S. English
let	_____	_____
chaise and four	_____	_____
tiresome	_____	_____
design	_____	_____

2. In the privacy of their own home, Mrs. Bennet calls her husband, “Mr. Bennet”. What does that tell you about the society that this story is portraying?

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