




Emma

Jane Austen

ABOUT THIS BOOK

For the Student

-  Listen to the story and do some activities on your Audio CD.
-  Talk about the story.
-  Prepare for Cambridge English: Preliminary (PET) for schools.

For the Teacher



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Level 4 Structures

Sequencing of future tenses	<i>Could / was able to / managed to</i>
Present perfect plus <i>yet, already, just</i>	<i>Had to / didn't have to</i>
First conditional	<i>Shall / could</i> for offers
Present and past passive	<i>May / can / could</i> for permission <i>Might</i> for future possibility
<i>How long?</i>	<i>Make</i> and <i>let</i>
<i>Very / really / quite</i>	Causative <i>have</i> <i>Want / ask / tell someone to do something</i>

Structures from lower levels are also included.



Chapter 1

 Emma Woodhouse was happy, beautiful, clever and rich. At twenty-one, there was nothing in her life that upset her¹. She was the youngest daughter of a very affectionate father, Mr Woodhouse. Her elder sister, Isabella, was married and lived in London, and her father was widowed², so Emma was the mistress³ of his house.

Emma's mother died when she was five, and Emma and Isabella were brought up⁴ by Miss Taylor, a very kind and loving governess⁵. Miss Taylor loved both daughters, but particularly Emma. They lived together as friends and Emma did whatever⁶ she wanted.

Unhappiness came at last when Miss Taylor married. The marriage to Mr Weston was a happy one, and Emma really liked Miss Taylor's husband. But now she felt miserable⁷. She had no friends at home, and she missed Miss Taylor very much.

Emma's father hated change, and marriage brought change. On the evening after Miss Taylor's wedding day, they sat together and Emma smiled and chatted as cheerfully as she could.

1 **upset her:** made her sad

2 **widowed:** left alone after husband or wife dies

3 **mistress:** (here) woman in charge

4 **brought up:** taught; cared for

5 **governess:** teacher living in your house

6 **whatever:** (here) all the things

7 **miserable:** very unhappy

4 But when tea came, Mr Woodhouse said, "Poor Miss Taylor! I wish she was here. What a pity that Mr Weston wanted to marry her!"

"I can't agree with you," said Emma. "Miss Taylor couldn't live with us forever, and now she has a house of her own."

"A house of her own! But why does she need a house of her own? This house is three times as large."

"We'll go and see them often, and they'll come to see us," Emma promised.

Emma wanted to cheer her father up¹, so she decided to play a game of backgammon². But just as she prepared the backgammon table, a visitor walked in. It was Mr Knightley, a good-looking man, of about thirty-seven. He was a very good friend of the family, and he was the elder brother of Isabella's husband. He lived about a mile away from Hartfield, and he often visited them. Mr Woodhouse was very pleased³ to see him.





"I hope the wedding went well," said Mr Knightley. "Who cried most?"

"Ah! Poor Miss Taylor!" said Mr Woodhouse.

"Poor Mr and Miss Woodhouse," said Mr Knightley, "not poor Miss Taylor. It must be better to have only one husband to look after⁴ instead of you two."

"Especially when *one* of those two is very difficult!" said Emma joking. "That's what you mean."

"That's very true," said Mr Woodhouse. "I'm afraid I am sometimes very difficult."

"Father, I didn't mean *you*. I meant myself. Mr Knightley loves to criticize⁵ me."

Mr Knightley was one of the few people who could see faults⁶ in Emma Woodhouse, and the only person who ever told her about them.

"Emma knows I never flatter⁷ her," said Mr Knightley.

"Emma," said her father, "will really miss Miss Taylor."

"Of course Emma will miss her," said Mr Knightley. "But all Miss Taylor's friends must be glad⁸ that she is so happily married."

1 cheer up: make happy

2 backgammon: board game



3 pleased: happy

4 look after: take care of

5 criticize: talk about somebody's bad points

6 faults: defects; bad points

7 flatter: give compliments

8 glad: happy

6 "And you've forgotten," said Emma, "that I made the match¹ myself."

Mr Knightley shook his head at her.

Her father said, "Please don't do any more match-making², Emma."

"I promise I won't do it for myself, but I will for other people. It's great fun! And now I've been successful, I can't stop match-making."

"I don't understand what you mean by 'successful'," said Mr Knightley. "People can find themselves a husband or wife."

"Please don't make any more matches," said Mr Woodhouse.

"Only one more. I must find a wife for Mr Elton."

"If you want to be kind to Mr Elton, ask him to dinner."

"Yes," said Mr Knightley, laughing. "Invite him to dinner, Emma, but leave him to choose his own wife. A man of twenty-six can find his own wife."

Match-making

- Do you think match-making is positive or negative?
- Have you ever tried match-making your friends?

- 1 **match:** (here) marriage
- 2 **match-making:** (here) finding somebody a husband, wife or partner
- 3 **dying to:** really wanted to
- 4 **belong to her:** be hers
- 5 **intended:** planned

Chapter 2

7 Mr Weston's first wife was from a very rich Yorkshire family, the Churchills. She died three years after their marriage, and she left a son, Frank. Frank's aunt and uncle, Mr and Mrs Churchill didn't have any children, so they offered to look after him, and they all lived together at Enscombe in Scotland.

The next twenty years of Mr Weston's life passed happily. He bought Randalls, a large house near the village of Highbury in the south of England, which he loved. He saw his son once a year, and he was very proud of him. Highbury felt very proud of Frank Churchill, too, and everyone was dying to³ meet him. A visit was often talked about but never happened.

Now, although Emma wasn't interested in marrying, she often thought that she should marry Frank Churchill. He seemed to belong to her⁴. She thought that all their family and friends must want them to get married. And she was sure that Mr and Mrs Weston wanted them to marry. She really wanted to meet him. And she intended⁵ to like him, and to be liked by him.

On Emma's next visit to Randalls, she heard some exciting news.

"Frank is coming to stay," said Mr Weston, showing her into the sitting room. "I had a letter from him this morning."



"That's wonderful news!" said Emma. "And Mrs Weston must be happy, too."

"Yes, but she doesn't think that he'll come."

Emma spoke to Mrs Weston about it. "His visit depends on¹ his aunt agreeing to it," she said. "Mrs Churchill is jealous² of his love for his father."

Mr Frank Churchill didn't come. A letter of apology³ arrived. He was very sorry that he couldn't come, but Mrs Churchill needed him at home. Mr and Mrs Weston were very disappointed⁴, and Emma told Mr Knightley of their disappointment.

"I'm sure he could come if he wanted to," said Mr Knightley.

"I don't know why you say that. He really wants to come, but his uncle and aunt won't let him."

"If Frank Churchill really wanted to see his father, he could arrange it. A man of his age. What is he? Twenty-three or twenty-four."

"That's easily said by you."

"He's got money, and he's got free time. We know that he's got a lot of both. We're always hearing about him being at some seaside resort⁵ or other. A little while ago, he was at Weymouth. That proves that he can leave the Churchills."

"Yes, sometimes he can."

"There's one thing, Emma, which a man can always do, and that's his duty. It's Frank Churchill's duty to visit his father. He should say to Mrs Churchill—I must go and see my father. He'll be hurt⁶ if I don't visit him."



Frank Churchill

- Who is Frank? Tick (✓) the correct boxes.
 - Mr Weston's son by his first marriage.
 - Miss Taylor's son.
 - Mr and Mrs Churchill's nephew.
 - The Churchill's son.



"Mr Frank Churchill couldn't talk like that to his uncle and aunt."

"Then he's a very weak⁷ young man," said Mr Knightley.

"I'm sure he isn't a weak young man," cried Emma. "You seem determined⁸ to think badly of him."

"Me! Not at all," replied Mr Knightley. "I'd like to sing his praises⁹, but I haven't heard anything good about him, except that he's tall and good-looking. Oh, and he's polite."

"Then, he'll be very popular in Highbury. We don't see many tall, good-looking young men here. If he visits, there'll be only one subject in Donwell and Highbury—Mr Frank Churchill."

1 **depends on:** is decided by

2 **jealous:** wanting something somebody else has

3 **apology:** when you say you are sorry

4 **disappointed:** (here) sad because something doesn't happen

5 **seaside resort:** holiday town by the sea

6 **hurt:** sad; upset

7 **weak:** (here) not strong personality

8 **determined:** very sure you want to do something

9 **sing his praises:** talk about his good points

10 “If I find him intelligent, I’ll be glad to make friends with him. But if he is only a good-looking chatterbox¹, I won’t spend any time with him.”

“I think he’s one of those people who can get on with² everybody,” said Emma. “Everybody will like him. He’ll talk to you about farming, to me about drawing or music, and so on³ to everybody. That’s my idea of him.”

“And mine,” said Mr Knightley, “is, that if he’s anything like that, he’ll be awful!”

“I won’t talk about him any more,” cried Emma. “We’re both prejudiced⁴. You against him, and I for him.”

“Prejudiced! I’m not prejudiced. I don’t think about him at all,” said Mr Knightley.

Emma couldn’t understand why he was angry. It wasn’t like Mr Knightley to dislike somebody without meeting them.

1 **chatterbox**: somebody who talks a lot

2 **get on with**: be friends with

3 **and so on**: etc.

4 **prejudiced**: having an opinion about somebody that’s not fair

5 **apologize**: say sorry

6 **wondered**: asked herself

7 **lovely**: nice; good

8 **tremble**: your body moves without control because of fear or sadness

9 **been very fond of**: liked a lot

Chapter 3

11 The next day, Emma was in the village of Highbury, so she decided to visit Mrs and Miss Bates. They loved to have visitors, and Mr Knightley was always telling her she should visit them more often.

And so that morning, Emma sat with them for an hour. The conversation, as always, soon turned to Jane Fairfax, their niece.

"We had a letter from Jane this morning," said Miss Bates.

Emma was polite, "I hope she's well."

"Yes, she's very well," replied Miss Bates, while looking for the letter. "Oh! Here it is. But, first of all, I really must apologize⁵. It's such a short letter—only two pages."

Emma wondered⁶ if she could escape.

"It's two years, you know, since Jane was here," said Miss Bates.

"Is Jane coming to stay?"

"Oh yes, next week."

"That's good news," said Emma.

"Yes, it is. She's coming for three months. Colonel and Mrs Campbell are going to Ireland to stay with their daughter, Mrs Dixon, and her husband. Mr Dixon's a lovely⁷ young man. You know, he saved Jane's life at Weymouth. They were in a boat, and she was nearly thrown into the sea. I tremble⁸ when I think of it! But ever since we heard about that, I've been very fond of⁹ Mr Dixon! And so Jane is coming here next Friday or Saturday. I'm so excited! Well, now let's read her letter. I'm sure she tells her own story much better than I can."