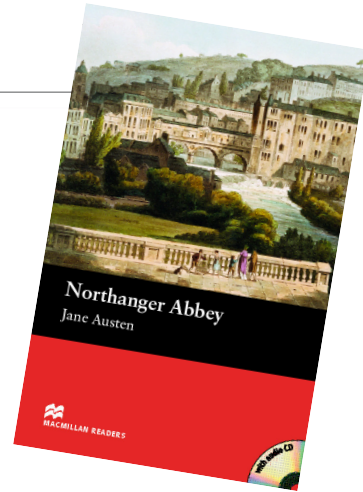


Northanger Abbey
by Jane Austen

Chapter Three: John and James

Author: Adrian Tennant
Level: Beginner – pre-intermediate
Age: Teenagers / adults
Time needed: 30 minutes approx
Preparation: Jumble up the sentences from Activity 1 for the alternative version.



Activity 1

- 1 Play the recording and ask the students to write down the names of the characters / people (*Catherine, Isabella, John and James*).

Note: For stronger students you could also ask them to write down the relationship between the people (*Catherine and Isabella are friends. John is Isabella's brother. James is Catherine's brother*).

- 2 Now write the following lines on the board:

'There are two young men in front of us.'
'Let's walk the other way.'
'That is my brother, John!'
'I'm very happy to meet you.'
'No, Isabella, you cannot come with us.'
'Yes, I shall take care of Miss Thorpe.'
'Please come in with your sister.'

- 3 Ask your students to copy the sentences down in their notebooks.
- 4 Tell the students you will play the chapter again and ask them to write the name of the speaker next to each sentence.
- 5 Play the recording again.
- 6 Put students in pairs and have them compare their answers.
- 7 Play the recording again, if necessary, and then check.

Answers:

'There are two young men in front of us.' (Isabella)
'Let's walk the other way.' (Catherine)
'That is my brother, John!' (Isabella)
'I'm very happy to meet you.' (John)

'No, Isabella, you cannot come with us.' (John)
'Yes, I shall take care of Miss Thorpe.' (James)
'Please come in with your sister.' (Isabella)

Alternative version

Write up the same sentences on the board, but in a different order. Tell your students they will listen to the chapter and they should number the sentences in the order they hear them. Play the recording and have the students do the activity.

Extension: Focus on intonation

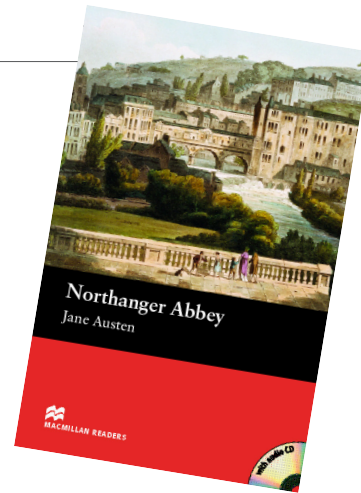
Play the sentences one at a time, pausing after each one. Have students repeat each sentence focusing on the stress and intonation.

Activity 2

- 1 Write up the names of the four characters on the board (*Isabella, Catherine, John and James*). Play the recording and have students say what the relationship is between the four people. (*Catherine and Isabella are friends. John is Isabella's brother. James is Catherine's brother*).
- 2 Now tell the students you want to focus on what Catherine is thinking or feeling.
- 3 Play the recording from the start until Catherine says, *'Let's walk the other way.'* Then pause the recording and ask students to write down what they think Catherine was thinking or feeling.
- 4 Put students in pairs and get them to compare their ideas.

Chapter Three: John and James

- 5 Ask a few students and find out what the consensus is. (*It's likely Catherine is nervous or uncomfortable with the situation.*)
- 6 Now play the recording up to the point where Catherine says, 'We will enjoy a drive in your carriage, Mr Thorpe.'
- 7 Again, ask the students to write down what they think Catherine was thinking or feeling and then compare their idea with a partner. (*She was probably excited.*)
- 8 Finally, play the recording up until the point where John Thorpe says, 'You will dance with me, Miss Morland.'
- 9 Again, ask the students to write down what they think Catherine was thinking or feeling and then compare their ideas with a partner. (*She wasn't very happy – because she wanted to meet Mr Tilney.*)



Extension: Imagine the story

Ask the students to imagine they are one of the characters / people in the story. What would they be feeling and doing?

Transcript

Two weeks passed. It was Thursday morning. Catherine and Isabella were walking together in the streets of Bath.

'There are two young men in front of us,' Isabella said. 'They are looking at me. Let's walk on faster. Then we can pass them.'

Catherine was very surprised.

'Let's walk the other way,' she said.

'No, no!' Isabella replied. 'I want to show you a wonderful bookshop in Milsom Street. The shop sells books of horror-stories!'

The streets were crowded. There were hundreds of people and there were many carriages.

Catherine and Isabella looked across the street. Suddenly, a small yellow carriage went past them. Isabella cried out.

'That is my brother, John!' she said. 'And your brother, James, is with him, Catherine!'

John Thorpe saw the two girls. He stopped the horse and he jumped down from the yellow carriage. His servant held the horse's reins.

John Thorpe was a fat young man with a plain face. He was not handsome. He turned and walked towards Catherine and Isabella. He bowed.

'John, this is Miss Morland, James' sister,' Isabella said.

'I'm very happy to meet you,' John Thorpe said, in a loud voice.

'Do you like my horse and carriage, Miss Morland?' John Thorpe asked. 'They are the best in Bath! I will take you for a drive one day.'

'We will enjoy a drive in your carriage, Mr Thorpe,' Catherine said.

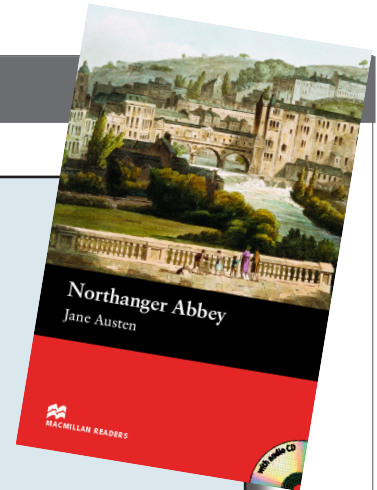
'But four people cannot get into John's carriage,' said Isabella. 'I cannot come with you, Catherine.'

She smiled.

'No, Isabella, you cannot come with us,' John said rudely. 'James will take care of you.'

At that moment, James Morland walked up to them. James was tall and handsome. He smiled. 'Yes. I shall take care of Miss Thorpe,' he said.

Isabella laughed happily.



Transcript

John Thorpe's servant drove the carriage away. The four young people walked along the street.

Soon, they came to Edgar's Buildings. Isabella spoke to James Morland. 'We have an apartment here,' she said. 'Please come in with your sister.'

The friends were together for an hour. John Thorpe talked to Catherine, and James Morland talked to Isabella.

'Shall we meet again tonight?' Isabella asked Catherine and James. 'There is a ball at the Upper Rooms.'

'Yes, let's meet tonight!' said John Thorpe. 'You will dance with me, Miss Morland.'

Catherine smiled. But she wanted to see Mr Tilney at the ball!

