

Among the educated gentry, the speech in the novel really does represent an ideal to which “accomplished” men and women aspired. One of the hallmarks of a gentleman or lady of that period was the ability to speak and write correctly, elegantly, and (if possible) wittily. In the next century, George Bernard Shaw’s play *Pygmalion* (the source of the musical *My Fair Lady*) sets out to prove that the chief difference between a lowly flower girl and a duchess lies in their speech.

Places and People in *Pride and Prejudice*

As you read the novel, you may wish to refer to the following chart, which will help you remember who people are and where they live. Although the author mentions other places and people in the novel, only those of importance to the story are given here.

Hertfordshire County

Longbourn (a village)

Mr. and Mrs. Bennet, whose five daughters, from eldest to youngest, are:

- Jane
- Elizabeth (Lizzy, Eliza)
- Mary
- Catherine (Kitty)
- Lydia

Meryton (a village)

Mr. and Mrs. Phillips (Mrs. Bennet’s brother-in-law and sister)
 George Wickham (an officer in the regiment stationed in Meryton)
 Colonel Forster (commanding officer of the regiment, later married and living in the beach resort town of Bath)

Lucas Lodge

Sir William Lucas and Lady Lucas
 Charlotte Lucas (their eldest daughter and Elizabeth’s best friend)
 Maria Lucas (Charlotte’s younger sister)

Netherfield (an estate)

Charles Bingley
 Caroline Bingley (the younger of Charles’ two sisters)
 Mrs. Louisa Hurst and Mr. Hurst (Charles’ other sister and brother-in-law)

Kent County

Rosings (an estate)

Lady Catherine de Bourgh (Darcy’s aunt and Mr. Collins’s patron)
 Miss Anne de Bourgh (Lady Catherine’s only daughter)

Hunford (a parsonage)

William Collins (a clergyman and cousin of the Bennets)

Derbyshire County

Pemberley (an estate)

Fitzwilliam Darcy (nephew of Lady Catherine de Bourgh)
 Georgiana Darcy (his younger sister)

Other Characters:

Mr. and Mrs. Gardiner (Mrs. Bennet’s brother and sister-in-law, who live in London)
 Colonel Fitzwilliam (Darcy’s cousin and part-guardian of Darcy’s sister Georgiana)