

that it can express every sound in the language perfectly, vowels as well as consonants, and that your hand has to make no stroke except the easy and current ones with which you write m, n, and u, l, p, and q, scribbling them at whatever angle comes easiest to you, his unfortunate determination to make this remarkable and quite **legible** script serve also as a Shorthand reduced it in his own practice to the most **inscrutable** of cryptograms. His true objective was the provision of a full, accurate, legible script for our noble but ill-dressed language; but he was led past that by his contempt for the popular Pitman system of Shorthand, which he called the Pitfall system. The triumph of Pitman was a triumph of business organization: there was a weekly paper to persuade you to learn Pitman: there were cheap textbooks and exercise books and transcripts of speeches for you to copy, and schools where experienced teachers coached you up to the necessary proficiency. Sweet could not organize his market in that fashion. He might as well have been the Sybil who **tore** up the leaves of prophecy that nobody would attend to. The four and six-penny manual, mostly in his lithographed handwriting, that was never **vulgarly** advertized, may perhaps some day be taken up by a syndicate and pushed upon the public as The Times pushed the Encyclopaedia Britannica; but until then it will certainly not prevail against Pitman. I have bought three copies of it during my lifetime; and I am informed by the publishers that its **cloistered** existence is still a steady and healthy one. I actually learned the system two several times; and yet the shorthand in which I am writing these lines is Pitman's. And the reason is, that my secretary cannot **transcribe** Sweet, having been **perforce** taught in the schools of Pitman. Therefore, Sweet railed at Pitman as **vainly** as Thersites railed at Ajax: his **raillery**, however it may have eased his soul, gave no popular vogue to Current Shorthand. Pygmalion Higgins is not a portrait of Sweet, to whom the adventure of Eliza Doolittle would have been impossible; still, as will be seen, there are touches of Sweet in the play. With Higgins's physique and temperament Sweet might have set the Thames on fire. As it was, he impressed himself professionally on Europe to an extent that made his comparative personal obscurity, and the failure of Oxford to do justice to his eminence, a puzzle to foreign specialists in his subject. I do not blame Oxford, because I think

Thesaurus

cloistered: (*adj*) secluded, solitary, claustral, isolated, recluse, cloistral, conventual, monastic, monastical, private, sequestered. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) public, conspicuous, open.

inscrutable: (*adj*) inexplicable, incomprehensible, mysterious, weird, cryptic, cryptical, deep, enigmatic, uncanny, hidden, arcane. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) transparent, expressive, clear, straightforward.

legible: (*adj*) readable, distinct, fair,

plain, clean, definite, explicit, understandable, direct, cloudless, light. ANTONYM: (*adj*) unreadable.

perforce: (*n*) on compulsion; (*adv*) needs.

raillery: (*n*) mockery, joke, irony, quiz, persiflage, derision, ridicule, pleasantry, tease, jest, badinage.

tore: (*v*) tare; (*n*) moulding, molding.

transcribe: (*n, v*) copy, reproduce; (*v*) record, transliterate, note, put down, write down, write, paraphrase; (*n*)

duplicate, imitate.

vainly: (*adv*) uselessly, futilely, fruitlessly, conceitedly, in vain, worthlessly, abortively, bootlessly, arrogantly, unproductively; (*adj, adv*) foolishly. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) fruitfully, successfully, effectively.

vulgarly: (*adv*) crudely, commonly, plebeianly, grossly, smuttily, uncouthly, boorishly, cheaply, rudely, vilely, tastelessly. ANTONYM: (*adv*) decently.

Oxford is quite right in demanding a certain social amenity from its nurslings (heaven knows it is not exorbitant in its requirements!); for although I well know how hard it is for a man of genius with a seriously **underrated** subject to maintain serene and kindly relations with the men who underrate it, and who keep all the best places for less important subjects which they **profess** without originality and sometimes without much capacity for them, still, if he overwhelms them with wrath and disdain, he cannot expect them to heap **honors** on him.

Of the later generations of phoneticians I know little. Among them towers the Poet Laureate, to whom perhaps Higgins may owe his Miltonic sympathies, though here again I must **disclaim** all portraiture. But if the play makes the public aware that there are such people as phoneticians, and that they are among the most important people in England at present, it will serve its turn.

I wish to boast that Pygmalion has been an extremely successful play all over Europe and North America as well as at home. It is so intensely and deliberately **didactic**, and its subject is **esteemed** so dry, that I delight in throwing it at the heads of the wiseacres who repeat the parrot cry that art should never be didactic. It goes to prove my contention that art should never be anything else.

Finally, and for the encouragement of people troubled with accents that cut them off from all high employment, I may add that the change wrought by Professor Higgins in the flower girl is neither impossible nor uncommon. The modern concierge's daughter who fulfils her ambition by playing the Queen of Spain in Ruy Blas at the Theatre Francais is only one of many thousands of men and women who have sloughed off their native dialects and acquired a new tongue. But the thing has to be done scientifically, or the last state of the **aspirant** may be worse than the first. An honest and natural slum dialect is more tolerable than the attempt of a **phonetically untaught** person to imitate the vulgar dialect of the golf club; and I am sorry to say that in spite of the efforts of our Academy of Dramatic Art, there is still too much sham golfing English on our stage, and too little of the noble English of Forbes Robertson.

Thesaurus

aspirant: (n) applicant, claimant, amateur, contender, contestant, postulant, entrant; (adj, n) hopeful; (adj) aspiring, ambitious, wishful.
didactic: (adj) didactical, tutorial, preceptive, moralistic, enlightening, academic, edifying, informative, moralizing, pedantic, sentimental.
disclaim: (v) deny, renounce, abjure, disavow, disown, abdicate, gainsay, waive, repudiate, disaffirm, abnegate. ANTONYMS: (v)

acknowledge, admit, accept.
esteemed: (adj) dear, reputable, respected, honorable, noble, honored, prestigious, important, distinguished, August, respect. ANTONYM: (adj) disreputable.
honors: (n) formality.
phonetically: (adv) vocally.
profess: (v) assert, feign, affirm, avow, state, pretend, claim, confess, allege, aver; (n, v) protest. ANTONYM: (v) repress.

underrate: (v) underestimate, depreciate, misjudge, disparage, undervalue, play down, detract, decry, belittle, disdain, slight. ANTONYMS: (v) overrate, emphasize.
untaught: (adj) illiterate, ignorant, unschooled, uninformed, untutored, uninstructed, uncultivated, unlicked, unnurtured, unhatched, unfledged. ANTONYMS: (adj) trained, educated, literate, economical.

ACT I

[Covent Garden at 11.15 p.m. **Torrents** of heavy summer rain. Cab whistles blowing **frantically** in all directions. Pedestrians running for shelter into the market and under the **portico** of St. Paul's Church, where there are already several people, among them a lady and her daughter in evening dress. They are all **peering** out **gloomily** at the rain, except one man with his back turned to the rest, who seems wholly **preoccupied** with a **notebook** in which he is writing busily.]

[The church clock strikes the first quarter.]

THE DAUGHTER.

[in the space between the central pillars, close to the one on her left] I'm getting **chilled** to the bone. What can Freddy be doing all this time? He's been gone twenty minutes.

THE MOTHER.

[on her daughter's right] Not so long. But he ought to have got us a cab by this.

A BYSTANDER.

[on the lady's right] He won't get no cab not until half-past **eleven**, **missus**, when they come back after dropping their theatre fares.

Thesaurus

chilled: (*adj*) frozen, freezing, cool, refrigerated, icy, inhibited, restrained, confined, shivering, iced, stiff.

eleven: (*adj*, *n*) xi; (*n*) eight, squad, football team, team.

frantically: (*adv*) frenziedly, desperately, wildly, distractedly, furiously, excitedly, deliriously, ravingly, distraughtly, fiercely, crazily. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) sensibly, cautiously, peacefully, sluggishly.

gloomily: (*adv*) murkily, obscurely, drearily, darkly, somberly, morosely, sadly, sorrowfully, despondently, unhappily, glumly. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) brightly, favorably, happily, optimistically, contentedly; (*adj*) auspiciously.

missus: (*n*) lady, wife, matron, married woman.

notebook: (*n*) book, exercise book, exercise-book, jotter, books, laptop, pad, notebook computer, folder,

agenda, note pad.

peering: (*adj*) nosy, prying, snoopy.

portico: (*n*) portal, arcade, entrance, veranda, corridor, mouth, lips, inlet, chops, balcony, orifice.

preoccupied: (*adj*) absorbed, abstracted, thoughtful, lost, rapt, distracted, faraway, inattentive, deep in thought, engrossed, pensive. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) alert, carefree, uninterested.

torrents: (*n*) white water, rapids.

THE MOTHER.

But we must have a cab. We can't stand here until half-past eleven. It's too bad.

THE BYSTANDER.

Well, it ain't my fault, missus.

THE DAUGHTER.

If Freddy had a bit of **gumption**, he would have got one at the theatre door.

THE MOTHER.

What could he have done, poor boy?

THE DAUGHTER.

Other people got cabs. Why couldn't he?

Freddy **rushes** in out of the rain from the Southampton Street side, and comes between them **closing** a **dripping umbrella**. He is a young man of twenty, in evening dress, very wet around the ankles.

THE DAUGHTER.

Well, haven't you got a cab?

FREDDY.

There's not one to be had for love or money.

THE MOTHER.

Oh, Freddy, there must be one. You can't have tried.

THE DAUGHTER.

It's too **tiresome**. Do you expect us to go and get one **ourselves**?

FREDDY.

I tell you they're all **engaged**. The rain was so sudden: nobody was prepared; and everybody had to take a cab. I've been to Charing Cross one way and nearly to Ludgate Circus the other; and they were all engaged.

THE MOTHER.

Did you try Trafalgar Square?

Thesaurus

closing: (*n*) end, finish, conclusion, close, ending, shutting, finishing; (*adj*) ultimate, last, final, terminal. ANTONYMS: (*adj, n*) opening; (*adj*) first.
dripping: (*adj*) wet, damp, drenched, sodden, soaked, soggy; (*adj, adv*) sopping, soaking; (*adj, v*) reeking; (*n*) dribble, a drop. ANTONYM: (*adj*) lacking.
engaged: (*adj*) occupied, betrothed, employed, affianced, engrossed,

reserved, absorbed, working, pledged, involved, committed. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) free, unengaged, unemployed, uncommitted, unattached, single, detached, idle.
gumption: (*n*) fortitude, nous, grit, backbone, mettle, judgment, sagaciousness, cleverness, sagacity, initiative, moxie.
ourselves: (*pron*) myself, herself, itself, oneself, themselves, yourself; (*n*) me, yourselves, usself.

rushes: (*n*) rush, grasses.
tiresome: (*adj*) tedious, dull, laborious, irksome, monotonous, annoying, slow, dreary, bothersome; (*adj, v*) wearisome, troublesome. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) stimulating, fun, varied, soothing, pleasant, brisk, exciting, convenient, refreshing.
umbrella: (*n*) parasol, sunshade, shelter, canopy, cover, gamp, protection, tent, shield, screen, umbra.

FREDDY.

There wasn't one at Trafalgar Square.

THE DAUGHTER.

Did you try?

FREDDY.

I tried as far as Charing Cross Station. Did you expect me to walk to Hammersmith?

THE DAUGHTER.

You haven't tried at all.

THE MOTHER.

You really are very helpless, Freddy. Go again; and **don't** come back until you have found a cab.

FREDDY.

I shall simply get **soaked** for nothing.

THE DAUGHTER.

And what about us? Are we to stay here all night in this **draught**, with next to nothing on. You selfish pig--

FREDDY.

Oh, very well: I'll go, I'll go. [He opens his umbrella and dashes off Strandwards, but comes into **collision** with a flower girl, who is **hurrying** in for shelter, **knocking** her basket out of her hands. A **blinding** flash of **lightning**, followed instantly by a **rattling** peal of **thunder**, orchestrates the incident]

THE FLOWER GIRL.

Nah then, Freddy: look wh' y' gowin, deah.

FREDDY.

Sorry [he rushes off].

THE FLOWER GIRL

[picking up her scattered **flowers** and replacing them in the basket] There's

Thesaurus

blinding: (*adj*) dazzling, blazing, amazingly impressive, bisson, blatant, fulgent, glory; (*n*) clogging, blind blocking, blindage.
collision: (*n*) clash, hit, conflict, crash, smash, clashing, accident, rencounter, jar, striking, hitting.
don't: (*adv*) not; (*n*) taboo, prohibition.
draught: (*n, v*) draft, sketch, design, potation, plan; (*n*) dose, air current, wind, gulp, outline; (*v*) blueprint.
flowers: (*n*) analecta, anthology.

hurrying: (*n*) hastening, speed, quickening, rushing, early, speeding, speeding up, stepping up, amphetamine, forward, eager.
knocking: (*n*) sound, bang, beating, hit, rap, strike, belt, criticism, bash.
lightning: (*n*) levin, electricity, thunderbolt, Leven, ignis fatuus, heat lightning, forked lightning, fetter, dart, chain lightning; (*adj*) wind.
peal: (*n*) ding, noise, clang, dingdong, blast; (*v*) chime, knell, toll, echo; (*adj*,

n) swell; (*n, v*) bang.
rattling: (*adj*) lively, brisk, racy, marvelous, fantastic, zippy, snappy, spanking, merry; (*adv*) very, real.
soaked: (*adj*) wet, drenched, sopping, soggy, soaking, drunk, wet through, soaking wet, damp, sloshed; (*adj, v*) sodden. ANTONYM: (*adj*) dry.
thunder: (*adj, n, v*) boom; (*n, v*) roar, bang, roll, bellow; (*adj, n*) peal; (*adj, v*) explode, detonate; (*v*) howl, rumble, fulminate.

menners f' yer! Te-oo banches o voylets trod into the mad. [She sits down on the **plinth** of the column, sorting her flowers, on the lady's right. She is not at all an attractive person. She is perhaps eighteen, perhaps twenty, hardly older. She wears a little sailor hat of black straw that has long been exposed to the dust and **soot** of London and has seldom if ever been brushed. Her hair needs washing rather badly: its **mousy color** can hardly be natural. She wears a **shoddy** black coat that reaches nearly to her knees and is shaped to her waist. She has a brown skirt with a coarse apron. Her boots are much the worse for wear. She is no doubt as clean as she can afford to be; but compared to the ladies she is very dirty. Her features are no worse than theirs; but their condition leaves something to be desired; and she needs the services of a dentist].

THE MOTHER.

How do you know that my son's name is Freddy, pray?

THE FLOWER GIRL.

Ow, eez ye-ooa san, is e? Wal, fewd dan y' de-ooty bawmz a mather should, eed now bettern to **spawl** a **pore** gel's flahrzn than ran awy atbaht pyin. Will ye-oo py me f'them? [Here, with apologies, this desperate attempt to represent her dialect without a phonetic alphabet must be abandoned as **unintelligible** outside London.]

THE DAUGHTER.

Do nothing of the sort, mother. The idea!

THE MOTHER.

Please allow me, Clara. Have you any **pennies**?

THE DAUGHTER.

No. I've nothing smaller than sixpence.

THE FLOWER GIRL

[hopefully] I can give you change for a tanner, kind lady.

Thesaurus

color: (*n, v*) flush, blush, tint, tinge, paint, stain; (*adj, n, v*) colour; (*v*) redden; (*n*) guise, complexion; (*adj, n*) tone. ANTONYMS: (*v*) discolor, pale, show, whiten, untwist, denote, depict, represent, blanch, blench.
mousy: (*adj*) mousey, shy, mouselike, fearful, silent, dull, gray, sheepish, frightened, dumb, chromatic. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) bold, brazen.
pennies: (*n*) change.
plinth: (*n*) footstall, pedestal, dado,

shank, zocle, support, wainscot, socle, skirting board, stand, dais.
pore: (*n*) stoma, interstice, emunctory, gully hole; (*v*) speculate, meditate, contemplate, concentrate, centre, engulf, engross.
shoddy: (*adj*) inferior, poor, tawdry, shabby, tacky, paltry, low, substandard, cheapjack, sleazy, common. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) meticulous, polished, thorough, professional, perfect, tasteful.

soot: (*n*) smut, lampblack, carbon black, grime, carbon, crock, dirt; (*adj*) ink, ebony, coal pitch, jet.
spawl: (*n*) spattle, spatula.
unintelligible: (*adj*) opaque, inarticulate, unfathomable, impenetrable, unaccountable, ambiguous, not clear, obscure, indistinct, inconceivable, secret. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) understandable, clear, comprehensible, intelligible, obvious.

THE MOTHER

[to Clara] Give it to me. [Clara parts reluctantly]. Now [to the girl] This is for your flowers.

THE FLOWER GIRL.

Thank you kindly, lady.

THE DAUGHTER.

Make her give you the change. These things are only a penny a **bunch**.

THE MOTHER.

Do hold your tongue, Clara. [To the girl]. You can keep the change.

THE FLOWER GIRL.

Oh, thank you, lady.

THE MOTHER.

Now tell me how you know that young gentleman's name.

THE FLOWER GIRL.

I didn't.

THE MOTHER.

I heard you call him by it. Don't try to **deceive** me.

THE FLOWER GIRL

[protesting] Who's trying to deceive you? I called him Freddy or Charlie same as you might yourself if you was talking to a stranger and wished to be pleasant. [She sits down beside her basket].

THE DAUGHTER.

Sixpence thrown away! Really, **mamma**, you might have spared Freddy that. [She retreats in **disgust** behind the pillar].

[An **ELDERLY GENTLEMAN** of the **amiable** military type rushes into shelter, and closes a dripping umbrella. He is in the same **plight** as **FREDDY**, very wet about the ankles. He is in evening dress, with a light **overcoat**. He takes the place left vacant by the daughter's retirement.]

Thesaurus

amiable: (*adj*) friendly, genial, agreeable, benign, complaisant, sweet, cordial, pleasant, likable, nice, lovely. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) disagreeable, argumentative, aggressive, antisocial, unkind, hateful, mean, quarrelsome, rude, surly, cold.
bunch: (*n, v*) crowd, clump, pack, bundle, group, huddle; (*n*) batch, lot, band, troop, gang. ANTONYMS: (*v*) spread, separate, scatter; (*n*)

individual.
deceive: (*v*) cheat, circumvent, bamboozle, pretend, hoax, fool, cozen, trick, beguile; (*n, v*) dupe; (*n*) fraud. ANTONYMS: (*v*) guide, inform, undeceive, protect.
disgust: (*n*) antipathy, aversion, abhorrence, abomination, detestation, dislike, repugnance; (*n, v*) shock, distaste; (*v*) nauseate, displease. ANTONYMS: (*n, v*) delight; (*n*) love, attraction, liking, adoration; (*v*)

attract, allure, charm, entice, please.
mamma: (*n*) breast, mother, ma, knocker, boob, mum, mammy, mom, momma, mommy, mummy.
overcoat: (*n*) greatcoat, coat, cloak, robe, topcoat, surcoat, coating, overcoating, capote, chesterfield, gown.
plight: (*n*) condition, predicament, fix, fettle, quandary, dilemma, case, guarantee; (*n, v*) engage, promise; (*v*) covenant.

THE GENTLEMAN.

Phew!

THE MOTHER

[to the gentleman] Oh, sir, is there any sign of its **stopping**?

THE GENTLEMAN.

I'm afraid not. It started worse than ever about two minutes ago. [He goes to the plinth beside the **flower** girl; puts up his foot on it; and stoops to turn down his trouser ends].

THE MOTHER.

Oh, dear! [She retires sadly and joins her daughter].

THE FLOWER GIRL

[taking advantage of the military gentleman's **proximity** to establish friendly relations with him]. If it's worse it's a sign it's nearly over. So **cheer** up, Captain; and buy a flower off a poor girl.

THE GENTLEMAN.

I'm sorry, I haven't any change.

THE FLOWER GIRL.

I can give you change, Captain,

THE GENTLEMEN.

For a **sovereign**? I've nothing less.

THE FLOWER GIRL.

Garn! Oh do buy a flower off me, Captain. I can change half-a-crown. Take this for **tuppence**.

THE GENTLEMAN.

Now don't be **troublesome**: there's a good girl. [Trying his pockets] I really haven't any change--Stop: here's three hapence, if that's any use to you [he retreats to the other pillar].

Thesaurus

cheer: (*v*) animate, applaud, amuse, hearten, inspire, lighten; (*n, v*) comfort, delight, cry; (*adj, v*) embolden; (*n*) consolation.
ANTONYMS: (*n*) sadness, boo, uncheerfulness, hiss, pessimism, raspberry; (*v*) depress, discourage, dissuade, complain, jeer.
flower: (*n, v*) blossom, blow; (*v*) effloresce, flourish; (*adj, n*) prime; (*n*) efflorescence, elite, cream, bouquet, floret, florescence. **ANTONYMS:** (*n*)

residue; (*v*) wither.
proximity: (*n*) propinquity, vicinity, adjacency, neighborhood, contiguity, presence, closeness, contact, nearby, juxtaposition, approach. **ANTONYM:** (*n*) remoteness.
sovereign: (*n*) ruler, king, lord, emperor; (*adj*) independent, autonomous, imperial, royal, free, regal; (*adj, n*) prince. **ANTONYMS:** (*adj*) dependent, ineffective, useless.
stopping: (*n*) stoppage, cessation,

shutdown, padding, fillet, suspension, stay, discontinuance, abeyance, interruption; (*adv*) haltingly.
troublesome: (*adj*) difficult, hard, arduous, bothersome, inconvenient, onerous, awkward, annoying, laborious, tough, heavy.
ANTONYMS: (*adj*) nice, helpful, useful, advantageous, convenient, uncomplicated, delightful.
tuppence: (*n*) twopence.

THE FLOWER GIRL

[disappointed, but thinking three halfpence better than nothing] Thank you, sir.

THE BYSTANDER

[to the girl] You be careful: give him a flower for it. There's a bloke here behind taking down every blessed word you're saying. [All turn to the man who is taking notes].

THE FLOWER GIRL

[springing up terrified] I ain't done nothing wrong by speaking to the gentleman. I've a right to sell flowers if I keep off the kerb. [**Hysterically**] I'm a respectable girl: so help me, I never spoke to him except to ask him to buy a flower off me. [General **hubbub**, mostly sympathetic to the flower girl, but **deprecating** her excessive sensibility. Cries of Don't start hollerin. Who's hurting you? Nobody's going to touch you. What's the good of fussing? Steady on. Easy, easy, etc., come from the elderly **staid spectators**, who pat her **comfortingly**. Less patient ones bid her shut her head, or ask her roughly what is wrong with her. A **remoter** group, not knowing what the matter is, crowd in and increase the noise with question and answer: What's the row? What she do? Where is he? A tec taking her down. What! him? Yes: him over there: Took money off the gentleman, etc. The flower girl, distraught and **mobbed**, breaks through them to the gentleman, crying mildly] Oh, sir, don't let him charge me. You dunno what it means to me. They'll take away my character and drive me on the streets for speaking to gentlemen. They--

THE NOTE TAKER

[coming forward on her right, the rest **crowding** after him] There, there, there, there! Who's hurting you, you silly girl? What do you take me for?

THE BYSTANDER.

It's all right: he's a gentleman: look at his boots. [Explaining to the note **taker**] She thought you was a copper's **nark**, sir.

THE NOTE TAKER

[with quick interest] What's a copper's nark?

Thesaurus

comfortingly: (*adv*) consolatorily, satisfyingly, cheeringly, encouragingly, soothingly.

crowding: (*n*) plough crowding, bunch, jostlement, overcrowding.

deprecating: (*adj*) deprecatory, belittling, ironic, deprecative, slighting, deadpan, critical, captious, depreciatory, depreciative, insulting.

hubbub: (*n*) commotion, uproar, disorder, din, noise, bustle, tumult, bedlam, brouhaha; (*n, v*) racket,

brawl. ANTONYM: (*n*) calm.

hysterically: (*adv*) feverishly, frantically, agitatedly, worriedly, wildly, violently, turbulently, excitedly, emotionally, passionately, stormily. ANTONYM: (*adv*) peacefully.

mobbed: (*adj*) packed, congested.

nark: (*v*) provoke, displease, annoy, irritate, rile, frustrate, get, harry, exasperate; (*n*) informer, narc.

remoter: (*adj*) ulterior, further, more

distant.

spectators: (*n*) spectator, gallery, viewer, viewers, attendance.

staid: (*adj, v*) serious, sedate, grave, solemn, sober, demure; (*adj*) calm, quiet, composed, somber, decorous.

ANTONYMS: (*adj*) frivolous, exciting, funny, daring, playful, bright, relaxed.

taker: (*n*) wagerer, user, customer, beggar, client, captor, stealer, respector, punter, parasite, better.

THE BYSTANDER

[inept at definition] It's a--well, it's a copper's nark, as you might say. What else would you call it? A sort of informer.

THE FLOWER GIRL

[still **hysterical**] I take my Bible **oath** I never said a word--

THE NOTE TAKER

[overbearing but **good-humored**] Oh, shut up, shut up. Do I look like a policeman?

THE FLOWER GIRL

[far from **reassured**] Then what did you take down my words for? How do I know whether you took me down right? You just show me what you've wrote about me. [The note taker opens his book and holds it steadily under her nose, though the pressure of the mob trying to read it over his shoulders would upset a weaker man]. What's that? That ain't proper writing. I can't read that.

THE NOTE TAKER.

I can. [Reads, **reproducing** her **pronunciation** exactly] "Cheer ap, Keptin; n' haw ya flahr orf a pore gel."

THE FLOWER GIRL

[much **distressed**] It's because I called him Captain. I meant no harm. [To the GENTLEMAN] Oh, sir, don't let him lay a charge agen me for a word like that. You--

THE GENTLEMAN.

Charge! I make no charge. [To the note taker] Really, sir, if you are a detective, you need not begin protecting me against **molestation** by young women until I ask you. Anybody could see that the girl meant no harm.

THE BYSTANDERS GENERALLY

[demonstrating against police **espionage**] Course they could. What business is it of yours? You mind your own affairs. He wants promotion, he does. Taking down people's words! Girl never said a word to him. What harm if

Thesaurus

distressed: (*adj*) worried, distraught, anxious, sad, disturbed, downcast, hurt, distracted, wretched, shocked, troubled. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) composed, content, euphoric, happy, comforted, glad, joyful, collected, unconcerned, unaffected.
espionage: (*n*) reconnaissance, spy, intelligence, spying, watch, autopsy, speculation.
good-humored: (*adj*) affable, cheerful, good-natured, pleasant, sweet,

funny, amicable, congenial, mild, obliging.
hysterical: (*adj, n*) feverish; (*adj*) wild, violent, eccentric, frenzied, emotional, fitful, febrile, erratic; (*n*) fanatical, hysterics. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) relaxed, composed, restrained.
molestation: (*adj, n*) annoyance; (*n*) disturbance, badgering, baiting, molest, hindrance, affliction, inconvenience, sexual harassment; (*adj*) infestation, outrage.

oath: (*n*) expletive, malediction, imprecation, promise, affidavit, cuss, swearing, pledge, assurance, asseveration; (*v*) swear.
pronunciation: (*n*) accent, articulation, enunciation, elocution, delivery, pronouncing, speech, inflection, homophony, mispronunciation, pronounce.
reassured: (*adj*) hopeful, reinsured, secure, confident.
reproducing: (*adj*) fruitful, fecund.

she did? Nice thing a girl can't shelter from the rain without being **insulted**, etc., etc., etc. [She is **conducted** by the more sympathetic demonstrators back to her plinth, where she resumes her seat and struggles with her emotion].

THE BYSTANDER.

He ain't a tec. He's a **blooming busybody**: that's what he is. I tell you, look at his boots.

THE NOTE TAKER

[turning on him **genially**] And how are all your people down at Selsey?

THE BYSTANDER

[suspiciously] Who told you my people come from Selsey?

THE NOTE TAKER.

Never you mind. They did. [To the girl] How do you come to be up so far east? You were born in Lisson Grove.

THE FLOWER GIRL

[appalled] Oh, what harm is there in my leaving Lisson Grove? It wasn't fit for a pig to live in; and I had to pay four-and-six a week. [In tears] Oh, boo-- hoo--oo--

THE NOTE TAKER.

Live where you like; but stop that noise.

THE GENTLEMAN

[to the girl] Come, come! he can't touch you: you have a right to live where you please.

A SARCASTIC BYSTANDER

[thrusting himself between the note taker and the gentleman] Park Lane, for instance. I'd like to go into the Housing Question with you, I would.

THE FLOWER GIRL

[subsiding into a **brooding melancholy** over her **basket**, and talking very **low-spiritedly** to herself] I'm a good girl, I am.

Thesaurus

basket: (*n*) cage, hamper, basketful, creel, Corf, coop, bucket, spinner basket, bassinet, containerful, cradle.

blooming: (*adj*) rosy, thriving, flourishing, healthy, prosperous, ruddy, booming, blossoming, cherry, verdant, green. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) arid, pale.

brooding: (*adj*) pondering, thoughtful, contemplative, hatching, meditative, pensive, wistful; (*v*) brewing, batching; (*n*) chick management,

parturition. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) shallow, cheerful.

busybody: (*n, v*) snoop; (*adj*) pickthank, devotee, enthusiast; (*n*) interloper, scandalmonger, big mouth, blabbermouth, chatterbox, chatterer; (*v*) meddle.

conducted: (*adj*) directed, guided.

genially: (*adv*) cordially, graciously, jovially, warmly, amiably, benignly, brightly, heartily, pleasantly, cheerfully, affably. ANTONYMS:

(*adv*) frostily, nastily, spitefully.

insulted: (*adj*) affronted, offended, injured, huffy.

low-spiritedly: (*adv*) depressedly.

melancholy: (*adj, v*) dreary; (*adj, n*) gloom, melancholic; (*adj*) depressed, dejected, dismal, gloomy, doleful; (*n, v*) low spirits; (*n*) gloominess, depression. ANTONYMS: (*n*) happiness, cheerfulness, hopefulness, optimism; (*adj*) happy, bright, cheery, satisfied.

THE SARCASTIC BYSTANDER

[not attending to her] Do you know where I come from?

THE NOTE TAKER

[promptly] Hoxton.

Titterings. Popular interest in the note taker's performance **increases**.

THE SARCASTIC ONE.

[amazed] Well, who said I didn't? Bly me! You know everything, you do.

THE FLOWER GIRL

[still nursing her sense of injury] Ain't no call to **meddle** with me, he ain't.

THE BYSTANDER

[to her] Of course he ain't. Don't you stand it from him. [To the note taker] See here: what call have you to know about people what never offered to meddle with you? Where's your **warrant**?

SEVERAL BYSTANDERS

[encouraged by this **seeming** point of law] Yes: where's your warrant?

THE FLOWER GIRL.

Let him say what he likes. I don't want to have no **truck** with him.

THE BYSTANDER.

You take us for **dirt** under your feet, don't you? Catch you taking **liberties** with a gentleman!

THE SARCASTIC BYSTANDER.

Yes: tell HIM where he come from if you want to go fortune-telling.

THE NOTE TAKER.

Cheltenham, Harrow, Cambridge, and India.

THE GENTLEMAN.

Quite right. [Great laughter. Reaction in the note taker's **favor**. Exclamations of He knows all about it. Told him proper. Hear him tell the **toff** where he come from? etc.]. May I ask, sir, do you do this for your living at a music hall?

Thesaurus

dirt: (*n, v*) soil, grime; (*n*) filth, dust, scandal, garbage, ground, earth, crap, mire, contamination. ANTONYMS: (*n*) cleanness, purity, luxury, cleanliness, newness.
favor: (*n, v*) countenance, aid, grace, support, benefit, boon; (*adj, n*) kindness; (*n*) advantage; (*v*) befriend, encourage, patronize. ANTONYMS: (*v*) hinder, contradict, dislike, hurt, differ, thwart, reject, demean; (*n*) derogation, disapproval, unkindness.

increases: (*adj*) increasing; (*n*) augmentation, addition.
liberties: (*n*) freedoms, familiarity, intimacy.
meddle: (*v*) intervene, interfere, intrude, monkey, interpose, fiddle, pry, dabble, interlope; (*n*) interference; (*adj*) moil. ANTONYM: (*v*) disregard.
seeming: (*adj*) ostensible, superficial, illusory, outward, probable, deceptive, specious; (*adj, n*)

appearance, semblance; (*n*) aspect, show. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) actual, deep, inner.
toff: (*n*) fop, man of means, rich man.
truck: (*n, v*) barter, traffic; (*n*) lorry, van, hand truck, car, cart, trade, bogie; (*v*) swap, swop.
warrant: (*n, v*) permit, vouch, license, assure, sanction, empower; (*n*) authority, authorization, security; (*v*) justify, ensure. ANTONYMS: (*n*) break; (*v*) debar.

THE NOTE TAKER.

I've thought of that. Perhaps I shall some day.

The rain has stopped; and the persons on the outside of the crowd begin to drop off.

THE FLOWER GIRL

[resenting the reaction] He's no gentleman, he ain't, to interfere with a poor girl.

THE DAUGHTER

[out of patience, pushing her way **rudely** to the front and displacing the gentleman, who politely retires to the other side of the **pillar**] What on earth is Freddy doing? I shall get **pneumonia** if I stay in this **draught** any longer.

THE NOTE TAKER

[to himself, hastily making a note of her pronunciation of "monia"] Earls court.

THE DAUGHTER

[violently] Will you please keep your **impertinent** remarks to yourself?

THE NOTE TAKER.

Did I say that out loud? I didn't mean to. I beg your pardon. Your mother's Epsom, unmistakably.

THE MOTHER

[advancing between her daughter and the note **taker**] How very curious! I was brought up in Largelady Park, near Epsom.

THE NOTE TAKER

[uproariously **amused**] Ha! ha! What a devil of a name! Excuse me. [To the daughter] You want a cab, do you?

THE DAUGHTER.

Don't dare speak to me.

THE MOTHER.

Oh, please, please Clara. [Her daughter repudiates her with an angry shrug]

Thesaurus

amused: (*adj*) amusing, smiling, tickled pink, pleased, diverted.

draught: (*n, v*) draft, sketch, design, potation, plan; (*n*) dose, air current, wind, gulp, outline; (*v*) blueprint.

impertinent: (*adj*) fresh, pert, saucy, forward, audacious, brash, brazen, extraneous, discourteous, disrespectful, flippant. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) respectful, polite, courteous.

pillar: (*n*) brace, mainstay, post, obelisk, foundation, pier, monument,

stanchion, backbone, buttress; (*adj, n*) tower.

pneumonia: (*adj*) pertussis, necrosis, pyrosis, rubeola, ringworm, rachitis, quinsy, pyaemia, psora; (*n*) pneumonitis, pneumony.

rudely: (*adv*) crudely, coarsely, uncivilly, indelicately, impolitely, roughly, harshly, vulgarly, brutally, meanly, wildly. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) respectfully, graciously, decently, civilly, properly, attentively,

agreeably, tactfully, thoughtfully, acceptably, gently.

taker: (*n*) wagerer, user, customer, beggar, client, captor, stealer, respector, punter, parasite, better.

and retires haughtily.] We should be so grateful to you, sir, if you found us a cab. [The note taker produces a **whistle**]. Oh, thank you. [She joins her daughter]. The note taker blows a **piercing** blast.

THE SARCASTIC BYSTANDER.

There! I knowed he was a plain-clothes **copper**.

THE BYSTANDER.

That ain't a police whistle: that's a **sporting** whistle.

THE FLOWER GIRL

[still preoccupied with her **wounded** feelings] He's no right to take away my character. My character is the same to me as any lady's.

THE NOTE TAKER.

I don't know whether you've noticed it; but the rain stopped about two minutes ago.

THE BYSTANDER.

So it has. Why didn't you say so before? and us **losing** our time listening to your **silliness**. [He walks off towards the Strand].

THE SARCASTIC BYSTANDER.

I can tell where you come from. You come from Anwell. Go back there.

THE NOTE TAKER

[helpfully] Hanwell.

THE SARCASTIC BYSTANDER

[affecting great distinction of speech] Thank you, teacher. Haw haw! So long [he touches his hat with **mock** respect and strolls off].

THE FLOWER GIRL.

Frightening people like that! How would he like it himself.

THE MOTHER.

It's quite fine now, Clara. We can walk to a motor bus. Come. [She gathers her skirts above her ankles and hurries off towards the Strand].

Thesaurus

copper: (*n*) brass, bull, cop, Cu, constable, gold, fuzz, pig, cent, bobby, coin.
losing: (*v*) lose; (*n*) loss; (*adv*) losingly, behind; (*adj*) unbeneficial.
ANTONYM: (*adj*) lucrative.
mock: (*adj, v*) counterfeit; (*n, v*) ridicule, jeer, gibe, laugh at, flout; (*adj, n, v*) burlesque, sham; (*v*) mimic, ape, taunt. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) real, natural; (*v*) praise, applaud, respect, approve.

piercing: (*adj, n*) sharp, cutting; (*adj, v*) keen, penetrating, biting, bitter, harsh, shrill; (*adj*) high, raw, loud.
ANTONYMS: (*adj*) quiet, dull, soft, hot.
silliness: (*n*) absurdity, foolishness, folly, nonsense, giddiness, fatuousness, fatuity, lunacy, idiocy, inanity, stupidity. ANTONYMS: (*n*) logic, maturity, wisdom, responsibility, sensibleness.
sporting: (*adj*) fair, sportsmanlike,

clean, gambling, betting, dissipated, athletic, adventurous, sporty; (*v*) tauromachy; (*n*) diversion.
ANTONYM: (*adj*) unsporting.
whistle: (*v*) sing, twitter, hiss, warble, tweet, cheep, chirp, wheeze; (*n, v*) cry; (*n*) whistling, tin whistle.
wounded: (*adj, v*) hurt; (*n*) casualty, maimed; (*adj*) bruised, injured, bloody, aggrieved, saddened; (*v*) stricken, wound, struck. ANTONYM: (*adj*) unaffected.

THE DAUGHTER.

But the cab--[her mother is out of hearing]. Oh, how tiresome! [She follows angrily].

[All the rest have gone except the NOTE TAKER, the GENTLEMAN, and the FLOWER GIRL, who **sits arranging** her basket, and still **pitying** herself in murmurs.]

THE FLOWER GIRL.

Poor girl! Hard enough for her to live without being worried and chivied.

THE GENTLEMAN

[returning to his former place on the note taker's left] How do you do it, if I may ask?

THE NOTE TAKER.

Simply phonetics. The science of speech. That's my profession; also my **hobby**. Happy is the man who can make a living by his hobby! You can spot an Irishman or a Yorkshireman by his **brogue**. I can place any man within six miles. I can place him within two miles in London. Sometimes within two streets.

THE FLOWER GIRL.

Ought to be **ashamed** of himself, **unmanly coward**!

THE GENTLEMAN.

But is there a living in that?

THE NOTE TAKER.

Oh yes. Quite a fat one. This is an age of upstarts. Men begin in Kentish Town with 80 pounds a year, and end in Park Lane with a hundred thousand. They want to drop Kentish Town; but they give themselves away every time they open their mouths. Now I can teach them--

THE FLOWER GIRL.

Let him mind his own business and leave a poor girl--

Thesaurus

arranging: (*n*) arrange, arrangements, disposition, composing, composition, order, position, set, orchestration, organization, agreement.

ashamed: (*adj*) hangdog, guilty, embarrassed, sheepish, remorseful, regretful, bashful, disconcerted, contrite, chagrined; (*v*) dashed. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) proud, arrogant, unremorseful, unashamed, pleased, blatant, bold, happy, unabashed, unrepentant.

brogue: (*n*) dialect, shoe, patois, idiom, accent, burr, galligaskin, buskin, clodhopper, larrigan, work shoe.

coward: (*n*) cur, pantywaist, sneak, dastard, milksop, weakling, milquetoast; (*adj*) gutless, chickenhearted, pusillanimous, chicken-hearted. ANTONYMS: (*n*) daredevil, stalwart; (*adj*) brave.

hobby: (*n*) amusement, cockhorse, pursuit, avocation, interest, pastime, entertainment, indulgence, fancy,

hobbyhorse, sideline. ANTONYMS: (*n*) work, job.

pitying: (*adj*) sympathetic, merciful, pity, pityingly, gloomy, meritless, pitiful, sorry, sorry for, humane, dreary.

sits: (*n*) sat.

unmanly: (*adj*) pusillanimous, fearful, unmanlike, unchivalric, unknighly, unmanful, craven, weak; (*adv*) unmanfully, cowardly, effeminately. ANTONYM: (*adv*) manfully.

THE NOTE TAKER

[explosively] Woman: cease this **detestable** boohooing instantly; or else seek the shelter of some other place of worship.

THE FLOWER GIRL

[with feeble defiance] I've a right to be here if I like, same as you.

THE NOTE TAKER.

A woman who utters such depressing and disgusting sounds has no right to be anywhere--no right to live. Remember that you are a human being with a soul and the divine gift of articulate speech: that your native language is the language of Shakespear and Milton and The Bible; and don't sit there crooning like a **bilious pigeon**.

THE FLOWER GIRL

[quite overwhelmed, and looking up at him in **mingled** wonder and **deprecation** without daring to raise her head] Ah--ah--ah--ow--ow--oo!

THE NOTE TAKER

[whipping out his book] Heavens! what a sound! [He writes; then holds out the book and reads, reproducing her vowels exactly] Ah--ah--ah--ow--ow--ow--oo!

THE FLOWER GIRL

[tickled by the performance, and laughing in **spite** of herself] Garn!

THE NOTE TAKER.

You see this creature with her **kerbstone** English: the English that will keep her in the **gutter** to the end of her days. Well, sir, in three months I could pass that girl off as a duchess at an ambassador's garden party. I could even get her a place as lady's maid or shop assistant, which requires better English. That's the sort of thing I do for commercial millionaires. And on the profits of it I do genuine scientific work in phonetics, and a little as a poet on Miltonic lines.

THE GENTLEMAN.

I am myself a student of Indian dialects; and--

Thesaurus

bilious: (*adj*) atrabilious, liverish, dyspeptic, queasy, irascible, saturnine, touchy, testy, splenetic, peppery; (*v*) jaundiced.
deprecation: (*n*) defamation, condemnation, disparagement, denigration, calumny, aspersion, censure, disfavour, denunciation, blame, criticism. ANTONYMS: (*n*) approval, commendation.
detestable: (*adj*) hateful, abhorrent, damnable, odious, offensive,

despicable, execrable, horrible, infamous; (*adj, v*) cursed; (*adj, adv*) atrocious. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) admirable, adorable, sweet, loveable, lovable, likable, delightful, cherished, honorable, desirable, nice.
gutter: (*n*) groove, trough, ditch, drain, chute, trench, canal, furrow, conduit, waterway, gully.
kerbstone: (*n*) curbstone, kerb, curb.
mingled: (*adj*) miscellaneous, complex, indiscriminate, heterogeneous,

medley, confused, eclectic, motley, different; (*v*) blended, blent.
pigeon: (*n*) dove, gull, gudgeon, cully, ringdove, victim, cushat, gobemouche, cull; (*v*) bilk, mulct.
spite: (*n*) malice, grudge, hatred, malevolence, rancour, venom, rancor, maliciousness, ill will, animosity; (*n, v*) pique. ANTONYMS: (*v*) please; (*n*) benevolence, goodwill, love, affection, harmony.

THE NOTE TAKER

[eagerly] Are you? Do you know Colonel Pickering, the **author** of Spoken Sanscrit?

THE GENTLEMAN.

I am Colonel Pickering. Who are you?

THE NOTE TAKER.

Henry Higgins, author of Higgins's Universal Alphabet.

PICKERING

[with enthusiasm] I came from India to meet you.

HIGGINS.

I was going to India to meet you.

PICKERING.

Where do you live?

HIGGINS.

27A Wimpole Street. Come and see me tomorrow.

PICKERING.

I'm at the Carlton. Come with me now and let's have a jaw over some **supper**.

HIGGINS.

Right you are.

THE FLOWER GIRL

[to PICKERING, as he passes her] Buy a flower, kind **gentleman**. I'm short for my **lodging**.

PICKERING.

I really haven't any change. I'm sorry [he goes away].

HIGGINS

[shocked at girl's **mendacity**] Liar. You said you could change half-a-crown.

THE FLOWER GIRL

[rising in **desperation**] You ought to be **stuffed** with nails, you ought. [**Flinging** the basket at his feet] Take the whole blooming basket for **sixpence**.

Thesaurus

author: (*n*) writer, producer, founder, creator, inventor, parent, originator, architect, maker; (*v*) compose, create. ANTONYM: (*n*) reader.
desperation: (*adj, n*) despair, fury, rage; (*n*) recklessness, foolhardiness, desperateness, burst, confusion, trouble, misery; (*adj*) raving.
 ANTONYMS: (*n*) optimism, confidence, hopefulness, hope, happiness, caution, prudence, calmness.

flinging: (*n*) casting, cast.
gentleman: (*n*) gent, Mr, male, patrician, sir, adult male, esquire, sahib, gentlemen; (*adj*) gentilhomme, gentlemanly.
lodging: (*n*) abode, apartment, accommodation, housing, hostel, residence, quarter, home, lodgement, address, hospice.
mendacity: (*n*) falsehood, falsity, deception, lie, deceit, falseness, fabrication, untruth, untruthfulness;

(*v*) perjury; (*adj*) untrue. ANTONYM: (*n*) veracity.
sixpence: (*n*) bender, coin, teston, testern.
stuffed: (*adj*) crammed, packed, congested, replete, loaded, filled, fraught, chock-full, crowded, jammed, gorged. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) hungry, lacking.
supper: (*n*) meal, tea, lunch, repast, reception, mealtime, siesta, social affair; (*v*) dejeuner, beber, whet.

[The church clock strikes the second quarter.]

HIGGINS

[hearing in it the voice of God, rebuking him for his Pharisaic want of charity to the poor girl] A reminder. [He raises his hat **solemnly**; then throws a handful of money into the basket and follows PICKERING].

THE FLOWER GIRL

[picking up a half-crown] Ah--ow--ooh! [Picking up a couple of florins] Aaah--ow--ooh! [Picking up several coins] Aaaaaah--ow--ooh! [Picking up a half-sovereign] Asaaaaaaaaah-- ow--ooh!!!

FREDDY

[springing out of a **taxicab**] Got one at last. **Hallo!** [To the girl] Where are the two ladies that were here?

THE FLOWER GIRL.

They **walked** to the bus when the rain stopped.

FREDDY.

And left me with a cab on my hands. **Damnation!**

THE FLOWER GIRL

[with **grandeur**] Never you mind, young man. I'm going home in a taxi. [She sails off to the cab. The driver puts his hand behind him and holds the door firmly shut against her. Quite understanding his **mistrust**, she shows him her handful of money]. Eightpence ain't no object to me, Charlie. [He **grins** and opens the door]. Angel Court, Drury Lane, round the corner of Micklejohn's oil shop. Let's see how fast you can make her hop it. [She gets in and pulls the door to with a **slam** as the taxicab starts].

FREDDY.

Well, I'm **dashed!**

Thesaurus

damnation: (*n*) damn, condemnation, anathema, state, curse, execration, judgment, oath, imprecation, denunciation, denouncement.
dashed: (*v*) ashamed, cut up, sunk; (*adj*) broken, done for, dejected, discouraged, dotted.
grandeur: (*n*) dignity, splendor, magnitude, brilliance, glory, pomp, elegance, majesty, magnificence, grandness; (*adj, n*) solemnity.
ANTONYMS: (*n*) modesty,

simplicity.
grins: (*n*) merriment, amusement, entertainment, fun, gaiety, levity, diversion, mirth, recreation, sport.
hallo: (*n*) hi, hullo.
mistrust: (*adj, n, v*) distrust; (*n, v*) doubt, query; (*n*) suspicion, misgiving, disbelief, apprehension, wariness; (*v*) suspect, disbelieve, discredit. ANTONYM: (*v*) believe.
slam: (*n, v*) knock, slap, smash, hit, bat; (*n*) sweep, crash, clap, shot, gibe;

(*v*) shut. ANTONYMS: (*v*) open, commend.
solemnly: (*adv*) earnestly, gravely, majestically, stately, sternly, staidly, thoughtfully, soberly, formally, ceremoniously, importantly.
ANTONYMS: (*adv*) cheerfully, flippantly.
taxicab: (*n*) hack, cab, yellow cab, jade, car, political hack, plug, nag, motorcycle, hack writer, drudge.
walked: (*adj*) exempt; (*v*) yode.

ACT II

[Next day at 11 a.m. Higgins's laboratory in Wimpole Street. It is a room on the first floor, looking on the street, and was meant for the drawing-room. The double doors are in the middle of the back hall; and persons entering find in the corner to their right two tall file cabinets at right angles to one another against the walls. In this corner stands a flat writing-table, on which are a **phonograph**, a laryngoscope, a row of tiny organ **pipes** with a **bellows**, a set of lamp **chimneys** for singing flames with burners attached to a gas plug in the wall by an indiarubber tube, several tuning-forks of different sizes, a life-size image of half a human head, showing in section the **vocal** organs, and a box containing a supply of wax cylinders for the phonograph.]

[Further down the room, on the same side, is a **fireplace**, with a comfortable leather-covered easy-chair at the side of the **hearth** nearest the door, and a coal-scuttle. There is a clock on the **mantelpiece**. Between the fireplace and the phonograph table is a stand for newspapers.]

[On the other side of the central door, to the left of the visitor, is a cabinet of shallow **drawers**. On it is a telephone and the telephone directory. The corner beyond, and most of the side wall, is occupied by a grand piano, with the keyboard at the end **furthest** from the door, and a bench for the player

Thesaurus

bellows: (*n*) blower, lung, bellowing, blowpipe, organ; (*v*) air blower, air pump, fan, punkah, ventilator.

chimneys: (*n*) chimney.

drawers: (*n*) knickers, pants, tights, shorts, bloomers, briefs, underwear, breeches, underpants, underdrawers, trousers.

fireplace: (*n*) chimney, fire, hearth, oven, stove, fire place, fireside, kitchen, niche, recess, furnace.

furthest: (*adj*) furthestmost, extreme,

farthermost, remotest, ultimate, utmost, uttermost, most remote, final, outermost; (*adv*) most. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) nearest, near.

hearth: (*n*) fire, oven, fireside, stove, chimney, focus, furnace, dwelling, kiln, home, abode.

mantelpiece: (*n*) chimneypiece, mantelpiece, shelf, chimneybreast, blanket, cape, sill, clavy, curtain, drape, drapery.

phonograph: (*n*) gramophone, record

player, jukebox, nickelodeon, microphone, mechanical recorder, acoustic gramophone, megaphone; (*v*) phonorganon, electronic devices.

pipes: (*n*) musette, tubing, tubes, pipe, tube.

vocal: (*adj*) oral, unwritten, outspoken, noisy, phonetic, sonant, sonorous, voiced, vowel, sung, eloquent.

ANTONYMS: (*adj*) written, instrumental, shy, introverted, modest, silent.

extending the full length of the keyboard. On the piano is a dessert dish **heaped** with fruit and sweets, mostly chocolates.]

[The middle of the room is clear. Besides the easy chair, the piano bench, and two chairs at the phonograph table, there is one stray chair. It stands near the fireplace. On the walls, engravings; mostly Piranesis and **mezzotint** portraits. No paintings.]

[PICKERING is **seated** at the table, putting down some cards and a tuning-fork which he has been using. HIGGINS is standing up near him, closing two or three file drawers which are hanging out. He appears in the morning light as a robust, vital, **appetizing** sort of man of forty or **thereabouts**, dressed in a professional-looking black frock-coat with a white linen collar and black silk tie. He is of the energetic, scientific type, heartily, even violently interested in everything that can be studied as a scientific subject, and careless about himself and other people, including their feelings. He is, in fact, but for his years and size, rather like a very **impetuous** baby "taking notice" eagerly and loudly, and requiring almost as much watching to keep him out of unintended mischief. His manner varies from genial bullying when he is in a good **humor** to stormy **petulance** when anything goes wrong; but he is so entirely frank and void of malice that he remains likeable even in his least reasonable moments.]

HIGGINS

[as he **shuts** the last drawer] Well, I think that's the whole show.

PICKERING.

It's really amazing. I haven't taken half of it in, you know.

HIGGINS.

Would you like to go over any of it again?

PICKERING

[rising and coming to the fireplace, where he plants himself with his back to the fire] No, thank you; not now. I'm quite done up for this morning.

Thesaurus

appetizing: (*adj*) delectable, delicious, appetising, luscious, savory, palatable, scrumptious, alluring, exquisite; (*adj, v*) tantalizing, spicy.
ANTONYMS: (*adj*) tasteless, unsavory, sickening, nauseating, inedible, distasteful, repulsive, revolting, unappealing.
heaped: (*adj*) dense, cumulative, concentrated, collective, coacervate, thick.
humor: (*n, v*) caprice, freak, humour;

(*n*) temper, mood, disposition, wit; (*v*) indulge, gratify; (*adj, n*) spirit, frame of mind. **ANTONYMS:** (*n*) seriousness, gravity, solemnity; (*v*) displease.
impetuous: (*adj*) boisterous, hasty, fiery, headlong, heady, hot, brash, foolhardy, dashing, fierce; (*adj, v*) impulsive. **ANTONYMS:** (*adj*) considered, careful, slow, sensible, patient.
mezzotint: (*n*) mezzotinto, lithotint,

etching; (*v*) engrave.
petulance: (*n*) touchiness, testiness, tetchiness, crossness, choler, fretfulness, peevishness, temper, acerbity; (*adj*) petulant, flippancy.
seated: (*adj*) sat, sedentary.
shuts: (*adj*) closed.
thereabouts: (*adj, adv*) about; (*adv*) nearly, generally, around, approximately, in the region of, more or less, something like, almost, so; (*adv, n*) hereabouts.

HIGGINS

[following him, and standing beside him on his left] Tired of listening to sounds?

PICKERING.

Yes. It's a **fearful** strain. I rather **fancied** myself because I can **pronounce** twenty-four distinct **vowel** sounds; but your hundred and thirty beat me. I can't hear a bit of difference between most of them.

HIGGINS

[chuckling, and going over to the piano to eat sweets] Oh, that comes with practice. You hear no difference at first; but you keep on listening, and presently you find they're all as different as A from B. [MRS. PEARCE looks in: she is Higgins's **housekeeper**] What's the matter?

MRS. PEARCE

[hesitating, evidently **perplexed**] A young woman wants to see you, sir.

HIGGINS.

A young woman! What does she want?

MRS. PEARCE.

Well, sir, she says you'll be glad to see her when you know what she's come about. She's quite a common girl, sir. Very common indeed. I should have sent her away, only I thought perhaps you wanted her to talk into your machines. I hope I've not done wrong; but really you see such **queer** people sometimes-- you'll excuse me, I'm sure, sir--

HIGGINS.

Oh, that's all right, Mrs. Pearce. Has she an interesting accent?

MRS. PEARCE.

Oh, something dreadful, sir, really. I don't know how you can take an interest in it.

HIGGINS

[to PICKERING] Let's have her up. Show her up, Mrs. Pearce [he rushes

Thesaurus

fancied: (*adj*) unreal, chimerical, fictional, fanciful, fictitious, fabricated, preferred, assumed, illusory, imagined, ideal.

fearful: (*adj, n*) afraid; (*adj, v*) dreadful, cowardly; (*adj*) terrible, apprehensive, awful, timid, anxious, craven, frightful, eerie. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) rational, calm, confident, bold, unimpressed, charming, fearless, courageous, reassuring, unafraid, wonderful.

housekeeper: (*n*) factotum, mistress, shepherd, householder, housewife, domestic, cleaning woman, croupier, domestic help, seneschal, house servant.

perplexed: (*adj*) confused, puzzled, baffled, confounded, doubtful, distracted, disconcerted; (*adj, v*) intricate, complicated, lost, involved. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) unperplexed, assured, clear, knowing.

pronounce: (*v*) articulate, declare,

affirm, say, assert, express, vocalize, proclaim; (*n, v*) allege; (*adj, v*) deliver, utter. ANTONYM: (*v*) mumble.

queer: (*adj*) fantastic, odd, eccentric, funny, curious, gay, peculiar, strange, quaint, fishy, outlandish.

ANTONYMS: (*adj*) conventional, normal, well.

vowel: (*n*) ablaut, consonant, diphthong, gradation, stem vowel, letter of the alphabet, schwa, shwa; (*adj*) vocal prayer, oral, sonant.

across to his working table and picks out a cylinder to use on the phonograph].

MRS. PEARCE

[only half resigned to it] Very well, sir. It's for you to say. [She goes downstairs].

HIGGINS.

This is rather a bit of luck. I'll show you how I make records. We'll set her talking; and I'll take it down first in Bell's visible Speech; then in broad Romic; and then we'll get her on the phonograph so that you can turn her on as often as you like with the written transcript before you.

MRS. PEARCE

[returning] This is the young woman, sir.

[The FLOWER GIRL enters in state. She has a hat with three **ostrich** feathers, orange, sky-blue, and red. She has a nearly clean apron, and the shoddy coat has been tidied a little. The **pathos** of this **deplorable** figure, with its innocent vanity and consequential air, touches PICKERING, who has already straightened himself in the presence of MRS. PEARCE. But as to HIGGINS, the only distinction he makes between men and women is that when he is neither bullying nor **exclaiming** to the heavens against some **featherweight** cross, he coaxes women as a child coaxes its nurse when it wants to get anything out of her.]

HIGGINS

[brusquely, **recognizing** her with **unconcealed** disappointment, and at once, baby-like, making an intolerable grievance of it] Why, this is the girl I jotted down last night. She's no use: I've got all the records I want of the Lisson Grove **lingo**; and I'm not going to waste another cylinder on it. [To the girl] Be off with you: I don't want you.

THE FLOWER GIRL.

Don't you be so **saucy**. You ain't heard what I come for yet. [To MRS.

Thesaurus

deplorable: (*adj*) sad, wretched, criminal, calamitous, abominable, pitiful, lamentable, miserable, regrettable, sorry; (*adj, v*) woeful.
ANTONYMS: (*adj*) acceptable, pleasing, laudable, happy, cheerful, admirable, agreeable, excellent, fortunate, praiseworthy.
exclaiming: (*n*) deuce, Dickens, ejaculation, exclaim, devil, interjection, ecphonesis.
featherweight: (*adj*) thin, lightweight;

(*n*) boxer.
lingo: (*n*) slang, cant, tongue, dialect, language, idiom, argot, vernacular, patois, technicality, speech.
ostrich: (*n*) *Struthio Camelus*, ratite, flightless bird; (*adj*) camel bird, doe, greyhound, hare, gazelle, antelope, eagle, courser.
pathos: (*v*) emotion, inspiration, impression, affection; (*n*) poignancy, pity, ruth, commiseration, grief, poignance, sympathy.

recognizing: (*v*) recognize, acknowledge, recognise; (*adj*) conscious, respectful; (*n*) observation.
saucy: (*adj, n*) pert; (*adj*) bold, impudent, audacious, insolent, fresh, forward, impertinent, flippant, rude, brazen. **ANTONYM:** (*adj*) respectful.
unconcealed: (*adj*) open, overt, obvious, frank, exposed, naked, patent, plain, barefaced, evident, conspicuous. **ANTONYMS:** (*adj*) hidden, contained, furtive.

PEARCE, who is waiting at the door for further instruction] Did you tell him I come in a **taxi**?

MRS. PEARCE.

Nonsense, girl! what do you think a gentleman like Mr. Higgins cares what you came in?

THE FLOWER GIRL.

Oh, we are proud! He ain't above giving lessons, not him: I heard him say so. Well, I ain't come here to ask for any **compliment**; and if my money's not good enough I can go elsewhere.

HIGGINS.

Good enough for what?

THE FLOWER GIRL.

Good enough for ye--oo. Now you know, don't you? I'm come to have lessons, I am. And to pay for em too: make no mistake.

HIGGINS

[stupent] WELL!!! [**Recovering** his breath with a **gasp**] What do you expect me to say to you?

THE FLOWER GIRL.

Well, if you was a gentleman, you might ask me to sit down, I think. Don't I tell you I'm **bringing** you business?

HIGGINS.

Pickering: shall we ask this **baggage** to sit down or shall we throw her out of the window?

THE FLOWER GIRL

[running away in terror to the piano, where she turns at bay] Ah--ah--ah--ow--ow--ow--oo! [Wounded and **whimpering**] I won't be called a baggage when I've offered to pay like any lady.

[**Motionless**, the two men **stare** at her from the other side of the room, amazed.]

Thesaurus

baggage: (*n*) bag, bags, trunk, pack, gear, equipment, stuff, effects, suitcases, woman, thing.
bringing: (*n*) delivery, consignment, serving, service, passage, post.
compliment: (*n, v*) praise, honor; (*v*) laud, flattery, applaud, greet, adulation, congratulate, belaud; (*n*) eulogy, tribute. ANTONYMS: (*n*) criticism, reproach, disparagement; (*n, v*) slander, libel; (*v*) criticize, denounce, disparage, denigrate,

complain, belittle.
gasp: (*n, v*) pant; (*v*) puff, blow, breathe, sigh, heave, wheeze, breathe heavily, gag; (*n*) inhalation, breath.
motionless: (*adj*) inactive, inert, immobile, stationary, fixed, unmoving, quiescent, dead, torpid; (*adj, adv*) calm, at rest. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) mobile, active, alive, flowing.
recovering: (*v*) recover, regain, restore; (*adj*) better; (*n*) rehabilitation, recovery, rescue, relaxation; (*adv*)

getting better, on the road to recovery, improving.
stare: (*n, v*) gaze, look; (*v*) gape, glare, peer, squint, goggle, see, outface; (*n*) regard, contemplation. ANTONYM: (*v*) glance.
taxi: (*n*) hack, taxicab, automobile, drudge, auto, cabriolet, hack writer, hacker, jade, vehicle; (*v*) coast.
whimpering: (*adj*) whining, puling, childish, querulous; (*n*) sniveling, cry, tear.

PICKERING

[gently] What is it you want, my girl?

THE FLOWER GIRL.

I want to be a lady in a flower shop **stead** of selling at the corner of Tottenham Court Road. But they won't take me unless I can talk more **genteel**. He said he could teach me. Well, here I am ready to pay him--not asking any favor--and he treats me as if I was dirt.

MRS. PEARCE.

How can you be such a foolish **ignorant** girl as to think you could afford to pay Mr. Higgins?

THE FLOWER GIRL.

Why shouldn't I? I know what **lessons** cost as well as you do; and I'm ready to pay.

HIGGINS.

How much?

THE FLOWER GIRL

[coming back to him, **triumphant**] Now you're talking! I thought you'd come off it when you saw a chance of getting back a bit of what you chucked at me last night. [**Confidentially**] You'd had a drop in, hadn't you?

HIGGINS

[peremptorily] Sit down.

THE FLOWER GIRL.

Oh, if you're going to make a compliment of it--

HIGGINS

[thundering at her] Sit down.

MRS. PEARCE

[severely] Sit down, girl. Do as you're told. [She places the **stray** chair near the **hearthrug** between HIGGINS and PICKERING, and stands behind it waiting for the girl to sit down].

Thesaurus

confidentially: (<i>adv</i>) privately, closely, privily, intimately, familiarly, personally, clandestinely, in secret, in private, surreptitiously, occultly. ANTONYMS: (<i>adv</i>) publicly, openly, familiarly, commonly.	ignorant: (<i>adj</i>) unconscious, unwitting, rude, illiterate, uneducated, blind, dull, unaware, uninformed, unlearned, innocent. ANTONYMS: (<i>adj</i>) conscious, versed, cultured, educated, informed, wary, literate, aware, polite.	office, locality.
genteel: (<i>adj</i>) elegant, polite, cultured, refined, graceful, courtly, courteous, fashionable, nice, civil, ladylike. ANTONYMS: (<i>adj</i>) uncouth, improper, vulgar.	lessons: (<i>n</i>) classes, coaching, tuition, schoolwork, revision, learning, education, training.	stray: (<i>v</i>) wander, ramble, range, digress, straggle, meander, depart, deviate, rove, drift, err. ANTONYM: (<i>v</i>) settle.
hearthrug: (<i>n</i>) carpeting.	stead: (<i>n</i>) behalf, room, lieu, spot, location, station, space, seat, position,	triumphant: (<i>adj</i>) victorious, successful, triumphal, exulting, winning, joyful, rejoicing, elated, conquering, prideful; (<i>adj. v</i>) exultant. ANTONYMS: (<i>adj</i>) disappointed, failing, losing, defeated, miserable, sorrowful.

THE FLOWER GIRL.

Ah--ah--ah--ow--ow--oo! [She stands, half **rebellious**, half bewildered].

PICKERING

[very **courteous**] Won't you sit down?

LIZA

[coyly] Don't mind if I do. [She sits down. PICKERING returns to the hearthrug].

HIGGINS.

What's your name?

THE FLOWER GIRL.

Liza Doolittle.

HIGGINS

[declaiming **gravely**] Eliza, Elizabeth, Betsy and Bess, They went to the woods to get a birds nes':

PICKERING.

They found a nest with four eggs in it:

HIGGINS.

They took one **apiece**, and left three in it.

[They laugh **heartily** at their own wit.]

LIZA.

Oh, don't be silly.

MRS. PEARCE.

You mustn't speak to the gentleman like that.

LIZA.

Well, why won't he speak sensible to me?

HIGGINS.

Come back to business. How much do you propose to pay me for the lessons?

LIZA.

Oh, I know what's right. A lady friend of mine **gets** French lessons for

Thesaurus

apiece: (*adj, adv*) each; (*adj*) one by one; (*pron*) all, both, each one; (*adv*) individually, singly, for each, for each one, from each one, to each one. ANTONYM: (*adv*) together.

courteous: (*adj, v*) civil; (*adj*) affable, attentive, gracious, decorous, chivalrous, bland, thoughtful, urbane, mannerly, gentlemanly. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) rude, impolite, boorish, insulting, unmannerly, gruff, improper, vulgar, unhelpful,

neglectful, graceless.

gets: (*n*) getting.

gravely: (*adv*) seriously, soberly, severely, solemnly, badly, staidly, momentarily, heavily, earnestly, weightily, grievously. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) lightheartedly, mildly, slightly; (*adj*) soft.

heartily: (*adv*) cordially, sincerely, enthusiastically, warmly, strongly, earnestly, vigorously, ardently, soundly, devoutly, eagerly.

ANTONYMS: (*adv*) feebly, languorously.

liza: (*n*) gray mullet, Mugil liza.

rebellious: (*adj*) insubordinate, mutinous, disaffected, defiant, disobedient, contrary, contumacious, insurgent, stubborn, unruly, malcontent. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) docile, conventional, obedient, conformist, content, conforming, cooperative, loyal, meek, submissive, obliging.

eighteenpence an hour from a real French gentleman. Well, you wouldn't have the face to ask me the same for teaching me my own language as you would for French; so I won't give more than a **shilling**. Take it or leave it.

HIGGINS

[walking up and down the room, rattling his keys and his cash in his pockets] You know, Pickering, if you consider a shilling, not as a simple shilling, but as a **percentage** of this girl's income, it works out as fully equivalent to **sixty** or **seventy** guineas from a **millionaire**.

PICKERING.

How so?

HIGGINS.

Figure it out. A millionaire has about 150 pounds a day. She earns about half-a-crown.

LIZA

[haughtily] Who told you I only--

HIGGINS

[continuing] She offers me two-fifths of her day's income for a **lesson**. Two-fifths of a millionaire's income for a day would be somewhere about 60 pounds. It's **handsome**. By George, it's enormous! it's the biggest offer I ever had.

LIZA

[rising, **terrified**] Sixty pounds! What are you talking about? I never offered you sixty pounds. Where would I get--

HIGGINS.

Hold your **tongue**.

LIZA

[weeping] But I ain't got sixty pounds. Oh--

MRS. PEARCE.

Don't cry, you silly girl. Sit down. Nobody is going to touch your money.

Thesaurus

handsome: (<i>adj</i>) fair, beautiful, fine, generous, charming, comely, attractive, bountiful, considerable, bonny, prepossessing. ANTONYMS: (<i>adj</i>) ugly, unattractive, meager, ungenerous, measly, plain.	plutocrat, millionairess, Croesus, Timon of Athens, affluent, dives, man of means.	sixty: (<i>adj</i>) threescore; (<i>n</i>) three score, large integer, lux.
lesson: (<i>n</i>) example, education, instruction, class, learning, sermon, recitation, task, study, message; (<i>n, v</i>) rebuke.	percentage: (<i>n</i>) share, cut, portion, piece, percent, ration, proportion, lot, allotment, profit, interest.	terrified: (<i>adj</i>) afraid, frightened, fearful, panicky, panicked, aghast, timid, timorous, apprehensive, startled, alarmed. ANTONYMS: (<i>adj</i>) fearless, brave.
millionaire: (<i>n</i>) nabob, millionaire, wealthy person, rich person,	seventy: (<i>n</i>) large integer.	tongue: (<i>n</i>) lingua, speech, idiom, dialect, clapper, glossa, natural language, striker, talk; (<i>v</i>) lick; (<i>adj</i>) flowing.
	shilling: (<i>n</i>) York shilling, Tanzanian shilling, British shilling, Kenyan shilling, Ugandan shilling, Somalian shilling, dock, cork, farthing, coin, cheat.	

HIGGINS.

Somebody is going to touch you, with a **broomstick**, if you don't stop snivelling. Sit down.

LIZA

[obeying slowly] Ah--ah--ah--ow--oo--o! One would think you was my father.

HIGGINS.

If I decide to teach you, I'll be worse than two fathers to you. Here [he offers her his silk **handkerchief**]!

LIZA.

What's this for?

HIGGINS.

To **wipe** your eyes. To wipe any part of your face that feels **moist**. Remember: that's your handkerchief; and that's your **sleeve**. Don't mistake the one for the other if you wish to become a lady in a shop.

[LIZA, **utterly bewildered**, stares **helplessly** at him.]

MRS. PEARCE.

It's no use talking to her like that, Mr. Higgins: she doesn't understand you. Besides, you're quite wrong: she doesn't do it that way at all [she takes the handkerchief].

LIZA

[snatching it] Here! You give me that handkerchief. He give it to me, not to you.

PICKERING

[laughing] He did. I think it must be **regarded** as her property, Mrs. Pearce.

MRS. PEARCE

[resigning herself] Serve you right, Mr. Higgins.

PICKERING.

Higgins: I'm interested. What about the ambassador's garden party? I'll say

Thesaurus

bewildered: (*adj*) bemused, confused, confounded, perplexed, befuddled, puzzled, dumbfounded, taken aback, addled, disoriented; (*adj, v*) lost.
ANTONYMS: (*adj*) unimpressed, clear, oriented, precise, understanding, alert.
broomstick: (*adj*) spare, meager, lanky, slight; (*n*) broomstaff, broom handle.
handkerchief: (*n*) hankie, kerchief, bandanna, cravat, hanky, wipe, bandana, collar, shawl; (*n, v*) napkin;

(*v*) sudary.
helplessly: (*adv*) weakly, powerlessly, lostly, destitutely, shiftlessly, defenselessly, unprotectedly, ineffectively, wretchedly, incompetently, disabledly.
ANTONYM: (*adv*) powerfully.
moist: (*adj*) damp, wet, muggy, clammy, dank, damp, dampish, soggy, soppy, wettish, moisture.
ANTONYMS: (*adj*) dry, limp, fresh.
regarded: (*adj*) reputed.

sleeve: (*n*) arm, liner, cover, cuff, wristband, collar, socket, skin, sheath; (*v*) plexus, skein.
utterly: (*adv*) completely, absolutely, totally, entirely, extremely, altogether, expressly, purely, dead, fully, wholly. **ANTONYMS:** (*adv*) partly, uncertain, slightly, incompletely, hardly, somewhat.
wipe: (*n, v*) rub; (*v*) mop, clean, towel, brush, scour, scrub, clear, dry, wash; (*adj*) sponge. **ANTONYM:** (*v*) dirty.

you're the greatest teacher alive if you make that good. I'll bet you all the expenses of the experiment you can't do it. And I'll pay for the lessons.

LIZA.

Oh, you are real good. Thank you, Captain.

HIGGINS

[tempted, looking at her] It's almost **irresistible**. She's so **deliciously** low--so **horribly** dirty--

LIZA

[protesting extremely] Ah--ah--ah--ah--ow--ow--oooo!!! I ain't dirty: I **washed** my face and hands **afore** I come, I did.

PICKERING.

You're certainly not going to turn her head with **flattery**, Higgins.

MRS. PEARCE

[uneasy] Oh, don't say that, sir: there's more ways than one of turning a girl's head; and nobody can do it better than Mr. Higgins, though he may not always mean it. I do hope, sir, you won't encourage him to do anything foolish.

HIGGINS

[becoming excited as the idea grows on him] What is life but a series of inspired follies? The difficulty is to find them to do. Never lose a chance: it doesn't come every day. I shall make a duchess of this draggletailed **guttersnipe**.

LIZA

[strongly deprecating this view of her] Ah--ah--ah--ow-- oo!

HIGGINS

[carried away] Yes: in six months--in three if she has a good ear and a quick tongue--I'll take her anywhere and pass her off as anything. We'll start today: now! this moment! Take her away and clean her, Mrs. Pearce. **Monkey** Brand, if it won't come off any other way. Is there a good fire in the kitchen?

Thesaurus

afore: (<i>adv</i>) ahead, along, before, forwards, formerly, beforehand, previously; (<i>adj</i>) erewhile, aforehand, theretofore, preceding.	offense.	irrefragable, irrefutable, overpowering, overwhelming, impregnable, indomitable, charming, fascinating; (<i>adj, v</i>) uncontrollable.
deliciously: (<i>adv</i>) delightfully, nicely, scrumptiously, tastily, goodly, sweetly, delicately, toothsomely, appetizingly, daintily, juicily.	guttersnipe: (<i>n</i>) ragamuffin, waif, brat, gamin, trash, throwaway, street urchin, bum.	ANTONYMS: (<i>adj</i>) resistible, insignificant, unappealing, weak.
flattery: (<i>n, v</i>) cajolery; (<i>n</i>) blarney, compliment, adulation, taffy, palaver, praise, gloze, sweet talk, sycophancy, soft soap. ANTONYMS: (<i>n</i>) insult,	horribly: (<i>adv</i>) horribly, awfully, terrifically, hideously, atrociously, appallingly; (<i>adj, adv</i>) frightfully, terribly, fearfully, shockingly; (<i>adj</i>) ghastly. ANTONYMS: (<i>adv</i>) pleasantly, wonderfully, kindly, sweetly.	monkey: (<i>n</i>) imp, primate, scamp, rascal, battering ram; (<i>v</i>) tinker, meddle, tamper, trifle, cuckoo, echo.
	irresistible: (<i>adj</i>) resistless, invincible,	washed: (<i>adj</i>) wash, cleaner, colored, refined, wet, watery.

MRS. PEARCE

[protesting]. Yes; but--

HIGGINS

[storming on] Take all her clothes off and **burn** them. Ring up Whiteley or somebody for new ones. **Wrap** her up in brown paper till they come.

LIZA.

You're no gentleman, you're not, to talk of such things. I'm a good girl, I am; and I know what the like of you are, I do.

HIGGINS.

We want none of your Lisson Grove **prudery** here, young woman. You've got to learn to behave like a **duchess**. Take her away, Mrs. Pearce. If she **gives** you any trouble **wallop** her.

LIZA

[springing up and running between Pickering and Mrs. Pearce for protection]
No! I'll call the police, I will.

MRS. PEARCE.

But I've no place to put her.

HIGGINS.

Put her in the **dustbin**.

LIZA.

Ah--ah--ah--ow--ow--oo!

PICKERING.

Oh come, Higgins! be reasonable.

MRS. PEARCE

[resolutely] You must be reasonable, Mr. Higgins: really you must. You can't walk over everybody like this.

[HIGGINS, thus scolded, subsides. The **hurricane** is succeeded by a **zephyr** of amiable surprise.]

Thesaurus

burn: (*adj.*, *v*) glow; (*n.*, *v*) bite, fire, sunburn; (*v*) sting, scorch, incinerate, blaze, flare, ignite, cremate.

ANTONYMS: (*v*) smother, give, subdue, help, quench, repay, stifle, extinguish, wet.

duchess: (*n*) princess, queen, lady, czarina, begum, margravine, noblewoman, peeress, marchioness, sultana, infanta.

dustbin: (*n*) trash can, ashcan, ashbin, ash can, bin, ash bin, rubbish bin,

wastepaper basket, trash bin, wastebin, trash barrel.

gives: (*n*) give, offer, provide, grant, accord.

hurricane: (*n*) storm, tempest, cyclone, squall, tornado, whirlwind, twister, tropical storm, gust, spring hawser, monsoon.

prudery: (*n*) primness, modesty, coquetry, priggishness, prudishness, demureness; (*v*) sentimentalism.

wallop: (*n.*, *v*) hit, bang, punch, knock,

whack, clout, strike, bash; (*v*) beat, thrash; (*n*) blow. ANTONYMS: (*v*) fail, lose, surrender.

wrap: (*v*) envelop, cover, roll, wind, shroud, enfold, enclose, drape; (*n.*, *v*) cloak, swathe; (*n*) wrapping.

ANTONYMS: (*v*) uncover, undo, unwind, expose, reveal.

zephyr: (*n*) wind, air, breath, gentle wind, whiff, puff, gentle breeze, aviation; (*v*) Boreas, Eolus, cave of Eolus.

HIGGINS

[with professional **exquisiteness** of **modulation**] I walk over everybody! My dear Mrs. Pearce, my dear Pickering, I never had the **slightest intention** of walking over anyone. All I **propose** is that we should be kind to this poor girl. We must help her to prepare and fit herself for her new station in life. If I did not express myself clearly it was because I did not wish to hurt her **delicacy**, or yours.

[LIZA, reassured, **steals** back to her chair.]

MRS. PEARCE

[to PICKERING] Well, did you ever hear anything like that, sir?

PICKERING

[laughing heartily] Never, Mrs. Pearce: never.

HIGGINS

[patiently] What's the matter?

MRS. PEARCE.

Well, the matter is, sir, that you can't take a girl up like that as if you were picking up a **pebble** on the beach.

HIGGINS.

Why not?

MRS. PEARCE.

Why not! But you don't know anything about her. What about her parents? She may be married.

LIZA.

Garn!

HIGGINS.

There! As the girl very properly says, Garn! Married indeed! Don't you know that a woman of that class looks a worn out **drudge** of fifty a year after she's married.

Thesaurus

delicacy: (<i>adj, n</i>) weakness, fragility, tidbit; (<i>n</i>) finesse, daintiness, delicate, elegance, sensitivity, luxury, treat, airiness. ANTONYMS: (<i>n</i>) sturdiness, toughness, durability, frankness, inelegance, ruggedness, vulgarity, tactlessness, insensitivity, inaccuracy, clumsiness.	exquisiteness: (<i>n</i>) perfection, delicacy, fineness, magnificence, prettiness, loveliness, elegance, dreamy quality, attractiveness, good looks. ANTONYMS: (<i>n</i>) ugliness, unattractiveness.	suspension, transmission.
drudge: (<i>n, v</i>) slave, work; (<i>v</i>) toil, fag, moil, dig, grub, sweat, plod, grind; (<i>n</i>) hack. ANTONYMS: (<i>v</i>) dawdle, putter, loaf, idle, lounge.	intention: (<i>n</i>) idea, intent, goal, purpose, cause, motive, mind; (<i>n, v</i>) aim, end, design, drift.	pebble: (<i>n</i>) boulder, crystal, flint, rock, scree, cobblestone, calculus, crag, granite, pebblestone; (<i>adj</i>) quartz.
	modulation: (<i>n</i>) accent, inflection, transition, passage, change, variation, am, regulation, conditioning,	propose: (<i>v</i>) bid, nominate, design, plan, proffer, move, intend, mean, aim, suggest; (<i>n, v</i>) advance. ANTONYMS: (<i>v</i>) reject, improvise, oppose.
		slightest: (<i>adj</i>) minimal, first, smallest amount.
		steals: (<i>adj</i>) stolen; (<i>n</i>) stealing.

LIZA.

Who'd marry me?

HIGGINS

[suddenly resorting to the most **thrillingly** beautiful low tones in his best **elocutionary** style] By George, Eliza, the streets will be strewn with the bodies of men **shooting** themselves for your sake before I've done with you.

MRS. PEARCE.

Nonsense, sir. You mustn't talk like that to her.

LIZA

[rising and squaring herself **determinedly**] I'm going away. He's off his **chump**, he is. I don't want no balmies teaching me.

HIGGINS

[wounded in his tenderest point by her **insensibility** to his elocution] Oh, indeed! I'm mad, am I? Very well, Mrs. Pearce: you needn't order the new clothes for her. Throw her out.

LIZA

[whimpering] Nah--ow. You got no right to touch me.

MRS. PEARCE.

You see now what comes of being saucy. [Indicating the door] This way, please.

LIZA

[almost in tears] I didn't want no clothes. I wouldn't have taken them [she throws away the handkerchief]. I can buy my own clothes.

HIGGINS

[deftly retrieving the handkerchief and intercepting her on her reluctant way to the door] You're an **ungrateful** wicked girl. This is my return for offering to take you out of the gutter and dress you beautifully and make a lady of you.

Thesaurus

chump: (n) dupe, sap, zany, blockhead, mug, gull, dolt, fall guy, mark, gander, noodle.

determinedly: (adv) firmly, purposefully, fixedly, resolvedly, obstinately, stubbornly, steadfastly, steadily, decidedly, definitely, doggedly. ANTONYMS: (adv) hesitantly, wearily, unambitiously, amenably, halfheartedly, irresolutely, feebly.

elocution: (n) delivery, pronunciation,

rhetoric, enunciation, declamation, speech, oratory, eloquence, way with words, accent, public speaking.

elocutionary: (v) unnatural, eloquent.

insensibility: (n) callousness, hardness, indifference, dullness, stupidity, stupor, impassiveness, coma, physical insensibility, impassivity, trance.

shooting: (v) shoot, hunting, coursing; (n) gunfire, killing, gunshot, shot, murder; (adj) sharp, acute, piercing.

thrillingly: (adv) electrically, impressively, stirringly, stimulatingly, sensationally, grippingly, electrifyingly, breathtakingly, excitingly, emotionally, movingly.

ungrateful: (adj) unmindful, unthankful, unappreciative, unnatural, ingrate, unpleasant, distasteful, displeasing, unkind, disagreeable, not kind. ANTONYMS: (adj) grateful, thankful, appreciative.

MRS. PEARCE.

Stop, Mr. Higgins. I won't allow it. It's you that are wicked. Go home to your parents, girl; and tell them to take better care of you.

LIZA.

I ain't got no parents. They told me I was big enough to earn my own living and turned me out.

MRS. PEARCE.

Where's your mother?

LIZA.

I ain't got no mother. Her that turned me out was my sixth **stepmother**. But I done without them. And I'm a good girl, I am.

HIGGINS.

Very well, then, what on earth is all this **fuss** about? The girl doesn't belong to anybody--is no use to anybody but me. [He goes to MRS. PEARCE and begins coaxing]. You can adopt her, Mrs. Pearce: I'm sure a daughter would be a great **amusement** to you. Now don't make any more fuss. Take her downstairs; and--

MRS. PEARCE.

But what's to become of her? Is she to be paid anything? Do be sensible, sir.

HIGGINS.

Oh, pay her whatever is necessary: put it down in the **housekeeping** book. [**Impatiently**] What on earth will she want with money? She'll have her food and her clothes. She'll only drink if you give her money.

LIZA

[turning on him] Oh you are a **brute**. It's a lie: nobody ever saw the sign of **liquor** on me. [She goes back to her chair and plants herself there defiantly].

PICKERING

[in good-humored **remonstrance**] Does it occur to you, Higgins, that the girl has some feelings?

Thesaurus

amusement: (n) pleasure, recreation, entertainment, distraction, diversion, sport, pastime, laughter, enjoyment, joy, hobby. ANTONYMS: (n) sadness, boredom, work, tedium, business, despondency, discomfort, displeasure.
brute: (adj) brutal, harsh, gruff, brutish; (adj, n) animal, savage; (n) barbarian, fiend, creature, monster; (adv) beastly. ANTONYMS: (adj) weak, refined, mild, gentle; (n)

gentleman.
fuss: (n, v) flurry, bicker, fidget, hubbub; (adj, n) stir; (n) flap, commotion, ado, bother, disturbance; (v) fret. ANTONYM: (n) peace.
housekeeping: (n) housewifery, household, domestic science.
impatiently: (adv) petulantly, restlessly, keenly, intolerantly, hastily, avidly, uneasily, enthusiastically, edgily, fidgetily, restively. ANTONYMS: (adv)

uncomplainingly, calmly, unenthusiastically, lightly.
liquor: (n) fluid, broth, alcohol, booze, brew, brandy, arrack, spirits, schnapps; (n, v) drink; (adj, n) liquid.
remonstrance: (n) protest, expostulation, objection, dissuasion, censure, remonstration, reprehension, admonition, monstration, mediation, dehortation.
stepmother: (n) stepdame.

HIGGINS

[looking **critically** at her] Oh no, I don't think so. Not any feelings that we need **bother** about. [**Cheerily**] Have you, Eliza?

LIZA.

I got my feelings same as anyone else.

HIGGINS

[to PICKERING, **reflectively**] You see the difficulty?

PICKERING.

Eh? What difficulty?

HIGGINS.

To get her to talk **grammar**. The **mere** pronunciation is easy enough.

LIZA.

I don't want to talk grammar. I want to talk like a lady.

MRS. PEARCE.

Will you please keep to the point, Mr. Higgins. I want to know on what terms the girl is to be here. Is she to have any wages? And what is to become of her when you've finished your teaching? You must look ahead a little.

HIGGINS

[impatiently] What's to become of her if I leave her in the gutter? Tell me that, Mrs. Pearce.

MRS. PEARCE.

That's her own business, not **yours**, Mr. Higgins.

HIGGINS.

Well, when I've done with her, we can throw her back into the gutter; and then it will be her own business again; so that's all right.

LIZA.

Oh, you've no feeling heart in you: you don't care for nothing but yourself [she rises and takes the floor resolutely]. Here! I've had enough of this. I'm

Thesaurus

bother: (*n, v*) trouble, torment, worry, hassle, pain; (*adj, n, v*) fuss, bore; (*v*) vex, annoy, irritate; (*n*) nuisance.
ANTONYMS: (*n, v*) delight; (*v*) soothe, please, help, aid, comfort, placate, encourage, defend; (*n*) accord, satisfaction.
cheerily: (*adv*) merrily, pleasantly, cheerfully, joyfully, gaily, brightly, happily, mirthfully, jovially, sunnily, blithely. **ANTONYMS:** (*adv*) nastily, sulkily, seriously, miserably, sadly.

critically: (*adj, adv*) gravely; (*adv*) seriously, severely, censoriously, crucially, acutely, significantly, hypercritically, decisively, vitally, importantly. **ANTONYMS:** (*adv*) uncritically, slightly, positively, insignificantly, illogically, favorably.
grammar: (*n*) rudiments, syntax, grammarist, elements, vade mecum, praxis, punctuation, diction, wording; (*v*) initiation; (*adj*) grammatical.

mere: (*adj, n*) entire; (*adj*) bare, simple, pure; (*n*) loch, tarn, boundary, absolute; (*n, v*) downright; (*adv*) merely; (*adj, v*) clear.
reflectively: (*adv*) contemplatively, meditatively, wistfully, thoughtfully, speculatively, ruminatively, studiously, regretfully, sadly, longingly, reflexively.
yours: (*adj*) own.

going [making for the door]. You ought to be ashamed of yourself, you ought.

HIGGINS

[snatching a chocolate cream from the piano, his eyes suddenly beginning to **twinkle** with **mischief**] Have some chocolates, Eliza.

LIZA

[halting, tempted] How do I know what might be in them? I've **heard** of girls being **drugged** by the like of you.

[HIGGINS whips out his **penknife**; **cuts** a chocolate in two; puts one half into his mouth and bolts it; and offers her the other half.]

HIGGINS.

Pledge of good faith, Eliza. I eat one half you eat the other.

[LIZA opens her mouth to **retort**: he **pops** the half chocolate into it]. You shall have boxes of them, barrels of them, every day. You shall live on them. Eh?

LIZA

[who has disposed of the chocolate after being nearly **choked** by it] I wouldn't have ate it, only I'm too **ladylike** to take it out of my mouth.

HIGGINS.

Listen, Eliza. I think you said you came in a taxi.

LIZA.

Well, what if I did? I've as good a right to take a taxi as anyone else.

HIGGINS.

You have, Eliza; and in future you shall have as many **taxis** as you want. You shall go up and down and round the town in a taxi every day. Think of that, Eliza.

MRS. PEARCE.

Mr. Higgins: you're tempting the girl. It's not right. She should think of the future.

Thesaurus

choked: (*adj*) clogged, smothered, congested, annoyed, high-strung, strained, neurotic, tense, angry, anxious, insecure.
cuts: (*n*) film waste.
drugged: (*adj*) stoned, drowsy, narcotised, comatose, drunk, high, chloroformed, narcotized, stupefied.
ANTONYMS: (*adj*) clean, straight.
heard: (*n*) hearing.
ladylike: (*adj*) feminine, refined, gentle, womanly, genteel, maidenly,

matronly, wifely, dainty, well-bred, mannerly. **ANTONYM:** (*adj*) coarse.
mischief: (*adj, n*) evil, hurt, harm; (*n*) damage, ill, detriment, disadvantage, devilry, caper, devilment, maleficence. **ANTONYMS:** (*n*) obedience, beneficence, help.
penknife: (*adj, n*) blade; (*n*) switchblade, pocketknife, clasp knife, pocket knife, carving knife, stiletto; (*adj*) cutlery, edge tool, whittle, razor.
pops: (*n*) man, father, senior.

retort: (*n, v*) answer, return, riposte; (*n*) response, rejoinder, repartee, comeback; (*v*) respond, repay, rejoin, alembic.
taxis: (*v*) assortment, allotment, chemotaxis, tactic, taxonomy, graduation, organization, reaction, response, syntaxis.
twinkle: (*n, v*) flash, gleam, shimmer, glimmer, glisten, glitter, scintillate, wink; (*adj, n, v*) flicker; (*v*) shine, blink.

HIGGINS.

At her age! Nonsense! Time enough to think of the future when you haven't any future to think of. No, Eliza: do as this lady does: think of other people's futures; but never think of your own. Think of chocolates, and taxis, and gold, and **diamonds**.

LIZA.

No: I don't want no gold and no diamonds. I'm a good girl, I am. [She sits down again, with an attempt at dignity].

HIGGINS.

You shall remain so, Eliza, under the care of Mrs. Pearce. And you shall marry an officer in the Guards, with a beautiful **moustache**: the son of a **marquis**, who will **disinherit** him for **marrying** you, but will **relent** when he sees your beauty and goodness--

PICKERING.

Excuse me, Higgins; but I really must **interfere**. Mrs. Pearce is quite right. If this girl is to put herself in your hands for six months for an experiment in teaching, she must understand thoroughly what she's doing.

HIGGINS.

How can she? She's **incapable** of understanding anything. Besides, do any of us understand what we are doing? If we did, would we ever do it?

PICKERING.

Very clever, Higgins; but not sound sense. [To ELIZA] Miss Doolittle--

LIZA

[overwhelmed] Ah--ah--ow--oo!

HIGGINS.

There! That's all you get out of Eliza. Ah--ah--ow--oo! No use explaining. As a military man you ought to know that. Give her her orders: that's what she wants. Eliza: you are to live here for the next six months, learning how to speak **beautifully**, like a lady in a florist's shop. If you're good and do whatever you're told, you shall sleep in a proper bedroom, and have lots to

Thesaurus

beautifully: (*adv*) exquisitely, nicely, gorgeously, splendidly, handsomely, attractively, superbly, charmingly, divinely, grandly, elegantly.
ANTONYMS: (*adv*) unappealingly, tastelessly, abysmally, harshly, horribly, badly.
diamonds: (*n*) hearts, ice, spades, sparkler, clubs.
disinherit: (*v*) disown, divest, abdicate, cut off with a shilling, dispossess, will, lose, exheredate,

oust, repudiate, rob. **ANTONYMS**: (*v*) bequeath, give, leave, will.
incapable: (*adj*) impotent, inadequate, unable, helpless, powerless, unqualified, inept, insufficient, inapt, ineffectual, unfit. **ANTONYMS**: (*adj*) able, competent, strong, powerful, effective.
interfere: (*n, v*) interpose; (*v*) intercede, obstruct, disturb, conflict, impede, hinder, meddle, intervene; (*n*) interference; (*adj, v*) intermeddle.

marquis: (*n*) lord, marquise, noble, margrave, nobleman, Donald Robert perry marquis, don marquis, Markis.
marrying: (*adj*) married.
moustache: (*adj, n*) hair; (*n*) mustache, mustachio, mastax, whiskers; (*adj*) whisker, mane, brush, tress, ringlet, shag.
relent: (*v*) give, give in, melt, soften, moderate, ease, submit, cede, relax, capitulate; (*adj*) remit. **ANTONYMS**: (*v*) worsen, strengthen, resist, stand.

eat, and money to buy chocolates and take rides in taxis. If you're **naughty** and idle you will sleep in the back kitchen among the black **beetles**, and be walloped by Mrs. Pearce with a broomstick. At the end of six months you shall go to Buckingham Palace in a carriage, beautifully dressed. If the King finds out you're not a lady, you will be taken by the police to the Tower of London, where your head will be cut off as a warning to other **presumptuous** flower girls. If you are not found out, you shall have a present of seven-and-sixpence to start life with as a lady in a shop. If you refuse this offer you will be a most ungrateful and wicked girl; and the angels will **weep** for you. [To PICKERING] Now are you satisfied, Pickering? [To MRS. PEARCE] Can I put it more plainly and fairly, Mrs. Pearce?

MRS. PEARCE

[patiently] I think you'd better let me speak to the girl properly in private. I don't know that I can take charge of her or consent to the arrangement at all. Of course I know you don't mean her any harm; but when you get what you call interested in people's accents, you never think or care what may happen to them or you. Come with me, Eliza.

HIGGINS.

That's all right. Thank you, Mrs. Pearce. **Bundle** her off to the bath-room.

LIZA

[rising reluctantly and **suspiciously**] You're a great **bully**, you are. I won't stay here if I don't like. I won't let nobody wallop me. I never asked to go to Bucknam Palace, I didn't. I was never in trouble with the police, not me. I'm a good girl--

MRS. PEARCE.

Don't answer back, girl. You don't understand the gentleman. Come with me. [She **leads** the way to the door, and holds it open for ELIZA].

LIZA

[as she goes out] Well, what I say is right. I won't go near the king, not if I'm going to have my head cut off. If I'd known what I was letting myself in for, I wouldn't have come here. I always been a good girl; and I never offered to

Thesaurus

beetles: (n) Coleoptera.
bully: (n, v) hector; (v) bluster, bulldoze, threaten, ballyrag; (n) tough, rowdy, hooligan, ruffian, bravo; (adj, v) domineer.
ANTONYMS: (n) urge, flatter, cajole; (v) help, encourage, assist, obey, protect, reassure.
bundle: (n, v) pack, cluster, clump, wad; (n) sheaf, pile, batch, stack, package, group, heap. ANTONYMS: (v) scatter, separate, disperse, divide.

leads: (n) slating, pieced leads, slates, pile driving leads, tiling.
naughty: (adj) mischievous, impish, blue, improper, disobedient, insubordinate, wicked, evil, lewd, dark, unruly. ANTONYMS: (adj) decent, behaved, obedient, clean.
presumptuous: (adj) arrogant, audacious, forward, assuming, insolent, impertinent, assumptive, familiar, haughty, proud; (adj, n) bold. ANTONYMS: (adj) respectful,

shy, timid, humble, modest.
suspiciously: (adj, adv) doubtfully, skeptically, hesitantly, unbelievably; (adv) mistrustfully, warily, uncertainly, shadily, dubiously, watchfully, questioningly.
ANTONYMS: (adv) carelessly, gullibly, thoughtlessly, certainly, confidently.
weep: (v) wail, bawl, lament, sob, blubber, moan, howl, drip, greet, whimper; (n) tear.

say a word to him; and I don't owe him nothing; and I don't care; and I won't be put upon; and I have my feelings the same as anyone else--

[MRS. PEARCE shuts the door; and ELIZA'S complaints are no longer **audible**. PICKERING comes from the hearth to the chair and sits astride it with his arms on the back.]

PICKERING.

Excuse the straight question, Higgins. Are you a man of good character where women are concerned?

HIGGINS

[moodily] Have you ever met a man of good character where women are concerned?

PICKERING.

Yes: very frequently.

HIGGINS

[dogmatically, lifting himself on his hands to the level of the piano, and sitting on it with a **bounce**] Well, I haven't. I find that the moment I let a woman make friends with me, she **becomes** jealous, **exacting**, suspicious, and a damned nuisance. I find that the moment I let myself make friends with a woman, I become selfish and **tyrannical**. Women upset everything. When you let them into your life, you find that the woman is driving at one thing and you're driving at another.

PICKERING.

At what, for example?

HIGGINB

[coming off the piano **restlessly**] Oh, Lord knows! I suppose the woman wants to live her own life; and the man wants to live his; and each tries to drag the other on to the wrong track. One wants to go north and the other south; and the result is that both have to go east, though they both hate the east wind. [He sits down on the bench at the keyboard]. So here I am, a confirmed old **bachelor**, and likely to remain so.

Thesaurus

audible: (*adj*) plain, hearable, distinct, detectable, sounding, sharp, sonic, definite, discernible, perceptible, sensory. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) inaudible, unintelligible, undetectable, silent, faint.

bachelor: (*adj*) single, unmarried, unattached; (*n*) unmarried man, graduate, knight bachelor, widower, old bachelor, spinster, adult male, agamist. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) married; (*n*) husband.

becomes: (*v*) become.

bounce: (*n, v*) jump, spring, leap, bound, jolt, discharge; (*n*) impact; (*v*) recoil, glance, sack, beat. ANTONYMS: (*n*) tranquility, calmness; (*v*) stay, clear.

exacting: (*adj*) fastidious, austere, strict, trying, stern, difficult, hard, finicky, nice; (*adj, v*) exigent; (*adj, n*) exact. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) lenient, relaxed, tolerant, unexacting, unfastidious, basic, careless, relaxing.

restlessly: (*adv*) fidgetily, apprehensively, agitatedly, fretfully, unquietly, sleeplessly, nervously, restively, edgily, anxiously, disturbedly. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) peacefully, unconcernedly.

tyrannical: (*adj*) domineering, autocratic, despotic, dictatorial, overbearing, authoritarian, tyrannous, cruel, peremptory, tyrannic, lordly. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) liberal, libertarian.

PICKERING

[rising and standing over him gravely] Come, Higgins! You know what I mean. If I'm to be in this business I shall feel responsible for that girl. I hope it's understood that no advantage is to be taken of her position.

HIGGINS.

What! That thing! **Sacred**, I **assure** you. [Rising to explain] You see, she'll be a pupil; and teaching would be impossible unless pupils were sacred. I've taught scores of American millionairesses how to speak English: the best looking **women** in the world. I'm **seasoned**. They might as well be blocks of wood. I might as well be a block of wood. It's--

[MRS. PEARCE opens the door. She has ELIZA'S hat in her hand. PICKERING retires to the easy-chair at the hearth and sits down.]

HIGGINS

[eagerly] Well, Mrs. Pearce: is it all right?

MRS. PEARCE

[at the door] I just wish to trouble you with a word, if I may, Mr. Higgins.

HIGGINS.

Yes, certainly. Come in. [She comes forward]. Don't burn that, Mrs. Pearce. I'll keep it as a **curiosity**. [He takes the hat].

MRS. PEARCE.

Handle it carefully, sir, please. I had to promise her not to burn it; but I had better put it in the **oven** for a while.

HIGGINS

[putting it down **hastily** on the piano] Oh! thank you. Well, what have you to say to me?

PICKERING.

Am I in the way?

MRS. PEARCE.

Not at all, sir. Mr. Higgins: will you please be very particular what you say before the girl?

Thesaurus

assure: (*n, v*) certify, warrant, vouch; (*v*) secure, persuade, satisfy, reassure, affirm, promise, ascertain; (*adj, v*) ensure. ANTONYMS: (*v*) alarm, disclaim, deny, disbelieve, undermine.
curiosity: (*n*) curiousness, rarity, interest, curio, oddity, prying, nosiness, peculiarity, novelty, marvel; (*adj, n*) prodigy. ANTONYMS: (*n*) emotionlessness, indifference, disinterest.

hastily: (*adv*) hurriedly, rapidly, quickly, rashly, promptly, suddenly, thoughtlessly, impetuously, swiftly, imprudently, speedily. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) carefully, unhurriedly, industriously, sensibly, prudently, late, calmly, thoroughly, patiently, gradually, cautiously.
oven: (*n*) furnace, stove, fireplace, hearth, broiler, heater, bakery, range, kitchen appliance, boiler, coke oven chamber.

sacred: (*adj*) holy, hallowed, dedicated, consecrated, divine, religious, pious, spiritual, inviolable, blessed; (*adj, v*) solemn. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) profane, unconsecrated, cursed, breakable.
seasoned: (*adj*) veteran, flavoured, flavored, mature, ripe, versed, hardened, confirmed, practised, accustomed, sophisticated. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) green, unseasoned, inexperienced, mild.
women: (*n*) sex, gentle sex.

HIGGINS

[sternly] Of course. I'm always particular about what I say. Why do you say this to me?

MRS. PEARCE

[unmoved] No, sir: you're not at all particular when you've **mislaid** anything or when you get a little impatient. Now it doesn't matter before me: I'm used to it. But you really must not swear before the girl.

HIGGINS

[indignantly] I swear! [Most emphatically] I never swear. I **detest** the habit. What the devil do you mean?

MRS. PEARCE

[stolidly] That's what I mean, sir. You swear a great deal too much. I don't mind your **damning** and **blasting**, and what the devil and where the devil and who the devil--

HIGGINS.

Really! Mrs. Pearce: this language from your lips!

MRS. PEARCE

[not to be put off]--but there is a certain word I must ask you not to use. The girl has just used it herself because the bath was too hot. It begins with the same letter as bath. She knows no better: she **learnt** it at her mother's **knee**. But she must not hear it from your lips.

HIGGINS

[loftily] I cannot charge myself with having ever **uttered** it, Mrs. Pearce. [She looks at him **steadfastly**. He adds, hiding an uneasy conscience with a judicial air] Except perhaps in a moment of extreme and justifiable excitement.

MRS. PEARCE.

Only this morning, sir, you applied it to your boots, to the **butter**, and to the brown bread.

Thesaurus

blasting: (*adj*) ruinous, blaring, cold, destructive; (*n*) grit blasting, burst, explosion, excavation, mining, getting, advertising.

butter: (*v*) gloze, slaver, flatter; (*adj*) butyraceous, dough, pudding; (*n*) fat, scrapper, fighter, oil, tallow.

damning: (*n*) curse, denunciation, malediction; (*adj*) incriminating, condemnatory, derogatory, inculpatory, offensive, inculpative. ANTONYM: (*adj*) complimentary.

detest: (*n, v*) hate; (*v*) abominate, loathe, despise, execrate, dislike, nauseate, contemn, dislike intensely; (*n*) loathing, abhorrence.

ANTONYMS: (*v*) adore, like, cherish, admire.

knee: (*n*) bracket, articulation, joint, kneel, knee joint, genu, articulation, genus, scythe, zigzag, sickle, bend.

learnt: (*adj*) learned.

mislaid: (*adj*) misplaced, absent, disordered, gone astray, not there,

missing, lost temporarily.

ANTONYM: (*adj*) found.

steadfastly: (*adv*) steadily, solidly, unwaveringly, resolutely, unfalteringly, unswervingly, determinedly, faithfully, persistently, permanently, staunchly.

ANTONYMS: (*adv*) unreliably, irresolutely, unfaithfully.

uttered: (*adj*) expressed, express, verbalised, verbalized, vocal, explicit, oral; (*v*) spoke, quoth, said.

HIGGINS.

Oh, that! Mere **alliteration**, Mrs. Pearce, natural to a poet.

MRS. PEARCE.

Well, sir, whatever you choose to call it, I beg you not to let the girl hear you repeat it.

HIGGINS.

Oh, very well, very well. Is that all?

MRS. PEARCE.

No, sir. We shall have to be very particular with this girl as to personal **cleanliness**.

HIGGINS.

Certainly. Quite right. Most important.

MRS. PEARCE.

I mean not to be **slovenly** about her dress or untidy in leaving things about.

HIGGINS

[going to her solemnly] Just so. I intended to call your attention to that [He passes on to PICKERING, who is enjoying the conversation immensely]. It is these little things that matter, Pickering. Take care of the pence and the pounds will take care of themselves is as true of personal **habits** as of money. [He comes to anchor on the hearthrug, with the air of a man in an **unassailable** position].

MRS. PEARCE.

Yes, sir. Then might I ask you not to come down to breakfast in your dressing-gown, or at any rate not to use it as a **napkin** to the extent you do, sir. And if you would be so good as not to eat everything off the same plate, and to remember not to put the **porridge** saucepan out of your hand on the clean **tablecloth**, it would be a better example to the girl. You know you nearly choked yourself with a **fishbone** in the jam only last week.

HIGGINS

[routed from the hearthrug and drifting back to the piano] I may do these

Thesaurus

alliteration: (*n*) rhyme, pun, agnomination, annomination, beginning rhyme, figure of speech, head rhyme, initial rhyme; (*v*) alliterate; (*adj, n*) paronomasia; (*adj*) antithesis.
cleanliness: (*n*) tidiness, neatness, chastity, wont, trait, hygiene, sanitation, purity, clarity. ANTONYMS: (*n*) dirtiness, impurity, squalor, uncleanness, grime.
fishbone: (*n*) herringbone, bone.

habits: (*n*) behavior, decorum, pratique.
napkin: (*n*) diaper, cloth, handkerchief, serviette, table napkin, nappy, dinner napkin, duster, malkin, maukin; (*v*) sudary.
porridge: (*v*) oatmeal, hasty pudding, mince pie, oyster, pineapple, mango; (*n*) burgoo, pap, plash, loblolly, podge.
slovenly: (*adj*) careless, untidy, sloppy, frowzy, dowdy, unkempt, negligent,

frowsy, messy, disheveled; (*adv*) slatternly. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) clean, neat, diligent.
tablecloth: (*n*) duster, napery, rag, table linen.
unassailable: (*adj*) irrefutable, impregnable, invulnerable, strong, inviolable, invincible, secure, incontestable, watertight, incontrovertible, safe. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) weak, unsound, disputable, shameful, tenuous, corrupt.

things sometimes in absence of mind; but surely I don't do them **habitually**.
[Angrily] By the way: my dressing-gown smells most **damnably** of **benzine**.

MRS. PEARCE.

No doubt it does, Mr. Higgins. But if you will wipe your fingers--

HIGGINS

[yelling] Oh very well, very well: I'll wipe them in my **hair** in future.

MRS. PEARCE.

I hope you're not offended, Mr. Higgins.

HIGGINS

[shocked at finding himself thought capable of an **unamiable** sentiment] Not at all, not at all. You're quite right, Mrs. Pearce: I shall be particularly careful before the girl. Is that all?

MRS. PEARCE.

No, sir. Might she use some of those Japanese dresses you brought from abroad? I really can't put her back into her old things.

HIGGINS.

Certainly. Anything you like. Is that all?

MRS. PEARCE.

Thank you, sir. That's all. [She goes out].

HIGGINS.

You know, Pickering, that woman has the most extraordinary ideas about me. Here I am, a shy, **diffident** sort of man. I've never been able to feel really grown-up and tremendous, like other **chaps**. And yet she's firmly persuaded that I'm an arbitrary **overbearing** bossing kind of person. I can't account for it.

[MRS. PEARCE returns.]

MRS. PEARCE.

If you please, sir, the trouble's beginning already. There's a dustman

Thesaurus

benzine: (*n*) gasoline, benzene, gas, petrol, gasoline, hydrocarbon, benzene nucleus, benzol, benzene formula, benzene ring.
chaps: (*n*) chops, fauces, crack.
damnably: (*adv*) damned, cursedly, odiously.
diffident: (*adj*) coy, modest, reserved, shy, timid, tentative, unassuming, retiring, hesitant, backward, self-conscious. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) outgoing, confident, brash, assertive,

unrepentant, brave, arrogant, approachable.
habitually: (*adv*) usually, ordinarily, normally, generally, regularly, frequently, commonly, routinely, wontedly, conventionally, commonplacely. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) unusually, seldom, erratically, exceptionally, occasionally.
hair: (*n*) coat, coma, haircloth, pile, locks, filament, fleece, fur, hairbreadth, down, forelock.

overbearing: (*adj*) dictatorial, domineering, arrogant, imperious, oppressive, despotic, authoritarian, supercilious, dogmatic, disdainful, lordly. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) meek, straightforward, modest, reasonable, subservient, weak.
unamiable: (*adj*) uncharitable, unfeeling, vinegary, sour, disobliging, resembling vinegar, morose.

downstairs, Alfred Doolittle, wants to see you. He says you have his daughter here.

PICKERING

[rising] Phew! I say! [He retreats to the hearthrug].

HIGGINS

[promptly] Send the **blackguard** up.

MRS. PEARCE.

Oh, very well, sir. [She goes out].

PICKERING.

He may not be a blackguard, Higgins.

HIGGINS.

Nonsense. Of course he's a blackguard.

PICKERING.

Whether he is or not, I'm afraid we shall have some trouble with him.

HIGGINS

[confidently] Oh no: I think not. If there's any trouble he shall have it with me, not I with him. And we are sure to get something interesting out of him.

PICKERING.

About the girl?

HIGGINS.

No. I mean his **dialect**.

PICKERING.

Oh!

MRS. PEARCE

[at the door] Doolittle, sir. [She admits DOOLITTLE and retires].

[**ALFRED DOOLITTLE** is an elderly but vigorous **dustman**, **clad** in the **costume** of his **profession**, including a hat with a back **brim covering** his **neck** and shoulders. He has well marked and rather interesting features, and seems equally free from fear and conscience. He has a remarkably expressive

Thesaurus

alfred: (*n*) Alfred the Great.

blackguard: (*n*) ruffian, rogue, dog, rascal, heel, hound, cad; (*adj*) base, vile; (*v*) vituperate, revile.

brim: (*n*) rim, periphery, verge, edge, lip, hem, rand, margin, perimeter, brink, limit.

clad: (*adj*) dressed, attired, clothed, coated, garbed; (*n*) cladding; (*prep*) gownned; (*v*) costume, shod, dress, attire. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) undressed, unclothed.

costume: (*n*) clothing, clothes, apparel, garb, suit, outfit, uniform, garments, drapery; (*n, v*) dress; (*v*) clothe.

covering: (*n*) cover, coating, blanket, coat, casing, wrapper, case, concealment, awning; (*adj, n, v*) clothing; (*n, v*) apparel. ANTONYMS: (*prep*) exactly, beneath.

dialect: (*n*) language, speech, vernacular, tongue, accent, lingo, conversation, say, talk, patois, phraseology.

dustman: (*n*) garbage man, garbage collector, employee, refuse collector; (*v*) scavenger, sweep; (*adj*) drab.

neck: (*n*) cervix, nape, neckband, neckline, isthmus; (*v*) make out, pet, love, cut; (*adj*) stricture, middle constriction.

profession: (*n*) employment, declaration, occupation, affirmation, calling, career, vocation, job, position, assertion, assurance. ANTONYM: (*n*) denial.

voice, the result of a habit of giving **vent** to his feelings without reserve. His present pose is that of wounded **honor** and stern resolution.]

DOOLITTLE

[at the door, uncertain which of the two **gentlemen** is his man] Professor Higgins?

HIGGINS.

Here. Good morning. Sit down.

DOOLITTLE.

Morning, Governor. [He sits down **magisterially**] I come about a very serious matter, Governor.

HIGGINS

[to PICKERING] Brought up in Hounslow. Mother Welsh, I should think. [DOOLITTLE opens his mouth, amazed. HIGGINS continues] What do you want, Doolittle?

DOOLITTLE

[menacingly] I want my daughter: that's what I want. See?

HIGGINS.

Of course you do. You're her father, aren't you? You don't suppose anyone else wants her, do you? I'm glad to see you have some **spark** of family feeling left. She's upstairs. Take her away at once.

DOOLITTLE

[rising, **fearfully** taken **aback**] What!

HIGGINS.

Take her away. Do you suppose I'm going to keep your daughter for you?

DOOLITTLE

[remonstrating] Now, now, look here, Governor. Is this reasonable? Is it fair to take advantage of a man like this? The girl belongs to me. You got her. Where do I come in? [He sits down again].

HIGGINS.

Your daughter had the audacity to come to my house and ask me to teach her

Thesaurus

aback: (*adv*) aft, astern, backward, abaft, backwards, short, sternmost, unawares, suddenly; (*adj*) back.

doolittle: (*n*) jimmy Doolittle, James Harold Doolittle.

fearfully: (*adv*) timidly, timorously, awfully, apprehensively, horrendously, hideously, anxiously, appallingly, terribly; (*adj, adv*) shockingly, dreadfully. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) bravely, calmly, confidently, wonderfully, rationally,

unconcernedly.

gentlemen: (*n*) sirs, messieurs.

honor: (*n, v*) respect, reputation, glory, fame, reward; (*n*) award, accolade, reverence; (*v*) celebrate; (*adj, n, v*) worship, grace. ANTONYMS: (*n, v*) dishonor, disgrace; (*n*) shame, humiliation, wickedness, contempt, insult; (*v*) break, ignore, disrespect, discredit.

magisterially: (*adv*) authoritatively, dictatorially, imperiously,

autocratically, peremptorily, overbearingly, imperatively, domineeringly, dogmatically, authoritarily, commandingly. **spark:** (*n, v*) flicker, flash, gleam, glint, glitter; (*n*) light, glimmer, arc, flame, fire; (*v*) activate.

vent: (*n*) exit, opening, flue, chimney, escape, blowhole; (*n, v*) discharge, air, release; (*v*) emit, ventilate. ANTONYMS: (*n*) door, closure; (*v*) block, suppress.

how to speak properly so that she could get a place in a flower-shop. This gentleman and my housekeeper have been here all the time. **[Bullying him]** How dare you come here and attempt to **blackmail** me? You sent her here on purpose.

DOOLITTLE

[protesting] No, Governor.

HIGGINS.

You must have. How else could you possibly know that she is here?

DOOLITTLE.

Don't take a man up like that, Governor.

HIGGINS.

The police **shall** take you up. This is a plant--a plot to **extort** money by threats. I shall telephone for the police [he goes **resolutely** to the telephone and opens the directory].

DOOLITTLE.

Have I asked you for a **brass farthing**? I leave it to the gentleman here: have I said a word about money?

HIGGINS

[throwing the book aside and **marching** down on Doolittle with a **poser**] What else did you come for?

DOOLITTLE

[sweetly] Well, what would a man come for? Be human, governor.

HIGGINS

[disarmed] Alfred: did you put her up to it?

DOOLITTLE.

So help me, Governor, I never did. I take my Bible oath I ain't seen the girl these two months past.

HIGGINS.

Then how did you know she was here?

Thesaurus

blackmail: (*n*) threat, extortion, bribe, racketeering, hush money, exaction, fraud; (*v*) force, extort, blackjack, coercion.
brass: (*n, v*) face; (*adj, n*) boldness; (*n*) nerve, cheek, administration, audaciousness, insolence, arrogance; (*adj*) bronze; (*v*) assurance, impudence.
bullying: (*adj*) blustery, frightening, intimidating, domineering, truculent; (*n*) terrorization, harassment,

maltreatment, aggression, threats; (*v*) intimidate.
extort: (*v*) exact, soak, compel, take, wring, force, extract, pry; (*adj*) bleed, fleece, overcharge.
farthing: (*n*) craps, faro, ante, chuck, doit, small change; (*adj*) bulrush, pinch of snuff, peppercorn, old son, jot.
marching: (*n*) walking, mar, drill; (*adj*) ongoing, moving.
poser: (*n*) riddle, puzzle, model,

mystery, enigma, problem, poseur, supporter, challenge, crossword, mannequin.
resolutely: (*adv*) determinedly, decidedly, steadfastly, decisively, unflatteringly, boldly, steadily, stubbornly, definitely, resolvedly, unwaveringly. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) irresolutely, indecisively, uncertainly, feebly, hesitantly, aimlessly.
shall: (*n*) must, necessity; (*v*) require, bequeath, leave.

DOOLITTLE

"most musical, most melancholy"] I'll tell you, Governor, if you'll only let me get a word in. I'm willing to tell you. I'm wanting to tell you. I'm waiting to tell you.

HIGGINS.

Pickering: this **chap** has a certain natural gift of **rhetoric**. Observe the **rhythm** of his native woodnotes wild. "I'm willing to tell you: I'm wanting to tell you: I'm waiting to tell you." **Sentimental** rhetoric! That's the Welsh strain in him. It also **accounts** for his mendacity and **dishonesty**.

PICKERING.

Oh, PLEASE, Higgins: I'm west country myself. [To DOOLITTLE] How did you know the girl was here if you didn't send her?

DOOLITTLE.

It was like this, Governor. The girl **took** a boy in the taxi to give him a **jaunt**. Son of her **landlady**, he is. He **hung** about on the chance of her giving him another ride home. Well, she sent him back for her **luggage** when she heard you was willing for her to stop here. I met the boy at the corner of Long Acre and Endell Street.

HIGGINS.

Public house. Yes?

DOOLITTLE.

The poor man's club, Governor: why shouldn't I?

PICKERING.

Do let him tell his story, Higgins.

DOOLITTLE.

He told me what was up. And I ask you, what was my feelings and my duty as a father? I says to the boy, "You bring me the luggage," I says--

PICKERING.

Why didn't you go for it yourself?

Thesaurus

accounts: (*n*) financial statement.

chap: (*n*) fellow, blighter, guy, crevice, cranny, crack, lad, man, scissure, beau, chink.

dishonesty: (*n*) corruption, betrayal, crookedness, injustice, deceitfulness, treachery, deviousness, duplicity, falsehood, racket, trick.

ANTONYMS: (*n*) frankness, sincerity, truthfulness, honesty, reliability.

hung: (*n*) hanging; (*v*) Heng; (*adj*)

fatigued, puzzled, decorated.

jaunt: (*n, v*) journey, drive, trip, outing, ride; (*v*) travel, airing; (*n*) expedition, junket, run, tour.

landlady: (*n*) landlord, madam, proprietor, hostess, innkeeper, landholder, lady of the house.

luggage: (*n*) baggage, bag, gear, grip, thing, goods, stuff, things, trunk, suitcase, pack.

rhetoric: (*n*) oratory, eloquence, grandiosity, rant, empty talk,

elocution, flourish, declamation, grandiloquence, bombast, palaver.

rhythm: (*n*) cadence, pulse, beat, cycle, tempo, rhyme, musical rhythm, calendar method, calendar method of birth control, metre; (*adj, n*) meter.

sentimental: (*adj*) maudlin, mushy, romantic, tender, soft, mawkish, schmaltzy, sappy, schmalzy, bathetic, slushy. **ANTONYMS:** (*adj*) hardhearted, cool.

took: (*adj*) taken; (*v*) receive.

DOOLITTLE.

Landlady wouldn't have **trusted** me with it, Governor. She's that kind of woman: you know. I had to give the boy a penny afore he trusted me with it, the little **swine**. I brought it to her just to **oblige** you like, and make myself **agreeable**. That's all.

HIGGINS.

How much luggage?

DOOLITTLE.

Musical instrument, Governor. A few pictures, a **trifle** of **jewelry**, and a bird-cage. She said she didn't want no clothes. What was I to think from that, Governor? I ask you as a parent what was I to think?

HIGGINS.

So you **came** to rescue her from worse than death, eh?

DOOLITTLE

[appreciatively: **relieved** at being understood] Just so, Governor. That's right.

PICKERING.

But why did you bring her luggage if you intended to take her away?

DOOLITTLE.

Have I said a word about taking her away? Have I now?

HIGGINS

[determinedly] You're going to take her away, double quick. [He crosses to the hearth and **rings** the bell].

DOOLITTLE

[rising] No, Governor. Don't say that. I'm not the man to stand in my girl's light. Here's a career opening for her, as you might say; and--

[MRS. PEARCE opens the door and awaits orders.]

HIGGINS.

Mrs. Pearce: this is Eliza's father. He has come to take her away. Give her to

Thesaurus

agreeable: (*adj*) accordant, nice, sweet, consistent, suitable, amusing, enjoyable, affable; (*adj, v*) pleasant, desirable; (*adj, n*) acceptable.
ANTONYMS: (*adj*) disagreeable, discordant, unpleasant, nasty, unwilling, resistant, aggressive, repugnant, averse, stubborn, unacceptable.
came: (*v*) arrive, come.
jewelry: (*n*) jewellery, jewel, gem, bijou, gems, adornment, bangle,

earring, bead, bracelet, band.
oblige: (*v*) coerce, force, drive, constrain, make, bind, accommodate, obligate, necessitate, enforce, impel.
ANTONYMS: (*v*) displease, request, hinder.
relieved: (*adj*) alleviated, thankful, mitigated, prominent, pleased, joyful, fresh, delighted, comfortable, cheerful, happy. **ANTONYM:** (*adj*) worried.
rings: (*n*) ornaments, necklaces, jewels,

costume jewelry, charms, bracelets.
swine: (*n*) hog, boar, beast, sow, Eohyus, babiroussa, babirussa, barrow, brute, razorback, grunter.
trifle: (*n, v*) play; (*adj, n, v*) trinket; (*v*) dally, fiddle, flirt, fool, frivol; (*n*) nothing, triviality, detail; (*adj, n*) bagatelle.
trusted: (*adj*) intimate, confidential, sure, bosom, beloved, cherished, familiar, trustworthy, indisputable, trusty, reliable.

him. [He goes back to the **piano**, with an air of **washing** his hands of the whole affair].

DOOLITTLE.

No. This is a **misunderstanding**. **Listen** here--

MRS. PEARCE.

He can't take her away, Mr. Higgins: how can he? You told me to burn her **clothes**.

DOOLITTLE.

That's right. I can't carry the girl through the **streets** like a blooming monkey, can I? I put it to you.

HIGGINS.

You have put it to me that you want your daughter. Take your daughter. If she has no clothes go out and buy her some.

DOOLITTLE

[desperate] Where's the clothes she come in? Did I burn them or did your missus here?

MRS. PEARCE.

I am the housekeeper, if you please. I have sent for some clothes for your girl. When they come you can take her away. You can wait in the **kitchen**. This way, please.

[DOOLITTLE, much **troubled**, accompanies her to the door; then hesitates; finally turns confidentially to HIGGINS.]

DOOLITTLE.

Listen here, Governor. You and me is men of the world, ain't we?

HIGGINS.

Oh! Men of the world, are we? You'd better go, Mrs. Pearce.

MRS. PEARCE.

I think so, indeed, sir. [She goes, with dignity].

Thesaurus

clothes: (*n*) apparel, clothing, dress, garb, wardrobe, vestment, garment, cloth, thing, gown, wear.
kitchen: (*n*) galley, cuisine, cookroom, cookery, basement, caboose, fireplace, hearth, room, offices, scullery.
listen: (*v*) hear, heed, hearken, attend, harken, list, listening, eavesdrop, mind, concentrate, pay attention.
misunderstanding: (*n*) misapprehension, disagreement,

misconception, misinterpretation, error, misconstruction, dispute, quarrel, mistaking; (*n, v*) dissension, difference. ANTONYMS: (*n*) harmony, fact, agreement, understanding.
piano: (*adj*) soft, gentle, indulgent, lax; (*n*) grand piano, pianissimo, softness, upright piano, mechanical piano; (*adv*) quietly, gently.
streets: (*n*) street.
troubled: (*adj, v*) concerned, solicitous;

(*adj*) distressed, anxious, worried, uneasy, uncomfortable, disconcerted, upset, apprehensive, restless. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) unconcerned, composed, calm, easy, relaxed, tranquil, assured, carefree, brave, stable, unaffected.
washing: (*n*) laundry, laundering, ablution, lavation, bathing, cleaning, purification, elutriation, dishwashing, backwash; (*adj*) cleansing.

PICKERING.

The floor is yours, Mr. Doolittle.

DOOLITTLE

[to PICKERING] I thank you, Governor. [To HIGGINS, who takes **refuge** on the piano bench, a little **overwhelmed** by the proximity of his visitor; for DOOLITTLE has a professional **flavor** of dust about him]. Well, the truth is, I've taken a sort of fancy to you, Governor; and if you want the girl, I'm not so set on having her back home again but what I might be open to an arrangement. Regarded in the light of a young woman, she's a fine handsome girl. As a daughter she's not worth her keep; and so I tell you straight. All I ask is my rights as a father; and you're the last man alive to expect me to let her go for nothing; for I can see you're one of the straight sort, Governor. Well, what's a five pound note to you? And what's Eliza to me? [He returns to his chair and sits down judicially].

PICKERING.

I think you ought to know, Doolittle, that Mr. Higgins's intentions are entirely **honorable**.

DOOLITTLE.

Course they are, Governor. If I thought they wasn't, I'd ask fifty.

HIGGINS

[revolted] Do you mean to say, you **callous rascal**, that you would sell your daughter for 50 pounds?

DOOLITTLE.

Not in a general way I wouldn't; but to oblige a gentleman like you I'd do a good deal, I do assure you.

PICKERING.

Have you no **morals**, man?

DOOLITTLE

[unabashed] Can't afford them, Governor. Neither could you if you was as

Thesaurus

callous: (*adj*) heartless, insensible, relentless, cruel, brutal, obdurate, hard, hardened, hardhearted, indifferent, insensitive. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) caring, merciful, compassionate, sensitive, sympathetic, tender, nice, thoughtful, affectionate, concerned, flattering.
flavor: (*n*) relish, tang, smell, aroma, salt; (*n, v*) taste, flavour, smack; (*v*) spice, season, sauce. ANTONYMS: (*n*) staleness, blandness, emptiness.

honorable: (*adj*) good, estimable, exalted, respectable, fair, decent, reputable, ethical, honor; (*adj, v*) great, noble. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) shameful, disgraceful, corrupt, degenerate, immoral, humiliating, dishonest, unethical, decadent, bad, deceitful.
morals: (*n*) ethics, moral, light, hedonism, ethical motive, conscience, motivation, motive, need, behavior, moral philosophy.

overwhelmed: (*adj*) beaten, overpowered, vanquished, dumbfounded, inundated, flooded, overthrown, engulfed, conquered, bewildered; (*v*) overborne. ANTONYM: (*adj*) unimpressed.
rascal: (*n*) villain, rascalion, monkey, miscreant, knave, scoundrel, scamp, rogue, varlet, vagabond, brat.
refuge: (*n*) sanctuary, asylum, safety, retreat, cover, harborage, haven, shelter, harbor; (*n, v*) recourse, resort.

poor as me. Not that I mean any harm, you know. But if Liza is going to have a bit out of this, why not me too?

HIGGINS

[troubled] I don't know what to do, Pickering. There can be no question that as a matter of morals it's a positive crime to give this chap a farthing. And yet I feel a sort of rough justice in his claim.

DOOLITTLE.

That's it, Governor. That's all I say. A father's heart, as it were.

PICKERING.

Well, I know the feeling; but really it seems hardly right--

DOOLITTLE.

Don't say that, Governor. Don't look at it that way. What am I, Governors both? I ask you, what am I? I'm one of the **undeserving** poor: that's what I am. Think of what that means to a man. It means that he's up agen middle class morality all the time. If there's anything going, and I put in for a bit of it, it's always the same story: "You're undeserving; so you can't have it." But my needs is as great as the most deserving widow's that ever got money out of six different charities in one week for the death of the same husband. I don't need less than a deserving man: I need more. I don't eat less **heartly** than him; and I drink a lot more. I want a bit of amusement, cause I'm a thinking man. I want **cheerfulness** and a song and a band when I feel low. Well, they charge me just the same for everything as they charge the deserving. What is middle class morality? Just an excuse for never giving me anything. Therefore, I ask you, as two gentlemen, not to play that game on me. I'm playing straight with you. I ain't **pretending** to be deserving. I'm undeserving; and I mean to go on being undeserving. I like it; and that's the truth. Will you take advantage of a man's nature to do him out of the price of his own daughter what he's brought up and fed and **clothed** by the sweat of his brow until she's growed big enough to be interesting to you two gentlemen? Is five pounds unreasonable? I put it to you; and I leave it to you.

Thesaurus

cheerfulness: (*n*) glee, happiness, exhilaration, hilarity, mirth, merriment, gladness, cheer, good spirits, pleasure, joviality.
ANTONYMS: (*n*) sadness, grimness, seriousness, misery, resentment, uncheerfulness, solemnity, lethargy, bleakness, gravity, gloominess.
clothed: (*adj*) dressed, wrapped, cloaked, robed, covered, attired, vested, absorbed, decent; (*v*) accustomed, arrayed. **ANTONYM:**

(*adj*) unclothed.
deserving: (*adj*) meritorious, admirable, creditable, commendable, laudable, fit, good, deserved, condign; (*v*) deserve, worthy of.
ANTONYMS: (*adj*) unworthy, undeserving, unimpressive.
heartly: (*adj*) heartfelt, healthy, genial, sturdy, cheering, fervent, wholehearted, lusty, enthusiastic, convivial; (*adj, n*) well. **ANTONYMS:** (*adj*) unhealthy, frail, old, weak,

sluggish, unwholesome, meager.
pretending: (*n, v*) pretense; (*n*) affectation, appearance, acting, pretence, mannerism, dissembling, pretension, deception, deceit; (*adv*) pretendingly.
undeserving: (*adj*) disgraceful, worthless, unworthy of, degrading, immeritous, indign, mean, not worthy, unbecoming, undeserving of.
ANTONYM: (*adj*) deserving.

HIGGINS

[rising, and going over to PICKERING] Pickering: if we were to take this man in hand for three months, he could choose between a seat in the Cabinet and a popular **pulpit** in Wales.

PICKERING.

What do you say to that, Doolittle?

DOOLITTLE.

Not me, Governor, thank you **kindly**. I've heard all the preachers and all the prime ministers--for I'm a thinking man and game for politics or religion or social reform same as all the other amusements--and I tell you it's a dog's life anyway you look at it. Undeserving poverty is my line. Taking one station in society with another, it's--it's--well, it's the only one that has any **ginger** in it, to my taste.

HIGGINS.

I suppose we must give him a **fiver**.

PICKERING.

He'll make a bad use of it, I'm afraid.

DOOLITTLE.

Not me, Governor, so help me I won't. Don't you be afraid that I'll save it and spare it and live **idle** on it. There won't be a **penny** of it left by Monday: I'll have to go to work same as if I'd never had it. It won't **pauperize** me, you bet. Just one good **spree** for myself and the missus, giving pleasure to ourselves and employment to others, and satisfaction to you to think it's not been thrown away. You couldn't spend it better.

HIGGINS

[taking out his **pocket** book and coming between DOOLITTLE and the piano] This is irresistible. Let's give him ten. [He offers two notes to the dustman].

DOOLITTLE.

No, Governor. She wouldn't have the heart to spend ten; and perhaps I shouldn't neither. Ten pounds is a lot of money: it makes a man feel prudent

Thesaurus

fiver: (n) bank note, banknote, bill.	kindly: (adj) kind, amiable, genial, charitable; (adv) sympathetically, benevolently, tenderly; (adj, n) benign, gentle, sympathetic, benevolent. ANTONYMS: (adv) harshly, nastily, callously, cruelly, sharply, disagreeably, grumpily, malevolently; (adj) upsetting, unfeeling, sour.	copper, groat, subunit, money, mite, doit, small change, denomination.
ginger: (n) fire, pep, galangal, vim, zest, zing, courage; (adj) gingery, auburn, caroty, red.	pauperize: (v) impoverish, pauperise, break, fold, reduce, ruin, bust, bleed.	pocket: (v) take, appropriate, steal, lift, catch; (n, v) sack, pouch; (n) cavity, hole, hollow; (adj) digest.
idle: (adj) lazy, indolent, inactive, free, unfounded, fruitless, baseless, groundless, frivolous, empty, disengaged. ANTONYMS: (adj) active, employed, industrious, energetic, meaningful, productive, worthwhile, diligent; (v) change, run, work.	penny: (n) change, coin, centime,	ANTONYM: (v) return.
		pulpit: (n) platform, dais, ambo, lectern, hustings, stump, rostrum, forum, desk, stand, state.
		spree: (n, v) frolic; (n) revel, fling, revelry, prank, orgy, bout, merriment, glee, mirth; (v) splurge.

like; and then goodbye to happiness. You give me what I ask you, Governor: not a penny more, and not a penny less.

PICKERING.

Why don't you marry that missus of yours? I rather draw the line at encouraging that sort of **immorality**.

DOOLITTLE.

Tell her so, Governor: tell her so. I'm willing. It's me that suffers by it. I've no hold on her. I got to be agreeable to her. I got to give her presents. I got to buy her clothes something **sinful**. I'm a slave to that woman, Governor, just because I'm not her lawful husband. And she knows it too. Catch her marrying me! Take my advice, Governor: marry Eliza while she's young and don't know no better. If you don't you'll be sorry for it after. If you do, she'll be sorry for it after; but better you than her, because you're a man, and she's only a woman and don't know how to be happy anyhow.

HIGGINS.

Pickering: if we listen to this man another minute, we shall have no convictions left. [To DOOLITTLE] Five pounds I think you said.

DOOLITTLE.

Thank you kindly, Governor.

HIGGINS.

You're sure you won't take ten?

DOOLITTLE.

Not now. Another time, Governor.

HIGGINS

[handing him a five-pound note] Here you are.

DOOLITTLE.

Thank you, Governor. Good morning.

[He hurries to the door, anxious to get away with his **booty**. When he opens it he is confronted with a **dainty** and **exquisitely** clean young Japanese lady in a simple blue cotton kimono **printed cunningly** with small white jasmine

Thesaurus

booty: (*n*) plunder, prize, loot, pillage, stolen goods, spoil, spoils, swag, haul, prey, trophy.

cunningly: (*adv*) craftily, artfully, cleverly, ingeniously, trickily, shrewdly, astutely, insidiously, smartly, foxily, slipperily.

ANTONYMS: (*adv*) ineptly, openly.

dainty: (*adj, v*) nice; (*adj, n, v*) delicacy; (*adj*) fastidious, savory, tasteful, squeamish, particular, mincing, refined; (*adj, n*) tidbit; (*n*) luxury.

ANTONYMS: (*adj*) coarse, vulgar, rough, inelegant, harsh, gross, awkward, accepting, heavy, careless, thick.

exquisitely: (*adv*) excellently, finely, magnificently, perfectly, beautifully, gorgeously, superbly, keenly, subtly; (*adj, adv*) intensely, exceedingly.

immorality: (*n*) iniquity, degeneracy, corruption, evil, vice, sin, evilness, wickedness, debauchery, devilry,

wrong. ANTONYMS: (*n*) righteousness, decency, piety, morality, restraint, honesty, good.

printed: (*adj*) written, imprinted, stamped, pressed, embossed, on paper.

sinful: (*adj*) wicked, impious, bad, iniquitous, ungodly, depraved, immoral, profane, criminal, wrong, unholy. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) pious, virtuous, moral, right, pure.

blossoms. MRS. PEARCE is with her. He gets out of her way **deferentially** and apologizes]. Beg pardon, miss.

THE JAPANESE LADY.

Garn! Don't you know your own daughter?

DOOLITTLE.

[exclaiming simultaneously] Bly me! it's Eliza!

HIGGINS.

[exclaiming simultaneously] What's that! This!

PICKERING.

[exclaiming simultaneously] By Jove!

LIZA.

Don't I look silly?

HIGGINS.

Silly?

MRS. PEARCE

[at the door] Now, Mr. Higgins, please don't say anything to make the girl **conceited** about herself.

HIGGINS

[conscientiously] Oh! Quite right, Mrs. Pearce. [To ELIZA] Yes: **damned** silly.

MRS. PEARCE.

Please, sir.

HIGGINS

[correcting himself] I mean extremely silly.

LIZA.

I should look all right with my hat on. [She takes up her hat; **puts** it on; and walks across the room to the fireplace with a **fashionable** air].

HIGGINS.

A new fashion, by George! And it **ought** to look **horrible**!

Thesaurus

conceited: (*adj*) arrogant, cocky, vain, boastful, proud, smug, affected, assuming, egotistical, haughty, pompous. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) modest, insecure, meek, selfless, unassuming.
damned: (*adj*) accursed, doomed, blasted, condemned, damn, cursed, wretched, infernal, hateful, goddamned; (*adv*) damnably. ANTONYM: (*adj*) saved.
deferentially: (*adv*) reverentially,

submissively, reverently, dutifully, regardfully, obsequiously, meekly, appreciatively, approvingly, flatteringly, positively. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) disapprovingly, irreverently, disobediently.
fashionable: (*adj*) popular, current, classy, trendy, chic, up to date, stylish, dressy, modern, swanky, swell. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) unpopular, styleless, dated, out, outmoded, tacky, inclusive, old, plain.

horrible: (*adj*) awful, fearful, frightful, abominable, grisly, formidable, dire, ghastly, dreadful, fearsome; (*adj, v*) horrid. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) wonderful, lovely, nice, lovable, fair, delightful, slight, appealing, minor, attractive, great.
ought: (*n, v*) need; (*v*) had better, should, have, possessed, owned, owed, behoove; (*n*) aught, zero, duty.
puts: (*n*) stocks, securities, preferred stock, common stock, bonds.

DOOLITTLE

[with **fatherly** pride] Well, I never thought she'd clean up as good looking as that, Governor. She's a credit to me, ain't she?

LIZA.

I tell you, it's easy to clean up here. Hot and cold water on tap, just as much as you like, there is. **Woolly towels**, there is; and a towel horse so hot, it **burns** your fingers. Soft brushes to **scrub** yourself, and a wooden bowl of **soap smelling** like primroses. Now I know why ladies is so clean. Washing's a treat for them. Wish they saw what it is for the like of me!

HIGGINS.

I'm glad the bath-room met with your approval.

LIZA.

It didn't: not all of it; and I don't care who **hears** me say it. Mrs. Pearce knows.

HIGGINS.

What was wrong, Mrs. Pearce?

MRS. PEARCE

[blandly] Oh, nothing, sir. It doesn't matter.

LIZA.

I had a good mind to break it. I didn't know which way to look. But I hung a towel over it, I did.

HIGGINS.

Over what?

MRS. PEARCE.

Over the looking-glass, sir.

HIGGINS.

Doolittle: you have brought your daughter up too strictly.

DOOLITTLE.

Me! I never brought her up at all, except to give her a **lick** of a **strap** now and

Thesaurus

burns: (*n*) George Burns, Nathan Birnbaum, Robert Burns.

fatherly: (*adj*) fatherlike, loving, motherly, sisterly, parental, affectionate, benevolent, benign; (*adj, adv*) kind; (*adv*) patriarchal, indulgent. ANTONYM: (*adv*) motherly.

hears: (*v*) hear.

lick: (*n, v*) lap; (*v*) clobber, thrash, drub, beat, bat, defeat; (*n*) biff, jab, speed, dash.

scrub: (*adj, v*) scour, mop; (*v*) scrape, clean, rub, polish, cleanse; (*n*) brush, bush, scouring; (*n, v*) wash. ANTONYMS: (*v*) restore, dirty, insert.

smelling: (*n*) smell, flavor, scent, olfactory modality, sensing, sense of smell; (*adj*) redolent, scented, odorous, stinking, rotten.

soap: (*v*) bribe, grease, oil, wheedle, cajole, flatter; (*n*) cleanser, soap opera, sope, soap fire brick, stipend.

strap: (*n, v*) lash, whip; (*n*) strop, leash, rein, shoulder strap, band, bar; (*v*) bind, flog; (*adj, n*) tie. ANTONYM: (*v*) untie.

towel: (*v*) napkin, handkerchief, cloth, malkin, maukin, dry, wallop, make dry; (*n*) mop, bath towel, face towel.

woolly: (*adj*) flocculent, fuzzy, hairy, downy, confused, woolly, hirsute, addled, befuddled, velvety; (*n*) Woolly bear. ANTONYM: (*adj*) clear.

again. Don't put it on me, Governor. She ain't **accustomed** to it, you see: that's all. But she'll soon pick up your free-and-easy ways.

LIZA.

I'm a good girl, I am; and I won't pick up no free and easy ways.

HIGGINS.

Eliza: if you say again that you're a good girl, your father shall take you home.

LIZA.

Not him. You don't know my father. All he come here for was to touch you for some money to get **drunk** on.

DOOLITTLE.

Well, what else would I want money for? To put into the plate in church, I suppose. [She puts out her tongue at him. He is so **incensed** by this that Pickering **presently** finds it necessary to step between them]. Don't you give me none of your lip; and don't let me hear you giving this gentleman any of it neither, or you'll hear from me about it. See?

HIGGINS.

Have you any further advice to give her before you go, Doolittle? Your **blessing**, for instance.

DOOLITTLE.

No, Governor: I ain't such a mug as to put up my children to all I know myself. Hard enough to hold them in without that. If you want Eliza's mind improved, Governor, you do it yourself with a strap. So long, gentlemen. [He turns to go].

HIGGINS

[impressively] Stop. You'll come regularly to see your daughter. It's your duty, you know. My brother is a **clergyman**; and he could help you in your talks with her.

DOOLITTLE

[evasively] Certainly. I'll come, Governor. Not just this week, because I have a

Thesaurus

accustomed: (<i>adj, n</i>) habitual; (<i>adj</i>) familiar, normal, wonted, usual, natural, everyday, ordinary, habituated, common, traditional. ANTONYMS: (<i>adj</i>) unusual, green, unseasoned, unconventional, untrained, abnormal, uncharacteristic, exceptional.	disaster, condemnation, adversity, desecration, refusal, veto, disadvantage. clergyman: (<i>n</i>) minister, chaplain, priest, pastor, churchman, preacher, parson, rector, dominie, vicar; (<i>adj</i>) divine. ANTONYMS: (<i>n</i>) layman, layperson.	clearheaded; (<i>n</i>) teetotaler.
blessing: (<i>n</i>) benediction, approval, mercy, felicity, benison, benefit, luck, advantage, boon, bless, godsend. ANTONYMS: (<i>n</i>) curse, misfortune,	drunk: (<i>adj</i>) tipsy, wet, tight, blotto, drunken, inebriated; (<i>adj, n</i>) inebriate; (<i>n</i>) boozier, dipsomaniac, drunkard, drinker. ANTONYMS: (<i>adj</i>) straight,	incensed: (<i>adj</i>) angry, exasperated, enraged, indignant, irate, infuriated, irritated, mad, livid, angered, aggravated. ANTONYM: (<i>adj</i>) pleased.
		presently: (<i>adv</i>) instantly, directly, currently, before long, shortly, soon, now, at present, readily, just, actually. ANTONYMS: (<i>adv</i>) later, now, formerly.

job at a distance. But later on you may depend on me. Afternoon, gentlemen. Afternoon, **ma'am**. [He takes off his hat to MRS. PEARCE, who disdains the **salutation** and goes out. He winks at HIGGINS, thinking him probably a fellow **sufferer** from Mrs. Pearce's difficult **disposition**, and follows her].

LIZA.

Don't you believe the old **liar**. He'd as soon you set a bull-dog on him as a clergyman. You won't see him again in a hurry.

HIGGINS.

I don't want to, Eliza. Do you?

LIZA.

Not me. I don't want never to see him again, I don't. He's a **disgrace** to me, he is, collecting dust, instead of working at his trade.

PICKERING.

What is his trade, Eliza?

LIZA.

Talking money out of other people's pockets into his own. His proper trade's a **navvy**; and he works at it sometimes too--for exercise--and earns good money at it. Ain't you going to call me Miss Doolittle any more?

PICKERING.

I beg your pardon, Miss Doolittle. It was a slip of the tongue.

LIZA.

Oh, I don't mind; only it sounded so genteel. I should just like to take a taxi to the corner of Tottenham Court Road and get out there and tell it to wait for me, just to put the girls in their place a bit. I wouldn't speak to them, you know.

PICKERING.

Better wait til we get you something really fashionable.

HIGGINS.

Besides, you shouldn't cut your old friends now that you have risen in the world. That's what we call **snobbery**.

Thesaurus

disgrace: (*adj, n, v*) dishonor; (*n, v*) discredit, shame, stain, blemish, blot, slur, reproach; (*v*) degrade, debase; (*n*) degradation. ANTONYMS: (*n, v*) respect, esteem, credit; (*v*) glorify, dignify, praise; (*n*) merit, grace, pride, rise, worthiness.
disposition: (*n*) attitude, character, disposal, tendency, predisposition, inclination, propensity, bias, arrangement, direction, aptitude.
liar: (*n*) deceiver, fibber, fabricator,

falsifier, trickster, prevaricator, con artist, phony, lie, impostor, swindler.
ma'am: (*n*) lady, madam, gentlewoman, milady, woman, madame, Grande dame, doll, chick, brothel keeper, bird.
navvy: (*n*) laborer, labourer, galley slave, Demiurgus, drudge, hack, hewers of wood and drawers of water, manual laborer, hacker, peon; (*v*) pavior.
salutation: (*n, v*) salute; (*n*) reception,

hail, hello, welcome, address, compliment, hullo, recognition, interpellation, pax.
snobbery: (*n*) pride, conceit, snobbism, snobbishness, arrogance, clannishness, pretension, vanity, smugness, exclusivity, elitism. ANTONYM: (*n*) modesty.
sufferer: (*n*) victim, martyr, prey, casualty, invalid, depressive, diseased person, sick person, rheumatic, diabetic, neurotic.

LIZA.

You don't call the like of them my friends now, I should hope. They've took it out of me often enough with their **ridicule** when they had the chance; and now I mean to get a bit of my own back. But if I'm to have fashionable clothes, I'll wait. I should like to have some. Mrs. Pearce says you're going to give me some to wear in bed at night different to what I wear in the **daytime**; but it do seem a waste of money when you could get something to show. **Besides**, I never could **fancy** changing into cold things on a winter night.

MRS. PEARCE

[coming back] Now, Eliza. The new things have come for you to try on.

LIZA.

Ah--ow--oo--ooh! [She **rushes** out].

MRS. PEARCE

[following her] Oh, don't rush about like that, girl [She shuts the door behind her].

HIGGINS.

Pickering: we have taken on a **stiff** job.

PICKERING

[with conviction] Higgins: we have.

Thesaurus

besides: (*adv*) as well, moreover, too, furthermore, again, as well as, anyway, additionally; (*prep*) apart from, beside; (*adj, adv*) more.
daytime: (*n*) day, afternoon, period, eve, daylight hours, Clarence Shepard day Jr, Clarence day, light, eventide, evening. ANTONYM: (*n*) night.
fancy: (*n, v*) desire, fantasy, caprice, dream, wish, daydream; (*v*) imagine, consider; (*adj, v*) conceive; (*n*)

conception, conceit. ANTONYMS: (*n*) reality, certainty, actuality, conviction; (*adj*) unadorned, common; (*v*) hate, demonstrate, detest, disapprove, test.
ridicule: (*n, v*) laugh at, deride, banter, insult, taunt, scorn, scoff; (*n*) derision, mockery; (*adj, n*) irony; (*v*) jeer. ANTONYMS: (*n, v*) praise, respect; (*v*) approve; (*n*) approval, admiration.
rush: (*n, v*) charge, flood, dash, flow,

gush, race, run, speed, attack; (*adj, n, v*) burst; (*n*) onrush. ANTONYMS: (*v*) delay, dawdle, linger, wander, amble, hesitate, crawl, trickle; (*n*) shortage, slowness, unimportance.
stiff: (*adj*) hard, formal, inflexible, difficult, rigorous, numb, firm, sturdy; (*adj, n*) stark, severe; (*n*) corpse. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) soft, supple, flexible, floppy, pliable, free, easy, loose, informal, mild, pliant.

ACT III

[It is Mrs. Higgins's at-home day. Nobody has yet arrived. Her drawing-room, in a flat on Chelsea **embankment**, has three windows looking on the river; and the ceiling is not so **lofty** as it would be in an older house of the same **pretension**. The windows are open, giving access to a **balcony** with flowers in pots. If you stand with your face to the windows, you have the fireplace on your left and the door in the right-hand wall close to the corner nearest the windows.]

[MRS. HIGGINS was brought up on Morris and Burne Jones; and her room, which is very unlike her son's room in Wimpole Street, is not **crowded** with furniture and little tables and nicknacks. In the middle of the room there is a big **ottoman**; and this, with the carpet, the Morris wall-papers, and the Morris **chintz** window curtains and **brocade** covers of the ottoman and its cushions, supply all the **ornament**, and are much too handsome to be hidden by odds and ends of useless things. A few good oil-paintings from the exhibitions in the Grosvenor Gallery thirty years ago (the Burne Jones, not the Whistler side of them) are on the walls. The only landscape is a Cecil Lawson on the scale of a Rubens. There is a portrait of MRS. HIGGINS as she was when she defied fashion in her youth in one of the beautiful Rossettian costumes which, when caricatured by people who did not understand, led to the absurdities of popular estheticism in the eighteen-seventies.]

Thesaurus

balcony: (*n*) verandah, veranda, loggia, gallery, porch, arch, terrace, construction, eaves, portico, structure.
brocade: (*n*) brocatelle, cloth, fabric, fringe, galloon, lace, trapping, edging, embroidery.
chintz: (*n*) fabric.
crowded: (*adj*) compact, congested, full, packed, busy, dense, populous, jammed, cramped, tight; (*adj, n*) thronged. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) sparse,

deserted, uncrowded, loose.
embankment: (*n*) dam, bank, bulwark, weir, wall, jetty, rampart, mound, pier, pond, fortification.
lofty: (*adj, v*) high, elevated; (*adj*) exalted, eminent, arrogant, grand, tall, haughty, great, distinguished, majestic. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) short, lowly, base, modest, deferential, humble.
ornament: (*n*) decoration, adornment, embellishment, decor; (*v*) beautify,

decorate, deck, embellish, adorn; (*n, v*) garnish, dress. ANTONYM: (*v*) strip.
ottoman: (*n*) hassock, footstool, footrest, fauteuil, Osmanli, settle, Turk, Ottomite, woolsack, fag, pouf.
pretension: (*n*) ostentation, pretence, affectation, pretense, claim, assertion, title, pretentiousness, feint, pride, requirement. ANTONYMS: (*n*) modesty, humility, honesty.

[In the corner **diagonally** opposite the door MRS. HIGGINS, now over sixty and long past taking the trouble to dress out of the fashion, sits writing at an **elegantly** simple writing-table with a bell button within reach of her hand. There is a Chippendale chair further back in the room between her and the window nearest her side. At the other side of the room, further forward, is an Elizabethan chair roughly **carved** in the taste of Inigo Jones. On the same side a piano in a **decorated** case. The corner between the fireplace and the window is occupied by a **divan cushioned** in Morris chintz.]

[It is between four and five in the afternoon.]

[The door is opened violently; and HIGGINS enters with his hat on.]

MRS. HIGGINS

[dismayed] Henry [scolding him]! What are you doing here to-day? It is my at home day: you promised not to come. [As he **bends** to kiss her, she takes his hat off, and presents it to him].

HIGGINS.

Oh bother! [He throws the hat down on the table].

MRS. HIGGINS.

Go home at once.

HIGGINS

[kissing her] I know, mother. I came on purpose.

MRS. HIGGINS.

But you mustn't. I'm serious, Henry. You **offend** all my friends: they stop coming whenever they meet you.

HIGGINS.

Nonsense! I know I have no small talk; but people don't mind. [He sits on the settee].

MRS. HIGGINS.

Oh! don't they? Small talk indeed! What about your large talk? Really, dear, you mustn't stay.

Thesaurus

bends: (n) caisson disease, aeroembolism, air embolism, bend, gas embolism, compressed air sickness.
carved: (adj) cut, incised, sculptured; (v) graven, engraved, stamped, fixed, imprinted. ANTONYM: (adj) uncarved.
cushioned: (adj) spongy, cushiony.
decorated: (adj) ornate, fancy, frilled, beautiful, bejeweled, ornamental, embellished, decked, bedecked,

ornamented, brocaded.
diagonally: (adv) obliquely, slantingly, crossways, transversely, slopingly, aslantly, biasly, slantedly, slantways, cornerwise, bias. ANTONYM: (adv) square.
divan: (n) anthology, settee, sofa, diwan, directory, Chamber of Deputies, chair, Cortes, sanhedrim, woolsack, chesterfield.
elegantly: (adv) exquisitely, tastefully, genteelly, neatly, delicately,

handsomely, finely, stylishly, refinedly, polishedly, beautifully.
ANTONYMS: (adv) coarsely, clumsily, tastelessly, untidily, awkwardly, vigorously.
offend: (v) irritate, affront, insult, contravene, injure, disgust, infringe, displease, abuse, wound, anger. ANTONYMS: (v) please, delight, praise, attract.

HIGGINS.

I must. I've a job for you. A phonetic job.

MRS. HIGGINS.

No use, dear. I'm sorry; but I can't get round your vowels; and though I like to get pretty postcards in your **patent shorthand**, I always have to read the copies in ordinary writing you so **thoughtfully** send me.

HIGGINS.

Well, this isn't a phonetic job.

MRS. HIGGINS.

You said it was.

HIGGINS.

Not your part of it. I've picked up a girl.

MRS. HIGGINS.

Does that mean that some girl has picked you up?

HIGGINS.

Not at all. I don't mean a love **affair**.

MRS. HIGGINS.

What a pity!

HIGGINS.

Why?

MRS. HIGGINS.

Well, you never fall in love with anyone under forty-five. When will you discover that there are some rather **nice**-looking young women about?

HIGGINS.

Oh, I can't be bothered with young women. My idea of a **loveable** woman is something as like you as possible. I shall never get into the way of seriously **liking** young women: some habits lie too deep to be changed. [Rising abruptly and walking about, **jingling** his money and his keys in his trouser pockets] Besides, they're all idiots.

Thesaurus

affair: (*n*) occurrence, event, business, concern, occasion, job, topic, duty, subject, amour, thing.

jingling: (*adj*) reverberant, clinking, jingly.

liking: (*n, v*) inclination; (*n*) fancy, appetite, taste, fondness, predilection, affection, partiality, admiration, approval, appreciation.

ANTONYMS: (*n*) dislike, aversion, hatred, indifference, detachment, dissatisfaction, antipathy.

loveable: (*adj*) amiable, adorable.

nice-looking: (*adj*) neat, attractive, handsome.

patent: (*adj*) overt, evident, apparent, manifest, plain, clear, conspicuous, open, palpable, explicit; (*n*) letters patent. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) inconspicuous, obscure, subtle, unobtrusive, veiled, ambiguous, furtive, questionable.

shorthand: (*n*) handwriting; (*adj*) written.

thoughtfully: (*adv*) considerably, carefully, kindly, reflectively, meditatively, attentively, solemnly, contemplatively, seriously, prudently, cautiously. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) unsympathetically, unthinkingly, carelessly, contentedly, rashly, inconsiderately, selfishly, meanly, insensitively, tactlessly, cruelly.

MRS. HIGGINS.

Do you know what you would do if you really loved me, Henry?

HIGGINS.

Oh bother! What? **Marry**, I suppose?

MRS. HIGGINS.

No. Stop fidgeting and take your hands out of your pockets. [With a **gesture** of **despair**, he obeys and sits down again]. That's a good boy. Now tell me about the girl.

HIGGINS.

She's coming to see you.

MRS. HIGGINS.

I don't remember asking her.

HIGGINS.

You didn't. I asked her. If you'd known her you wouldn't have asked her.

MRS. HIGGINS.

Indeed! Why?

HIGGINS.

Well, it's like this. She's a common flower girl. I picked her off the kerbstone.

MRS. HIGGINS.

And invited her to my at-home!

HIGGINS

[rising and coming to her to **coax** her] Oh, that'll be all right. I've taught her to speak properly; and she has **strict** orders as to her **behavior**. She's to keep to two subjects: the weather and everybody's health--Fine day and How do you do, you know--and not to let herself go on things in general. That will be safe.

MRS. HIGGINS.

Safe! To talk about our health! about our **insides**! perhaps about our outsides! How could you be so silly, Henry?

Thesaurus

behavior: (*n, v*) bearing, demeanor; (*n*) carriage, conduct, deportment, act, behaviour, manner, character, action, morality.
coax: (*n, v*) wheedle, allure, entice, charm, tempt, seduce; (*v*) cajole, beguile, blarney, blandish; (*n*) coaxial cable. ANTONYMS: (*v*) bully, compel, allow, dissuade.
despair: (*n*) disappointment, desolation, dejection, melancholy, gloom, desperation, depression,

dismay, discouragement, pessimism, sorrow. ANTONYMS: (*n*) happiness, hopefulness, expectation, joy, cheer, cheerfulness, resilience, elation, joyfulness.
gesture: (*n, v*) sign, signal, motion; (*n*) beck, gesticulation, indication, movement; (*v*) gesticulate, beckon, wave, bless.
insides: (*n*) bowels, innards, entrails, intestines, filling, belly, gut, viscera, stomach.

marry: (*n, v*) wed, espouse; (*v*) get married, link, conjoin, wive, splice, tie, unite, couple; (*n*) marriage. ANTONYMS: (*v*) divorce, separate, split.
strict: (*adj*) severe, stern, rigid, correct, austere, rigorous, harsh, scrupulous; (*adj, v*) exact, accurate, precise. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) lenient, lax, free, negligent, imprecise, flexible, relaxed, loose, gentle, inaccurate, liberal.

HIGGINS

[impatiently] Well, she must talk about something. [He controls himself and sits down again]. Oh, she'll be all right: don't you fuss. Pickering is in it with me. I've a sort of bet on that I'll pass her off as a duchess in six months. I started on her some months ago; and she's getting on like a house on fire. I shall win my bet. She has a quick ear; and she's been easier to **teach** than my middle-class pupils because she's had to learn a complete new language. She talks English almost as you talk French.

MRS. HIGGINS.

That's satisfactory, at all events.

HIGGINS.

Well, it is and it isn't.

MRS. HIGGINS.

What does that mean?

HIGGINS.

You see, I've got her pronunciation all right; but you have to consider not only how a girl pronounces, but what she pronounces; and that's where--

[They are **interrupted** by the PARLOR-MAID, **announcing** guests.]

THE PARLOR-MAID.

Mrs. and Miss Eynsford Hill. [She withdraws].

HIGGINS.

Oh Lord! [He rises; **snatches** his hat from the table; and makes for the door; but before he **reaches** it his mother introduces him].

[MRS. AND MISS EYNSFORD HILL are the mother and daughter who **sheltered** from the rain in Covent Garden. The mother is well bred, quiet, and has the **habitual** anxiety of **straitened** means. The daughter has acquired a gay air of being very much at home in society: the **bravado** of genteel poverty.]

MRS. EYNSFORD HILL

[to MRS. HIGGINS] How do you do? [They shake hands].

Thesaurus

announcing: (*n*) publicity, communication; (*adj*) annunciative.

bravado: (*n*) boast, bluster, braggadocio, bluff, bragging, swagger, defiance, ostentation, bravery, talk, swaggering.
ANTONYMS: (*n*) restraint, humility, modesty.

habitual: (*adj, n*) common, frequent, usual; (*adj*) chronic, conventional, confirmed, accustomed, natural, commonplace, everyday, ordinary.

ANTONYMS: (*adj*) occasional, infrequent, mild, irregular, exceptional, erratic, abnormal, innovative.

interrupted: (*adj*) discontinuous, fitful, intermittent, discontinued, disconnected, unsuccessful, intervallic, episodic, gaping, periodic; (*prep*) interrupt.

reaches: (*n*) recess.

sheltered: (*adj*) secure, comfortable, screened, safe, secluded, cozy, snug,

covered, shaded; (*adj, v*) private; (*v*) covert. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) vulnerable, sunny, exposed, public, harsh, bleak.

snatches: (*n*) grasp, gain, catch.

straitened: (*n*) necessitous, pinched, distressed, put to it; (*adj*) narrow, poor, destitute, selfish, narrow views, exact, near.

teach: (*v*) enlighten, educate, instruct, coach, indoctrinate, drill, learn, lecture, school; (*adj, v*) guide, show.

MISS EYNSFORD HILL.

How d'you do? [She shakes].

MRS. HIGGINS

[introducing] My son Henry.

MRS. EYNSFORD HILL.

Your celebrated son! I have so longed to meet you, Professor Higgins.

HIGGINS

[glumly, making no movement in her direction] Delighted. [He backs against the piano and bows brusquely].

MISS EYNSFORD HILL

[going to him with confident **familiarity**] How do you do?

HIGGINS

[staring at her] I've seen you before somewhere. I haven't the **ghost** of a notion where; but I've heard your voice. [**Drearily**] It doesn't matter. You'd better sit down.

MRS. HIGGINS.

I'm sorry to say that my celebrated son has no **manners**. You mustn't mind him.

MISS EYNSFORD HILL

[gaily] I don't. [She sits in the Elizabethan chair].

MRS. EYNSFORD HILL

[a little bewildered] Not at all. [She sits on the ottoman between her daughter and MRS. HIGGINS, who has turned her chair away from the writing-table].

HIGGINS.

Oh, have I been **rude**? I didn't mean to be. He goes to the central window, through which, with his back to the company, he contemplates the river and the flowers in Battersea Park on the opposite bank as if they were a frozen **dessert**.

[The parlor-maid **returns**, ushering in PICKERING.]

Thesaurus

dessert: (*n*) sweet, afters, pudding, ambrosia, blancmange, compote, confectionery, confection; (*v*) bait, bever, dejeuner.
drearily: (*adv*) dismally, sadly, dully, melancholy, tediously, boringly, bleakly, grimly, gloomily, uninterestingly, monotonously.
ANTONYMS: (*adv*) interestingly, cheerfully.
familiarity: (*adj, n*) acquaintance; (*n*) intimacy, closeness, experience,

casualness, conversancy, knowledge, conversance, naturalness, nearness, friendship. **ANTONYMS:** (*n*) unfamiliarity, formality, abnormality, distance, animosity.
ghost: (*n, v*) apparition, specter; (*n*) shade, spirit, demon, soul, spook, spectre, goblin, appearance, monster.
manners: (*n*) conduct, etiquette, propriety, behavior, deportment, manner, courtesy, custom, decorum, good manners, usage. **ANTONYM:**

(*n*) vulgarity.
returns: (*n, v*) proceeds, income, profits; (*n*) earnings, return, census, take, revenue, wage, takings, result.
rude: (*adj, n*) rough, impudent, coarse, abrupt, bold; (*adj*) blunt, discourteous, impolite, brutal, crude, mean. **ANTONYMS:** (*adj*) polite, refined, courteous, chivalrous, civil, proper, decent, exact, clean, gentle, inoffensive.

THE PARLOR-MAID.

Colonel Pickering [She withdraws].

PICKERING.

How do you do, Mrs. Higgins?

MRS. HIGGINS.

So glad you've come. Do you know Mrs. Eynsford Hill--Miss Eynsford Hill? [Exchange of bows. The COLONEL brings the Chippendale chair a little forward between MRS. HILL and MRS. HIGGINS, and sits down].

PICKERING.

Has Henry told you what we've come for?

HIGGINS

[over his **shoulder**] We were interrupted: **damn** it!

MRS. HIGGINS.

Oh Henry, Henry, really!

MRS. EYNSFORD HILL

[half rising] Are we in the way?

MRS. HIGGINS

[rising and making her sit down again] No, no. You couldn't have come more **fortunately**: we want you to meet a friend of ours.

HIGGINS

[turning **hopefully**] Yes, by George! We want two or three people. You'll do as well as anybody else.

[The PARLOR-MAID returns, ushering FREDDY.]

THE PARLOR-MAID.

Mr. Eynsford Hill.

HIGGINS

[almost **audibly**, past **endurance**] God of Heaven! another of them.

FREDDY

[shaking hands with MRS. HIGGINS] Ahdedo?

Thesaurus

audibly: (*adv*) loudly, clearly, out loud. ANTONYMS: (*adv*)

imperceptibly, inaudibly, indistinctly, silently.

damn: (*adj, adv, v*) bloody; (*v*) curse, imprecate, beshrew, blaspheme, cuss, slam, convict; (*adj*) blasted, cursed; (*n*) damnation. ANTONYMS: (*v*) bless, laud, glorify, exalt, commend, praise.

endurance: (*adj, n*) sufferance; (*n*) stamina, tolerance, courage,

permanence, continuance, energy, fortitude, tenacity, duration, toughness. ANTONYMS: (*n*) weakness, inconsistency, impatience, frailty, discontinuation, discontinuance, death.

fortunately: (*adv*) happily, prosperously, propitiously, fortuitously, providentially, successfully, auspiciously, opportunely, felicitously, blessedly, advantageously. ANTONYMS: (*adv*)

disastrously, unluckily, inauspiciously, negatively.

hopefully: (*adv*) confidently, optimistically, brightly, cheerfully, positively, auspiciously, expectantly, rosily, encouragingly, promisingly, buoyantly. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) hopelessly, despairingly, pessimistically.

shoulder: (*v*) carry, push, hold, jostle, sustain, support, assume, accept; (*n, v*) elbow; (*n*) back, flange.

MRS. HIGGINS.

Very good of you to come. [**Introducing**] Colonel Pickering.

FREDDY

[bowing] Ahdedo?

MRS. HIGGINS.

I don't think you know my son, Professor Higgins.

FREDDY

[going to HIGGINS] Ahdedo?

HIGGINS

[looking at him much as if he were a **pickpocket**] I'll take my oath I've met you before somewhere. Where was it?

FREDDY.

I don't think so.

HIGGINS

[resignedly] It don't matter, anyhow. Sit down. He **shakes** Freddy's hand, and almost slings him on the ottoman with his face to the windows; then comes round to the other side of it.

HIGGINS.

Well, here we are, anyhow! [He sits down on the ottoman next MRS. EYNSFORD HILL, on her left]. And now, what the devil are we going to talk about until Eliza comes?

MRS. HIGGINS.

Henry: you are the life and soul of the Royal Society's soirees; but really you're rather trying on more **commonplace** occasions.

HIGGINS.

Am I? Very sorry. [**Beaming** suddenly] I suppose I am, you know. [**Uproariously**] Ha, ha!

MISS EYNSFORD HILL

[who considers HIGGINS quite eligible **matrimonially**] I **sympathize**. I

Thesaurus

beaming: (*adj*) bright, radiant, glowing, glad, beamy, cheerful, refulgent, sunny, luminous, resplendent, incandescent.
ANTONYMS: (*adj*) gloomy, dark, dusky, frowning, sad, sullen, tenebrous.
commonplace: (*adj, v*) trite, hackneyed; (*adj*) banal, ordinary, humdrum, common, average, plain, mundane, dull; (*n*) platitude.
ANTONYMS: (*adj*) extraordinary,

unusual, exceptional, infrequent, rare, romantic, uncommon, weird; (*n*) deepness, profundity, profoundness.
introducing: (*n*) introduction.
matrimonially: (*adv*) connubially, maritally, weddedly, nuptially, marriedly, spousally, hymeneally.
pickpocket: (*n*) cutpurse, thief, dip, robber, burglar, shoplifter, inclination, magnetic dip, magnetic inclination, miscreant, nipper.
shakes: (*n*) hangover, jitters,

nervousness, tension, anxiety.
sympathize: (*v*) pity, understand, condole, compassionate, feel, sympathise, identify with, empathize, have compassion, feel sorry for, feel for. **ANTONYMS:** (*v*) disapprove, disregard.
uproariously: (*adv*) hilariously, riotously, boisterously, tumultuously, rowdily, turbulently, loudly, wildly, hysterically, entertainingly, amusingly.

haven't any small talk. If people would only be frank and say what they really think!

HIGGINS

[relapsing into **gloom**] Lord **forbid**!

MRS. EYNSFORD HILL

[taking up her daughter's cue] But why?

HIGGINS.

What they think they ought to think is bad enough, Lord knows; but what they really think would break up the whole show. Do you suppose it would be really agreeable if I were to come out now with what I really think?

MISS EYNSFORD HILL

[gaily] Is it so very **cynical**?

HIGGINS.

Cynical! Who the **dickens** said it was cynical? I mean it wouldn't be decent.

MRS. EYNSFORD HILL

[seriously] Oh! I'm sure you don't mean that, Mr. Higgins.

HIGGINS.

You see, we're all savages, more or less. We're supposed to be **civilized** and cultured--to know all about **poetry** and philosophy and art and science, and so on; but how many of us know even the meanings of these names? [To MISS HILL] What do you know of poetry? [To MRS. HILL] What do you know of science? [Indicating FREDDY] What does he know of art or science or anything else? What the **devil** do you imagine I know of philosophy?

MRS. HIGGINS

[warningly] Or of manners, Henry?

THE PARLOR-MAID

[opening the door] Miss Doolittle. [She withdraws].

HIGGINS

[rising hastily and running to MRS. HIGGINS] Here she is, mother. [He

Thesaurus

civilized: (*adj*) civil, refined, polite, civilised, cultivated, educated, courteous, urbane, kind, gentle, genteel. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) uncouth, noncivilized, discourteous, loutish, rude, inhumane, wild.

cynical: (*adj*) distrustful, cynic, ironic, disenchanting, disbelieving, misanthropic, suspicious, negative, contemptuous; (*adj, v*) satirical, sardonic. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) trusting, convinced, approving, dreamy,

positive, hopeful, resigned, believing, aggressive, fresh, certain.

devil: (*n*) fiend, demon, ghost, monster, Lucifer, Satan, Beelzebub, deuce, daemon; (*v*) torment, rag. ANTONYM: (*n*) angel.

dickens: (*n*) devil, demon, exclaiming, exclamation, the Devil, Satan, fiend, urchin, Beelzebub, Charles Dickens; (*adj*) mischievous.

forbid: (*v*) prohibit, ban, disallow, bar, obstruct, exclude, deny, avert,

frustrate, to prohibit, enjoin.

ANTONYMS: (*v*) allow, let, approve, authorize, stand.

gloom: (*n*) desolation, dark, darkness, blackness, depression, dimness, dusk, dreariness, despair, dejection; (*n, v*) cloud. ANTONYMS: (*n*) brightness, happiness, cheerfulness, glee, ecstasy, joy, optimism, cheer.

poetry: (*n*) verse, poesy, song, rhyme, style, poetics, epos, poems, stanza, doggerel, tuneful Nine.

stands on **tiptoe** and makes signs over his mother's head to ELIZA to indicate to her which lady is her hostess].

[ELIZA, who is exquisitely dressed, produces an impression of such remarkable distinction and beauty as she enters that they all rise, quite **flustered**. **Guided** by HIGGINS'S signals, she comes to MRS. HIGGINS with studied grace.]

LIZA

[speaking with **pedantic correctness** of pronunciation and great beauty of tone] How do you do, Mrs. Higgins? [She gasps slightly in making sure of the H in Higgins, but is quite successful]. Mr. Higgins told me I might come.

MRS. HIGGINS

[cordially] Quite right: I'm very glad indeed to see you.

PICKERING.

How do you do, Miss Doolittle?

LIZA

[shaking hands with him] Colonel Pickering, is it not?

MRS. EYNSFORD HILL.

I feel sure we have met before, Miss Doolittle. I remember your eyes.

LIZA.

How do you do? [She sits down on the ottoman **gracefully** in the place just left vacant by HIGGINS].

MRS. EYNSFORD HILL

[introducing] My daughter Clara.

LIZA.

How do you do?

CLARA

[impulsively] How do you do? [She sits down on the ottoman beside ELIZA, **devouring** her with her eyes].

Thesaurus

correctness: (*n*) appropriateness, precision, exactness, truth, rightness, properness, fitness, propriety, justness, correctitude, veracity.
ANTONYMS: (*n*) vagueness, informality, impropriety, misconduct, wrongness, inappropriateness, inaccuracy, error, abandon, unsuitability, immorality.
devouring: (*adv*) devouringly; (*adj*) esurient, edacious, avid, greedy, voraginous, ravenous; (*n*) fire.

flustered: (*adj*) nervous, disconcerted, perturbed, unsettled, anxious, troubled, upset, bewildered, hurried, ill at ease; (*n*) groggy.
gracefully: (*adv*) prettily, graciously, neatly, delicately, smoothly, charmingly, refinedly, lithely, easily, daintily, nicely. **ANTONYMS:** (*adv*) awkwardly, ungraciously, clumsily, gracelessly, vigorously, unpleasantly, unkindly, heavily.
guided: (*adj*) conducted, directed, led.

pedantic: (*adj*) affected, donnish, learned, bookish, formal, scholastic, scholarly, didactic, full of affectation, fussy; (*adj, v*) pompous.
ANTONYMS: (*adj*) basic, dilettante.
stands: (*n*) bleachers, stood, grandstand, standing, stop, covered stand, standpoint, stall, sales booth, reviewing stand, rack.
tiptoe: (*v*) tip, tippytoe, creep, patter, skirt, skip, tilt, sidle, lean; (*adj*) alert; (*n*) quieter. **ANTONYM:** (*v*) clump.

FREDDY

[coming to their side of the ottoman] I've certainly had the pleasure.

MRS. EYNSFORD HILL

[introducing] My son Freddy.

LIZA.

How do you do?

[FREDDY bows and sits down in the Elizabethan chair, infatuated.]

HIGGINS

[suddenly] By George, yes: it all comes back to me! [They stare at him].
Covent Garden! [**Lamentably**] What a damned thing!

MRS. HIGGINS.

Henry, please! [He is about to sit on the edge of the table]. Don't sit on my writing-table: you'll break it.

HIGGINS

[sulkily] Sorry.

[He goes to the divan, **stumbling** into the **fender** and over the fire-irons on his way; extricating himself with muttered imprecations; and **finishing** his disastrous journey by throwing himself so impatiently on the divan that he almost **breaks** it. MRS. HIGGINS looks at him, but controls herself and says nothing.]

[A long and painful pause ensues.]

MRS. HIGGINS

[at last, **conversationally**] Will it rain, do you think?

LIZA.

The shallow depression in the west of these islands is likely to move slowly in an **easterly** direction. There are no **indications** of any great change in the barometrical situation.

FREDDY.

Ha! ha! how **awfully** funny!

Thesaurus

awfully: (*adv*) atrociously, hideously, appallingly, frightfully, fearfully, ghastly, terribly, horrifically, horrendously, badly; (*adj, adv*) amazingly. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) pleasantly, hardly, little, mildly, satisfactorily, slightly, well, adequately, superbly, somewhat.
breaks: (*n*) lot, destiny, opportunity, chance.
conversationally: (*adv*) chattily, informally, communicatively,

garrulously, at home.
easterly: (*n*) Easter, levanter; (*adj*) eastern; (*adv*) eastwards.
fender: (*n*) wing, cushion, barrier, mudguard, dashboard, guard, mudguard seat, cowcatcher, framework, sheer log, framing.
finishing: (*n*) completion, close, accomplishment, conclusion, end, coating; (*adj, n*) ending; (*adj*) closing, last, final, ultimate. ANTONYMS: (*n*) beginning; (*adj*) first.

indications: (*n*) discriminating marks, indicia, chance.
lamentably: (*adj, adv*) sadly, woefully; (*adv*) pathetically, pathetically, pitifully, wretchedly, pitifully; (*adj*) grievously, piteously, sorely, painfully.
stumbling: (*adj*) lurching, astounding, hesitant, halting, awkward, astonishing, maladroit, clumsy, weaving; (*adv*) stumblingly; (*n*) hesitation. ANTONYM: (*adj*) firm.

LIZA.

What is wrong with that, young man? I bet I got it right.

FREDDY.

Killing!

MRS. EYNSFORD HILL.

I'm sure I hope it won't turn cold. There's so much **influenza** about. It runs right through our whole family regularly every spring.

LIZA

[darkly] My aunt died of influenza: so they said.

MRS. EYNSFORD HILL

[clicks her tongue sympathetically]!!!

LIZA

[in the same **tragic** tone] But it's my belief they done the old woman in.

MRS. HIGGINS

[puzzled] Done her in?

LIZA.

Y-e-e-e-es, Lord love you! Why should she die of influenza? She come through **diphtheria** right enough the year before. I saw her with my own eyes. Fairly blue with it, she was. They all thought she was dead; but my father he kept ladling gin down her throat til she came to so sudden that she bit the **bowl** off the **spoon**.

MRS. EYNSFORD HILL

[startled] Dear me!

LIZA

[piling up the **indictment**] What call would a woman with that strength in her have to die of influenza? What become of her new **straw** hat that should have come to me? Somebody **pinched** it; and what I say is, them as pinched it done her in.

Thesaurus

bowl: (*n*) basin, plate, hollow, stadium, container, arena, depression, porringer; (*v*) hurl, toss, troll.
diphtheria: (*n*) contagion, contagious disease.
indictment: (*n*) accusation, impeachment, complaint, bill of indictment, information, lawsuit, blame, accusal, true bill; (*n, v*) allegation, attack. ANTONYMS: (*n*) acquittal, confirmation.

influenza: (*adj, n*) grippe; (*n*) flu, plague, contagion, contagious disease; (*adj*) grip.
pinched: (*adj*) haggard, drawn, emaciated, cadaverous, narrow, penurious, thin, penniless, adenoidal; (*adj, n*) necessitous; (*n*) distressed. ANTONYM: (*adj*) relaxed.
spoon: (*n*) spoonful, ladle, shovel, soup spoon, tablespoon, trowel, teaspoon, dipper; (*v*) smooch, dally, bill and coo.

straw: (*n*) rush, stalk, drinking straw, chaff, fig, bran; (*adj*) feather, cobweb, mote, gossamer; (*v*) strew.
tragic: (*adj*) calamitous, disastrous, dreadful, grievous, catastrophic, unlucky, unfortunate, woeful, tragical, comic, heartbreaking. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) humorous, heartwarming, blessed, advantageous, lucky, fortunate, joyous.

MRS. EYNSFORD HILL.

What does doing her in mean?

HIGGINS

[hastily] Oh, that's the new small talk. To do a person in means to kill them.

MRS. EYNSFORD HILL

[to ELIZA, **horrified**] You surely don't believe that your aunt was **killed**?

LIZA.

Do I not! Them she lived with would have killed her for a hat-pin, let alone a hat.

MRS. EYNSFORD HILL.

But it can't have been right for your father to **pour** spirits down her throat like that. It might have killed her.

LIZA.

Not her. Gin was mother's milk to her. Besides, he'd **poured** so much down his own throat that he **knew** the good of it.

MRS. EYNSFORD HILL.

Do you mean that he **drank**?

LIZA.

Drank! My word! Something chronic.

MRS. EYNSFORD HILL.

How dreadful for you!

LIZA.

Not a bit. It never did him no harm what I could see. But then he did not keep it up regular. [**Cheerfully**] On the burst, as you might say, from time to time. And always more agreeable when he had a drop in. When he was out of work, my mother used to give him **fourpence** and tell him to go out and not come back until he'd drunk himself **cheerful** and loving-like. There's lots of women has to make their husbands drunk to make them fit to live with. [Now quite at her ease] You see, it's like this. If a man has a bit of a conscience, it always takes him when he's **sober**; and then it makes him low-

Thesaurus

cheerful: (*adj, v*) buoyant; (*adj*) breezy, merry, optimistic, pleasant, glad, blithe, carefree, bright, lively, happy. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) depressed, gloomy, sad, depressing, grim, hopeless, miserable, morose, somber, dejected, unwelcoming.
cheerfully: (*adj, adv*) gladly; (*adv, v*) happily; (*adv*) merrily, readily, brightly, jovially, cheerily, genially, chirpily, lively, blithely. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) bleakly, dismally,

grimly, sullenly, unhappily, somberly, sadly, grudgingly, gloomily, dourly, forlornly.
drank: (*v*) absorb.
fourpence: (*n*) coin.
horrified: (*v*) horrify, chagrined, cut up, terrify, frighten; (*adj*) scared, dismayed, alarmed, frightened, aghast, terrified. ANTONYM: (*adj*) proud.
killed: (*n*) casualty; (*adj*) fallen.
knew: (*adj*) known; (*v*) recognize, wist.

pour: (*v*) gush, shed, decant, scatter, stream, flow, pelt, discharge, teem, infuse; (*n, v*) overflow. ANTONYMS: (*v*) drizzle, trickle.
poured: (*adj*) concrete.
sober: (*adj, v*) grave, sedate; (*adj*) sane, earnest, quiet, solemn, moderate, modest, serene, dull, somber. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) intoxicated, unrestrained, drunk, playful, sensational, emotional, cheerful, frivolous, funny, muddled, delirious.

spirited. A drop of **booze** just takes that off and makes him happy. [To FREDDY, who is in **convulsions** of **suppressed** laughter] Here! what are you sniggering at?

FREDDY.

The new small talk. You do it so awfully well.

LIZA.

If I was doing it proper, what was you laughing at? [To HIGGINS] Have I said **anything** I oughtn't?

MRS. HIGGINS

[interposing] Not at all, Miss Doolittle.

LIZA.

Well, that's a mercy, **anyhow**. [**Expansively**] What I always say is--

HIGGINS

[rising and looking at his watch] Ahem!

LIZA

[looking round at him; taking the **hint**; and rising] Well: I must go. [They all rise. FREDDY goes to the door]. So pleased to have met you. **Good-bye**. [She shakes hands with MRS. HIGGINS].

MRS. HIGGINS.

Good-bye.

LIZA.

Good-bye, Colonel Pickering.

PICKERING.

Good-bye, Miss Doolittle. [They shake hands].

LIZA

[nodding to the **others**] Good-bye, all.

FREDDY

[opening the door for her] Are you walking across the Park, Miss Doolittle? If so--

Thesaurus

anyhow: (<i>adv</i>) somehow, at any rate, in any case, whatever, in any event, regardless, however, though, besides, nonetheless, one way or another.	convulsions: (<i>n</i>) convulsion, spasm, epilepsy, eclampsia, mirth.	allusion; (<i>n, v</i>) tip, touch, dash; (<i>adj, v</i>) intimate. ANTONYM: (<i>n</i>) overtone.
anything: (<i>adv</i>) any, somewhat; (<i>n</i>) thing, aught, everything, something, any part; (<i>adj</i>) whatsoever; (<i>pron</i>) suchlike.	expansively: (<i>adv</i>) widely, largely, broadly, communicatively, ebulliently, extensively, unreservedly, spaciously, roomily, outgoingly, openly. ANTONYM: (<i>adv</i>) briefly.	others: (<i>n</i>) rest, cessation, lie, lave, LAN, ease, acquiesce, intermission.
booze: (<i>n</i>) bouse, alcohol, liquor, brandy, strong drink, spirits, comotation; (<i>adj</i>) tippie, tope; (<i>n, v</i>) bowse; (<i>v</i>) guzzle.	good-bye: (<i>n</i>) bye, farewell, goodbye, goodbye, vale, adios, cheerio.	suppressed: (<i>adj</i>) stifled, smothered, strangled, repressed, downtrodden, buried, hidden, pent-up, latent, untold; (<i>n</i>) subordinate.
	hint: (<i>v</i>) suggest; (<i>adj, n</i>) trace; (<i>n</i>) suggestion, intimation, inkling, cue,	ANTONYMS: (<i>adj</i>) publicized, overt.

LIZA.

Walk! Not bloody likely. [Sensation]. I am going in a taxi. [She goes out].

[PICKERING gasps and sits down. FREDDY goes out on the balcony to catch another **glimpse** of ELIZA.]

MRS. EYNSFORD HILL

[suffering from shock] Well, I really can't get used to the new ways.

CLARA

[throwing herself **discontentedly** into the Elizabethan chair]. Oh, it's all right, mamma, quite right. People will think we never go **anywhere** or see anybody if you are so old-fashioned.

MRS. EYNSFORD HILL.

I daresay I am very old-fashioned; but I do hope you won't begin using that expression, Clara. I have got accustomed to hear you talking about men as rotters, and calling everything **filthy** and **beastly**; though I do think it horrible and **unladylike**. But this last is really too much. Don't you think so, Colonel Pickering?

PICKERING.

Don't ask me. I've been away in India for several years; and manners have changed so much that I sometimes don't know whether I'm at a respectable dinner-table or in a ship's fore-castle.

CLARA.

It's all a matter of habit. There's no right or wrong in it. Nobody means anything by it. And it's so **quaint**, and gives such a smart emphasis to things that are not in themselves very **witty**. I find the new small talk delightful and quite innocent.

MRS. EYNSFORD HILL

[rising] Well, after that, I think it's time for us to go.

[PICKERING and HIGGINS rise.]

Thesaurus

anywhere: (*adv, n*) anyplace; (*adv*) someplace, wherever, everywhere.

beastly: (*adj*) animal, disgusting, horrid, bestial, brute; (*adj, v*) nasty, abominable, offensive; (*adv*) ugly, brutally, brutally. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) civilized, cultured, kind, good, refined, humane, inoffensive; (*adj*) lovely, pleasant.

discontentedly: (*adv*) unhappily, malcontently, displeasedly, querulously, disaffectedly, gloomily,

sadly, despondently, dejectedly, forlornly, sorrowfully. ANTONYM: (*adv*) contentedly.

filthy: (*adj*) unclean, dingy, nasty, foul, disgusting, squalid, bawdy, muddy, grimy, grubby, vile. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) decent, pleasant, attractive.

glimpse: (*n, v*) look, peek; (*v*) blink, see, notice, spy, spot, espy; (*n*) coup d'oeil, view, peep. ANTONYMS: (*n*) scrutiny, observation, perusal; (*v*) scrutinize, survey, Miss, study.

quaint: (*adj*) odd, funny, picturesque, comical, fanciful, curious, whimsical, strange, queer, peculiar, droll.

ANTONYMS: (*adj*) modern, ordinary, dull.

unladylike: (*adj*) ribald, unfeminine, unrefined.

witty: (*adj, v*) smart, clever, sharp, brilliant; (*adj*) amusing, funny, facetious, jocular, intelligent, quick, comic. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) dull, unamusing, unfunny, thick.

CLARA

[rising] Oh yes: we have three at homes to go to still. Good-bye, Mrs. Higgins. Good-bye, Colonel Pickering. Good-bye, Professor Higgins.

HIGGINS

[coming **grimly** at her from the divan, and **accompanying** her to the door] Good-bye. Be sure you try on that small talk at the three at-homes. Don't be nervous about it. **Pitch** it in strong.

CLARA

[all smiles] I will. Good-bye. Such **nonsense**, all this early Victorian prudery!

HIGGINS

[tempting her] Such damned nonsense!

CLARA.

Such bloody nonsense!

MRS. EYNSFORD HILL

[convulsively] Clara!

CLARA.

Ha! ha! [She goes out **radiant**, conscious of being thoroughly up to date, and is heard **descending** the stairs in a stream of **silvery** laughter].

FREDDY

[to the **heavens** at large] Well, I ask you [He gives it up, and comes to MRS. HIGGINS]. Good-bye.

MRS. HIGGINS

[shaking hands] Good-bye. Would you like to meet Miss Doolittle again?

FREDDY

[eagerly] Yes, I should, most awfully.

MRS. HIGGINS.

Well, you know my days.

FREDDY.

Yes. Thanks awfully. Good-bye. [He goes out].

Thesaurus

accompanying: (*adj*) concomitant, concurrent, related, acceding, incidental, accessory, subservient, auxiliary, collateral, minor, supplementary.
descending: (*v*) descend; (*adj*) downhill, down, descendent, decreasing, dropping, falling, sloping, degressive, occasive; (*adv*) downward. ANTONYM: (*adj*) upward.
grimly: (*adv*) severely, harshly,

morosely, fiercely, drearily, sourly, gloomily, dreadfully, hardly, horridly, sullenly. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) brightly, pleasantly, warmly.
heavens: (*n*) firmament, heaven, sky, welkin, sphere, atmosphere, celestial sphere, space, skies, area, vault of heaven.
nonsense: (*n*) bosh, absurdity, humbug, balderdash, foolishness, drivel, folderol, baloney, falderal, jargon, claptrap. ANTONYMS: (*n*)

sense, wisdom, substance, fact.
pitch: (*n, v*) fling, cast, degree, dip, tilt, lurch, toss, throw, slant; (*v*) chuck, hurl.
radiant: (*adj, v*) bright, glittering, lustrous, beamy, glorious; (*adj*) beaming, luminous, effulgent, lucid, glowing, beautiful. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) gloomy, dark, pale, unhappy.
silvery: (*adj*) silvern, argent, bright, white, gray, rich, silverish, melodious, fair, Argentine, clear.

MRS. EYNSFORD HILL.

Good-bye, Mr. Higgins.

HIGGINS.

Good-bye. Good-bye.

MRS. EYNSFORD HILL

[to PICKERING] It's no use. I shall never be able to bring myself to use that word.

PICKERING.

Don't. It's not compulsory, you know. You'll get on quite well without it.

MRS. EYNSFORD HILL.

Only, Clara is so down on me if I am not positively **reeking** with the latest **slang**. Good-bye.

PICKERING.

Good-bye [They shake hands].

MRS. EYNSFORD HILL

[to MRS. HIGGINS] You mustn't mind Clara. [PICKERING, **catching** from her lowered tone that this is not meant for him to hear, **discreetly** joins HIGGINS at the window]. We're so poor! and she gets so few parties, poor child! She doesn't quite know. [MRS. HIGGINS, seeing that her eyes are moist, takes her hand **sympathetically** and goes with her to the door]. But the boy is nice. Don't you think so?

MRS. HIGGINS.

Oh, quite nice. I shall always be delighted to see him.

MRS. EYNSFORD HILL.

Thank you, dear. Good-bye. [She goes out].

HIGGINS

[eagerly] Well? Is Eliza **presentable** [he swoops on his mother and drags her to the ottoman, where she sits down in ELIZA'S place with her son on her left]?

Thesaurus

catching: (*adj*) communicable, infectious, epidemic, gripping, transferable, zymotic; (*n*) discovery, take, playing, uncovering, getting.
ANTONYM: (*adj*) noncommunicable.
discreetly: (*adv*) carefully, judiciously, cautiously, unobtrusively, wisely, quietly, thoughtfully, considerately, modestly, tactfully, warily.
ANTONYMS: (*adv*) brazenly, shamelessly, indiscreetly, tactlessly, carelessly, flagrantly, arrogantly,

recklessly, obviously.
presentable: (*adj*) decent, personable, satisfactory, acceptable, suitable, passable, comely, tidy, neat, becoming, sufficient. **ANTONYMS:** (*adj*) unsatisfactory, untidy, inadequate.
reeking: (*adj*) dripping, overly diluted, odorous, noisome, high, fetid, stale; (*v*) sloppy, soft, soaking, sodden.
slang: (*n*) lingo, cant, vernacular, argot, dialect, patois, language; (*v*)

put one over, put one across, put on, dupe.
sympathetically: (*adv*) compassionately, tenderly, considerately, agreeably, favorably, sensitively, caringly, benevolently, thoughtfully, mercifully, humanely. **ANTONYMS:** (*adv*) meanly, thoughtlessly, unfeelingly, severely, unkindly, roughly, negatively, disapprovingly, cruelly, tactlessly.

[PICKERING returns to his chair on her right.]

MRS. HIGGINS.

You silly boy, of course she's not presentable. She's a triumph of your art and of her dressmaker's; but if you suppose for a moment that she doesn't give herself away in every sentence she utters, you must be perfectly **cracked** about her.

PICKERING.

But don't you think something might be done? I mean something to **eliminate** the **sanguinary** element from her conversation.

MRS. HIGGINS.

Not as long as she is in Henry's hands.

HIGGINS

[aggrieved] Do you mean that my language is **improper**?

MRS. HIGGINS.

No, **dearest**: it would be quite proper--say on a **canal barge**; but it would not be proper for her at a garden party.

HIGGINS

[deeply injured] Well I must say--

PICKERING

[interrupting him] Come, Higgins: you must learn to know yourself. I haven't heard such language as yours since we used to review the **volunteers** in Hyde Park twenty years ago.

HIGGINS

[sulkily] Oh, well, if you say so, I suppose I don't always talk like a bishop.

MRS. HIGGINS

[quieting Henry with a touch] Colonel Pickering: will you tell me what is the exact state of things in Wimpole Street?

PICKERING

[cheerfully: as if this completely changed the subject] Well, I have come to

Thesaurus

barge: (*n*) lighter, pontoon, boat, hoy, wherry, houseboat, scow, craft, flatboat, buss; (*v*) obtrude.
canal: (*n*) channel, conduit, duct, sound, culvert, adit, trench, sewer, passage, watercourse, pipe.
cracked: (*adj*) nutty, batty, crazy, chapped, balmy, wacky, dotted, crackled, deranged, loony, crackers. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) resonant, sane.
dearest: (*n*) dear, darling, love, honey, lover, sweetheart, loved one, baby;

(*adj*) precious, intimate, sweet.
eliminate: (*v*) do away with, delete, rid, dispel, wipe out, obliterate, annihilate, cancel, eradicate, extinguish, get rid of. ANTONYMS: (*v*) include, welcome, necessitate, choose, add, establish, insert.
improper: (*adj*) false, illicit, illegitimate, unsuitable, wrong, indecent, bad, coarse, amiss, faulty; (*adj, v*) indecorous. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) suitable, fitting, polite,

acceptable, sensitive, moral, correct, dignified, lawful, clean, honest.
sanguinary: (*adj*) gory, bloodthirsty, murderous, butcherly, sanguineous, slaughterous, cruel, ferocious, fell, bloodstained; (*v*) sanguinolent.
volunteers: (*n*) standing army, military forces, the line, troops, armed force, militia, troops of the line, regulars, soldiery, the army, yeomanry.

live there with Henry. We work together at my Indian Dialects; and we think it more convenient--

MRS. HIGGINS.

Quite so. I know all about that: it's an excellent arrangement. But where does this girl live?

HIGGINS.

With us, of course. Where would she live?

MRS. HIGGINS.

But on what terms? Is she a **servant**? If not, what is she?

PICKERING

[slowly] I think I know what you mean, Mrs. Higgins.

HIGGINS.

Well, **dash** me if I do! I've had to work at the girl every day for months to get her to her present pitch. Besides, she's useful. She knows where my things are, and remembers my **appointments** and so **forth**.

MRS. HIGGINS.

How does your housekeeper get on with her?

HIGGINS.

Mrs. Pearce? Oh, she's **jolly** glad to get so much taken off her hands; for before Eliza came, she had to have to find things and **remind** me of my appointments. But she's got some silly bee in her **bonnet** about Eliza. She keeps saying "You don't think, sir": doesn't she, Pick?

PICKERING.

Yes: that's the formula. "You don't think, sir." That's the end of every conversation about Eliza.

HIGGINS.

As if I ever stop thinking about the girl and her **confounded** vowels and consonants. I'm worn out, thinking about her, and watching her lips and her teeth and her tongue, not to mention her soul, which is the quaintest of the lot.

Thesaurus

appointments: (n) installation, schedule, upholstery, fixture, furnishings, furniture, movements, possession, actions, arrangements, activities.

bonnet: (n) cap, protection, chapeau, tile, wimple, beret, lid, cowl, castor, poke bonnet, sunbonnet.

confounded: (adj) bemused, accursed, execrable, baffled, cursed, befuddled, confused, puzzled, aghast, perplexed; (adj, v) abashed.

dash: (adj, n, v) rush; (n, v) touch, sprint, strike, splash, jog; (v) dart, break; (n) tinge, beat; (adj, n) animation. ANTONYMS: (v) dawdle, inspirit, languish, saunter, encourage, linger; (n) stagnation, languor, listlessness, mass, dullness.

forth: (adv) away, along, onward, ahead, before, on, off, on the high road, on the road, on the way, under way.

jolly: (adj) gay, cheerful, happy,

festive, genial, bright, cheery, merry, jocund; (v) chaff; (adv) lively.

ANTONYMS: (adj) gloomy, miserable, serious.

remind: (v) recollect, prompt, recall, commemorate, call up, memorialize, hint, jog, inform, think; (n, v) mind.

servant: (n) manservant, domestic, lackey, maid, employee, flunkey, retainer, boy, footman, flunky, menial. ANTONYMS: (n) master, mistress.

MRS. HIGGINS.

You certainly are a pretty pair of **babies**, playing with your live doll.

HIGGINS.

Playing! The hardest job I ever tackled: make no mistake about that, mother. But you have no idea how **frightfully** interesting it is to take a human being and change her into a quite different human being by creating a new speech for her. It's filling up the **deepest gulf** that **separates** class from class and soul from soul.

PICKERING

[drawing his chair closer to MRS. HIGGINS and **bending** over to her **eagerly**] Yes: it's enormously interesting. I assure you, Mrs. Higgins, we take Eliza very seriously. Every week-- every day almost--there is some new change. [Closer again] We keep records of every stage--dozens of **gramophone** disks and photographs--

HIGGINS

[assailing her at the other ear] Yes, by George: it's the most **absorbing** experiment I ever tackled. She regularly fills our lives up; doesn't she, Pick?

PICKERING.

We're always talking Eliza.

HIGGINS.

Teaching Eliza.

PICKERING.

Dressing Eliza.

MRS. HIGGINS.

What!

HIGGINS.

Inventing new Elizas.

[HIGGINS AND PICKERING, speaking together:]

Thesaurus

absorbing: (*adj*) fascinating, engrossing, charming, enthralling, gripping, captivating, riveting, absorbent, attractive, readable; (*adj, v*) exciting. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) dull, irksome, tedious, repellent, uninteresting.
babies: (*n*) children, babes, babe, babying, offspring.
bending: (*n*) bow, bend, deflection, deflexion, refraction, flexure, crook; (*adj*) flexible, supple, winding, pliant.

ANTONYM: (*adj*) stiff.
deepest: (*adj*) inmost, center, cordial, earnest, genuine, hearty, warm, sincere, innermost. ANTONYM: (*adj*) outermost.
eagerly: (*adv*) zealously, readily, keenly, fervently, avidly, greedily, enthusiastically, intently, earnestly, impatiently, actively. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) apathetically, nonchalantly, grudgingly, patiently, halfheartedly, reluctantly, unenthusiastically.

frightfully: (*adv*) awfully, ghastly, dreadfully, fearfully, hideously, terribly, gruesomely, terrifically, atrociously, horrendously, awful.
gramophone: (*n*) record player, acoustic gramophone, turntable; (*v*) megaphone, phonorganon, electronic devices.
gulf: (*n*) abyss, depth, creek, vortex, bay, loch, cove, abysm, gap, gorge, bight.
separates: (*n*) coordinates.

HIGGINS.

You know, she has the most **extraordinary quickness** of ear:

PICKERING.

I assure you, my dear Mrs. Higgins, that girl

HIGGINS.

just like a **parrot**. I've tried her with every

PICKERING.

is a **genius**. She can play the piano quite beautifully

HIGGINS.

possible sort of sound that a human being can make —

PICKERING.

We have taken her to **classical** concerts and to music

HIGGINS.

Continental dialects, African dialects, Hottentot

PICKERING.

halls; and it's all the same to her: she plays everything

HIGGINS.

clicks, things it took me years to get hold of; and

PICKERING.

she hears right off when she comes home, **whether** it's

HIGGINS.

she picks them up like a **shot**, right away, as if she had

PICKERING.

Beethoven and Brahms or Lehar and Lionel Morickton;

HIGGINS.

been at it all her life.

PICKERING.

though six months ago, she'd never as much as **touched** piano.

Thesaurus

classical: (*adj, n*) refined; (*adj*) ideal, correct, model, typical, exemplary, attic, perfect, authoritative, chaste, traditional. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) jumbled, modern, nonclassical, new.
extraordinary: (*adj*) odd, exceptional, curious, rare, special, phenomenal, amazing, astonishing, unusual, strange, abnormal. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) ordinary, normal, everyday, usual, common, mundane, regular, undistinguished, unremarkable,

insignificant, natural.
genius: (*adj, n*) capacity, ability, endowment, faculty, gift, cleverness; (*n*) flair, brain, prodigy, bent, aptitude. ANTONYM: (*n*) amateur.
parrot: (*n, v*) mimic; (*n*) popinjay, poll, parakeet, macaw, copycat, cockateel, Amazon, cockatiel, cockatoo; (*v*) ape.
quickness: (*n*) celerity, expedition, promptness, alacrity, agility, speed, dispatch, dexterity, fleetness, hurry, readiness. ANTONYMS: (*n*)

awkwardness, delay, ineptness.
shot: (*n*) injection, gunshot, go, fling, shoot, crack, ball, picture, bang, jab, discharge.
touched: (*adj*) insane, cracked, tinged, not right, daft, crazy, nutty; (*v*) compassionate, sympathetic, pitiful, mucid. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) untouched, sane, unemotional, unmoved, well.
whether: (*pron*) where.

MRS. HIGGINS

[putting her fingers in her ears, as they are by this time **shouting** one another down with an **intolerable** noise] Sh--sh--sh--sh! [They stop].

PICKERING.

I beg your **pardon**. [He draws his chair back apologetically].

HIGGINS.

Sorry. When Pickering starts shouting nobody can get a word in **edgeways**.

MRS. HIGGINS.

Be quiet, Henry. **Colonel** Pickering: don't you realize that when Eliza walked into Wimpole Street, something walked in with her?

PICKERING.

Her father did. But Henry soon got rid of him.

MRS. HIGGINS.

It would have been more to the point if her mother had. But as her mother didn't something else did.

PICKERING.

But what?

MRS. HIGGINS

[unconsciously **dating** herself by the word] A problem.

PICKERING.

Oh, I see. The problem of how to pass her off as a lady.

HIGGINS.

I'll **solve** that problem. I've half **solved** it already.

MRS. HIGGINS.

No, you two **infinitely** stupid male creatures: the problem of what is to be done with her afterwards.

HIGGINS.

I don't see anything in that. She can go her own way, with all the advantages I have given her.

Thesaurus

colonel: (*n*) captain, coronel.
dating: (*n*) invitation.
edgeways: (*adv*) edgewise, sideways, barely; (*adj*) lateral.
infinitely: (*adv*) greatly, vastly, immensely, immeasurably, boundlessly, enormously, unboundedly, hugely, ceaselessly, unendingly; (*adj, adv*) incalculably.
ANTONYM: (*adv*) finitely.
intolerable: (*adj*) unbearable, insupportable, painful, obnoxious,

detestable, inexcusable, deplorable, undesirable, hard, excruciating, difficult. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) bearable, tolerable, acceptable, reasonable, nice, understandable, lovable, excusable, inoffensive, manageable.
pardon: (*v*) excuse, condone, forgive, acquit, spare; (*n*) amnesty, forgiveness, grace; (*adj, v*) justify, exonerate, exculpate. ANTONYMS: (*n, v*) blame; (*v*) punish, castigate, condemn, convict; (*n*) intolerance.

shouting: (*adj, n*) yelling; (*adj*) crying, howling, vociferous; (*n*) clamor, calling, noise, cheering, vociferation, tumult; (*v*) bawl.
solve: (*adj, v*) interpret, loosen; (*v*) decipher, dissolve, answer, crack, clear up, riddle, explain, elucidate, decide. ANTONYMS: (*v*) encode, exacerbate.
solved: (*v*) untraced, undiscovered, unexplained, undeveloped; (*adj*) exposed, determined.

MRS. HIGGINS.

The advantages of that poor woman who was here just now! The manners and habits that **disqualify** a fine lady from **earning** her own living without giving her a fine lady's income! Is that what you mean?

PICKERING

[indulgently, being rather **bored**] Oh, that will be all right, Mrs. Higgins. [He rises to go].

HIGGINS

[rising also] We'll find her some light employment.

PICKERING.

She's happy enough. Don't you worry about her. Good- bye. [He shakes hands as if he were **consoling** a frightened child, and makes for the door].

HIGGINS.

Anyhow, there's no good **bothering** now. The thing's done. Good-bye, mother. [He kisses her, and follows PICKERING].

PICKERING

[turning for a final **consolation**] There are plenty of openings. We'll do what's right. Good-bye.

HIGGINS

[to PICKERING as they go out together] Let's take her to the Shakespear exhibition at Earls Court.

PICKERING.

Yes: let's. Her remarks will be delicious.

HIGGINS.

She'll **mimic** all the people for us when we get home.

PICKERING.

Ripping. [Both are heard laughing as they go downstairs].

MRS. HIGGINS

[rises with an **impatient** bounce, and returns to her work at the writing-table.

Thesaurus

bored: (*adj*) weary, boring, blase, uninterested, bore, listless, jaded, sick, fed up, annoyed, indifferent.

ANTONYMS: (*adj*) energetic, fresh.

bothering: (*v*) teasing, tormenting,

carking; (*n*) harassment, provocation.

consolation: (*n*) comfort, relief, balm, succor, ease, cheer, solacement, encouragement, sympathy, alleviation, express sympathy.

ANTONYMS: (*n*) grief, sorrow, distress, discouragement,

aggravation.

consoling: (*adj*) consolatory, cheering, encouraging, grateful, reassuring, soothing, calming; (*n*)

encouragement. ANTONYM: (*adj*)

upsetting.

disqualify: (*adj, v*) incapacitate, disarm; (*v*) unfit, indispose, exclude, disincine, disbar; (*adj*) disentitle, dismount, dismantle, dismast.

ANTONYMS: (*v*) qualify, permit, allow, enable, entitle.

earning: (*n*) proceeds; (*v*) get.

impatient: (*adj*) eager, anxious, petulant, fidgety, vexed, keen, edgy, quick, avid, irritable, fretful.

ANTONYMS: (*adj*) patient, enduring, unenthusiastic, calm, happy, relaxed, slow.

mimic: (*adj, v*) mock; (*v*) imitate, mime, copy, impersonate, parody, emulate; (*n, v*) counterfeit; (*n*) imitator, mimicker, ape.

She sweeps a **litter** of **disarranged papers** out of her way; snatches a **sheet** of paper from her **stationery** case; and tries resolutely to **write**. At the **third** line she gives it up; flings down her pen; grips the table **angrily** and exclaims] Oh, men! men!! men!!!



Thesaurus

angrily: (*adv*) irately, passionately, fiercely, indignantly, cholericly, resentfully, enragedly, infuriatedly, wrathfully, madly, crossly.
ANTONYMS: (*adv*) warmly, lightly, calmly, cheerfully, gently, gladly.
disarranged: (*adj*) disheveled, disorderly, untidy, deranged, disturbed, delirious, disordered, unkempt, tousled, topsy-turvy, mussy. **ANTONYM:** (*adj*) neat.
litter: (*adj, n*) brood, jumble; (*n*)

bedding, stretcher, waste, refuse, junk, trash, mess; (*n, v*) clutter; (*adj*) disarray. **ANTONYMS:** (*v*) clean; (*n*) space.
paper: (*n*) article, newspaper, discourse, newsprint, publication, journal, essay, periodical, report, magazine, certificate.
papers: (*n*) paper, documents, document, credentials, identification, newspaper, credential, inclosure, copyright, confession, charter.

sheet: (*n*) board, leaf, paper, film, bed sheet, canvas, coat, coating, cover, plane, newspaper.
stationery: (*n*) notepaper, stationary, note, writing materials, writing paper, office equipment, letterhead.
third: (*n*) second, tierce, three, third part, terzetto, hot corner, third base; (*adv*) thirdly; (*adj*) triple, thrird, tertial.
write: (*v*) pen, indite, draw up, correspond, spell, record, publish, compile, draw, outline, type.

ACT IV

[The Wimpole Street laboratory. **Midnight**. Nobody in the room. The clock on the mantelpiece strikes twelve. The fire is not **alight**: it is a summer night.]

[Presently HIGGINS and PICKERING are heard on the stairs.]

HIGGINS

[calling down to PICKERING] I say, Pick: lock up, will you. I shan't be going out again.

PICKERING.

Right. Can Mrs. Pearce go to bed? We don't want anything more, do we?

HIGGINS.

Lord, no!

[ELIZA opens the door and is seen on the **lighted** landing in opera **cloak**, brilliant evening dress, and diamonds, with fan, flowers, and all **accessories**. She comes to the hearth, and switches on the electric lights there. She is tired: her **pallor** contrasts strongly with her dark eyes and hair; and her expression is almost tragic. She takes off her cloak; puts her fan and flowers on the piano; and sits down on the bench, brooding and silent. HIGGINS, in evening dress, with overcoat and hat, comes in, carrying a **smoking** jacket which he has picked up downstairs. He takes off the hat and overcoat; throws them **carelessly** on the newspaper stand; disposes of his coat in the same way; puts

Thesaurus

accessories: (*n*) fittings, equipment, accessory, paraphernalia, attachments, props, appurtenances, accompaniments, trimmings, possession, garnishes.
alight: (*v*) light, land, perch, dismount, get down, settle, get off, descend; (*adj*) ablaze, burning, blazing.
 ANTONYM: (*v*) mount.
carelessly: (*adv*) incautiously, hastily, recklessly, heedlessly, casually, sloppily, imprudently,

inconsiderately, rashly, negligently, unwarily. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) thoroughly, diligently, carefully, warily, laboriously, thoughtfully, attentively, daintily, methodically, discreetly, economically.
cloak: (*n, v*) veil, mask, camouflage, wrap, masquerade, screen, pall; (*n*) cape; (*v*) conceal, dissemble, hide.
 ANTONYMS: (*v*) reveal, uncloak, unmask; (*n, v*) uncover.
lighted: (*adj*) illuminated, lit, light,

ablaze, bright, ignited, burn, burning, ignite, kindled, lighten.
midnight: (*n*) dark, noon, hour.
pallor: (*n*) pallidness, wanness, complexion, achromasia, lividity, lividness, luridness, pale, skin color, whiteness, sallowness. ANTONYMS: (*n*) rosiness, coloration, bloom.
smoking: (*n*) fume, marijuana, respiration, roll of tobacco, sens; (*v*) candent, ebullient, glowing; (*adj*) smoky, rabid; (*adv*) on a roll.

on the smoking jacket; and throws himself **wearily** into the easy-chair at the hearth. PICKERING, similarly **attired**, comes in. He also takes off his hat and overcoat, and is about to throw them on Higgins's when he hesitates.]

PICKERING.

I say: Mrs. Pearce will row if we leave these things lying about in the drawing-room.

HIGGINS.

Oh, **chuck** them over the bannisters into the hall. She'll find them there in the morning and put them away all right. She'll think we were drunk.

PICKERING.

We are, slightly. Are there any letters?

HIGGINS.

I didn't look. [PICKERING takes the overcoats and hats and goes down stairs. HIGGINS begins half singing half **yawning** an air from La Fanciulla del Golden West. Suddenly he **stops** and exclaims] I wonder where the devil my slippers are!

[ELIZA looks at him **darkly**; then leaves the room.]

[HIGGINS yawns again, and resumes his song. PICKERING returns, with the contents of the letter-box in his hand.]

PICKERING.

Only circulars, and this **coroneted** billet-doux for you. [He throws the circulars into the fender, and posts himself on the hearthrug, with his back to the grate].

HIGGINS

[glancing at the billet-doux] Money-lender. [He throws the letter after the circulars].

[ELIZA returns with a pair of large **down-at-heel** slippers. She **places** them on the **carpet** before HIGGINS, and sits as before without a word.]

Thesaurus

attired: (*adj*) clad, appareled, clothed, garbed, habilimented, robed; (*adj, prep*) garmented.
carpet: (*v*) cover, drape, rebuke, encase, row, chew out; (*n*) rug, carpeting, tapis, runner, covering.
chuck: (*n, v*) fling; (*v*) ditch, toss, pitch, throw, throw away, discard, vomit, abandon, hurl; (*n*) chow.
ANTONYMS: (*v*) continue, endure, maintain.
coroneted: (*adj*) titled, highborn.

darkly: (*adv*) murkily, dimly, obscurely, duskily, somberly, shadily, mistily, secretly, dismally, heavily, overcastly. ANTONYM: (*adv*) openly.
down-at-heel: (*adj*) seedy, mean, threadbare, slovenly, sleazy, run-down.
places: (*n*) chairs, seating, spaces.
stops: (*n*) Chicago, Michigan, Newmarket, boodle, halts, stop, stoppages, stopped, stopping, card

game, moolah.
wearily: (*adv*) sickly, boredly, dully, languidly, jadedly, exhaustedly, sadly, soberly, gravely, heavily, seriously. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) hopefully, untiringly, energetically, dynamically.
yawning: (*adj, v*) gaping, oscitant; (*n*) yawn, hiation, pandiculation, oscitancy; (*adj*) cavernous, open, drowsy, profound, sleepy.
ANTONYMS: (*adj*) cramped, narrow.

HIGGINS

[yawning again] Oh Lord! What an evening! What a crew! What a silly tomfoollery! [He raises his **shoe** to **unlace** it, and catches sight of the slippers. He stops unlacing and looks at them as if they had **appeared** there of their own accord]. Oh! they're there, are they?

PICKERING

[stretching himself] Well, I feel a bit tired. It's been a long day. The garden party, a dinner party, and the opera! Rather too much of a good thing. But you've won your bet, Higgins. Eliza did the trick, and something to spare, eh?

HIGGINS

[fervently] Thank God it's over!

[ELIZA flinches **violently**; but they take no notice of her; and she recovers herself and sits **stonily** as before.]

PICKERING.

Were you nervous at the garden party? I was. Eliza didn't seem a bit nervous.

HIGGINS.

Oh, she wasn't nervous. I knew she'd be all right. No, it's the strain of putting the job through all these months that has told on me. It was interesting enough at first, while we were at the phonetics; but after that I got **deadly** sick of it. If I hadn't backed myself to do it I should have chucked the whole thing up two months ago. It was a silly notion: the whole thing has been a bore.

PICKERING.

Oh come! the garden party was frightfully exciting. My heart began **beating** like anything.

HIGGINS.

Yes, for the first three minutes. But when I saw we were going to win hands down, I felt like a bear in a **cage**, hanging about doing nothing. The dinner was worse: sitting gorging there for over an hour, with nobody but a damned

Thesaurus

appeared: (*n*) appearing.

beating: (*n*) reverse, defeat, whipping, thrashing, battery, flogging, pounding, pulsation, pulse, rout; (*adj*) pulsing. ANTONYMS: (*n*) victory, win.

cage: (*n, v*) jail; (*n*) basket, birdcage, hutch, gaol, frame, corral, cell; (*v*) confine, imprison, enclose.

ANTONYMS: (*v*) release; (*n*) freedom, liberation.

deadly: (*adj, adv*) deathly; (*adj*)

baneful, lethal, fatal, destructive, mortal, pernicious, virulent, toxic; (*adv*) lifelessly, lethally.

ANTONYMS: (*adj*) interesting, uplifting, readable, mild, healthy, healthful, benign, innocuous, exciting.

shoe: (*n*) horseshoe, sandal, shoes, moccasin, footgear, footwear, skid, flippers, anklet, flipper, track shoe.

stonily: (*adv*) icily, pitilessly, unfeelingly, cruelly, hardly, roughly,

rockily, heartlessly, frigidly, insensitively, mercilessly.

ANTONYM: (*adv*) kindly.

unlace: (*v*) loosen, untie, unbrace, unlash, unlashed, unloose.

violently: (*adj, adv*) vehemently, hotly, madly, ardently; (*adv*) wildly, passionately, strongly, hard, furiously, turbulently; (*adv, n*) vigorously. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) gently, nonviolently, feebly, impassively, peacefully, tamely.

fool of a fashionable woman to talk to! I tell you, Pickering, never again for me. No more artificial duchesses. The whole thing has been simple purgatory.

PICKERING.

You've never been broken in properly to the social routine. [Strolling over to the piano] I rather enjoy **dipping** into it occasionally myself: it makes me feel young again. Anyhow, it was a great success: an **immense** success. I was quite frightened once or twice because Eliza was doing it so well. You see, lots of the real people can't do it at all: they're such fools that they think style comes by nature to people in their position; and so they never learn. There's always something professional about doing a thing **superlatively** well.

HIGGINS.

Yes: that's what drives me mad: the silly people don't know their own silly business. [Rising] However, it's over and done with; and now I can go to bed at last without **dreading** tomorrow.

[ELIZA'S beauty becomes murderous.]

PICKERING.

I think I shall turn in too. Still, it's been a great occasion: a triumph for you. Good-night. [He goes].

HIGGINS

[following him] Good-night. [Over his shoulder, at the door] Put out the lights, Eliza; and tell Mrs. Pearce not to make coffee for me in the morning: I'll take tea. [He goes out].

[ELIZA tries to control herself and feel **indifferent** as she rises and walks across to the hearth to switch off the lights. By the time she gets there she is on the point of **screaming**. She sits down in Higgins's chair and holds on hard to the arms. Finally she gives way and flings herself **furiously** on the floor raging.]

Thesaurus

dipping: (<i>n</i>) dipping treatment, immersion, sinking, dipping method, deep engagedness, run, dip coating; (<i>adj</i>) plunging, falling, plummeting. ANTONYM: (<i>adj</i>) rising.	gigantic, immeasurable, colossal, boundless, big, large, giant, infinite. ANTONYMS: (<i>adj</i>) tiny, small, insignificant, miniature, slight, negligible, compact, narrow, short, minor.	exceptional, concerned, shocked.
dreading: (<i>adj</i>) anxious.		
furiously: (<i>adv</i>) irately, angrily, fiercely, wildly, violently, ragingly, wrathfully, infuriatedly, rabidly, impetuously, frantically. ANTONYM: (<i>adv</i>) sluggishly.	indifferent: (<i>adj</i>) apathetic, impassive, cold, cool, callous, fair, insensible, unconcerned, careless, dull, average. ANTONYMS: (<i>adj</i>) enthusiastic, fervent, keen, obsessive, energetic, eager, involved, surprised,	screaming: (<i>adv</i>) screamingly; (<i>n</i>) shrieking, shriek, screeching, screech, vociferation; (<i>adj</i>) garish, loud, uproarious, showy, noisy.
immense: (<i>adj</i>) vast, enormous, great,		superlatively: (<i>adv</i>) perfectly, preeminently, excellently, matchlessly, extremely, outstandingly, splendidly, magnificently, consummately, brilliantly, absolutely.

HIGGINS

[in **despairing wrath** outside] What the devil have I done with my slippers?
[He appears at the door].

LIZA

[snatching up the slippers, and **hurling** them at him one after the other with all her force] There are your slippers. And there. Take your slippers; and may you never have a day's luck with them!

HIGGINS

[astounded] What on earth--! [He comes to her]. What's the matter? Get up. [He pulls her up]. Anything wrong?

LIZA

[breathless] Nothing wrong--with *you*. I've won your bet for you, haven't I? That's enough for you. *I* don't matter, I suppose.

HIGGINS.

You won my bet! You! Presumptuous **insect**! *I* won it. What did you throw those slippers at me for?

LIZA.

Because I wanted to **smash** your face. I'd like to kill you, you selfish brute. Why didn't you leave me where you picked me out of--in the gutter? You thank God it's all over, and that now you can throw me back again there, do you? [She crisps her fingers, frantically].

HIGGINS

[looking at her in cool wonder] The creature *is* nervous, after all.

LIZA

[gives a **suffocated scream** of fury, and **instinctively darts** her nails at his face]!!

HIGGINS

[catching her wrists] Ah! would you? **Claws** in, you cat. How dare you show your temper to me? Sit down and be quiet. [He throws her roughly into the easy-chair].

Thesaurus

claws: (*v*) tentacle, tenaculum, unguis, hook, fangs, teeth; (*n*) clutches, jaws.

darts: (*n*) board game, game of dart.

despairing: (*adj*) hopeless, desperate, despondent, forlorn, desolate, dejected, pessimistic, sad, brokenhearted, miserable, inconsolable. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) hopeful, optimistic, rosy, happy, confident, cheerful.

hurling: (*adj*) moving; (*n*) field game.

insect: (*n*) worm, flea, hymenopteran,

hymenopteron, earwig, dirt ball, homopteran, hemipteran, gallfly, fish, biting louse.

instinctively: (*adv*) involuntarily, mechanically, spontaneously, automatically, intuitively, inherently, automatically, unconsciously, impulsively, unthinkingly, instinctually. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) consciously, objectively.

scream: (*n, v*) shout, call, howl, yell, screech, shriek, wail; (*v*) cry out, roar,

bellow, hollo. ANTONYM: (*n*) bore.

smash: (*n, v*) crash, hit, bang, clash, knock; (*v*) shatter, crush, mash, break, defeat, ruin. ANTONYMS: (*v*) mend, preserve; (*n*) flop.

suffocated: (*adj*) suffocate; (*v*) asphyxied.

wrath: (*n*) rage, resentment, ire, fury, displeasure, indignation, passion, madness, choler, irritation; (*adj*) angry. ANTONYMS: (*n*) happiness, love, composure, serenity.

LIZA

[**crushed** by superior strength and weight] What's to become of me? What's to become of me?

HIGGINS.

How the devil do I know what's to become of you? What does it matter what becomes of you?

LIZA.

You don't care. I know you don't care. You wouldn't care if I was dead. I'm nothing to you--not so much as them slippers.

HIGGINS

[thundering] *Those* slippers.

LIZA

[with bitter **submission**] Those slippers. I didn't think it made any difference now.

[A pause. ELIZA **hopeless** and crushed. HIGGINS a little uneasy.]

HIGGINS

[in his **loftiest** manner] Why have you **begun** going on like this? May I ask whether you **complain** of your treatment here?

LIZA.

No.

HIGGINS.

Has anybody behaved badly to you? Colonel Pickering? Mrs. Pearce? Any of the **servants**?

LIZA.

No.

HIGGINS.

I **presume** you don't pretend that I have treated you badly.

LIZA.

No.

Thesaurus

begun: (*adj*) present.

complain: (*v*) bemoan, protest, whine, squawk, bewail, beef, grudge, accuse, carp, plain, complaint. ANTONYMS: (*v*) praise, applaud, cheer, recommend, rejoice, laud, approve, agree, accept.

crushed: (*adj*) beaten, subdued, low, conquered, flattened, dispirited, compressed, overwhelmed, shattered; (*v*) victimized; (*n*) crushing. ANTONYMS: (*adj*)

victorious, euphoric.

hopeless: (*adj*) incurable, despondent, forlorn, disconsolate, desperate, impossible, useless, abject, despair, dismal, irreparable. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) cheerful, competent, promising, optimistic, encouraging, helpful, useful, successful, practical, laudable, effective.

loftiest: (*adj*) uppermost, top, sovereign.

presume: (*v*) dare, consider, believe,

think, infer, guess, expect, esteem, conclude, suppose, conjecture.

ANTONYMS: (*v*) appreciate, despair, speculate.

servants: (*n*) staff, suite.

submission: (*n*) compliance, obedience, acquiescence, bid, offer, deference, entry, presentation, conformity; (*adj, n*) resignation, surrender. ANTONYMS: (*n*) defiance, divergence, disobedience.

HIGGINS.

I am glad to hear it. [He moderates his tone]. Perhaps you're tired after the strain of the day. Will you have a glass of **champagne**? [He moves towards the door].

LIZA.

No. [**Recollecting** her manners] Thank you.

HIGGINS

[good-humored again] This has been coming on you for some days. I suppose it was natural for you to be anxious about the garden party. But that's all over now. [He pats her kindly on the shoulder. She writhes]. There's nothing more to worry about.

LIZA.

No. Nothing more for you to worry about. [She suddenly rises and gets away from him by going to the piano **bench**, where she sits and hides her face]. Oh God! I wish I was dead.

HIGGINS

[staring after her in **sincere** surprise] Why? in heaven's name, why? [Reasonably, going to her] Listen to me, Eliza. All this **irritation** is purely **subjective**.

LIZA.

I don't understand. I'm too ignorant.

HIGGINS.

It's only imagination. Low **spirits** and nothing else. Nobody's **hurting** you. Nothing's wrong. You go to bed like a good girl and sleep it off. Have a little cry and say your prayers: that will make you comfortable.

LIZA.

I heard *your* prayers. "Thank God it's all over!"

HIGGINS

[impatiently] Well, don't you thank God it's all over? Now you are free and can do what you like.

Thesaurus

bench: (*n*) banquet, chair, workbench, court, terrace, bank, bar, judicatory, Ottoman, board, form.
champagne: (*v*) chain lightning, cocktail; (*n*) sparkling wine, blonde.
hurting: (*adj*) aching, painful, tender; (*n*) hurt, ache, sting, pain, colic, dysmenorrhea, agony; (*v*) causing pain. ANTONYM: (*adj*) painless.
irritation: (*n*) exasperation, anger, annoyance, displeasure, bother, excitation, temper, excitement,

irritability, vexation, annoying.
 ANTONYMS: (*n*) satisfaction, balm, calm, calmness, equanimity, patience.
recollecting: (*n*) recollection.
sincere: (*adj, v*) earnest, devout; (*adj*) genuine, faithful, heartfelt, honest, serious, open, artless, candid; (*adj, n*) cordial. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) insincere, dishonest, guarded, flippant, affected, disingenuous, hypocritical, cunning, unfaithful, unenthusiastic, unbelievable.

spirits: (*n*) alcohol, booze, humor, frame of mind, liqueur, strong drink, hard drink; (*adj*) cheer, geniality, good humor; (*v*) wine.
subjective: (*adj*) biased, internal, objective, personal, intellectual, derived from within, prejudiced, psychological, rational, immanent, subjectives. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) objective, impartial, transeunt, unbiased, general, logical.

LIZA

[pulling herself together in desperation] What am I fit for? What have you left me fit for? Where am I to go? What am I to do? What's to become of me?

HIGGINS

[enlightened, but not at all impressed] Oh, that's what's worrying you, is it? [He thrusts his hands into his pockets, and walks about in his usual manner, rattling the contents of his pockets, as if **condescending** to a trivial subject out of pure kindness]. I shouldn't bother about it if I were you. I should imagine you won't have much difficulty in settling yourself, somewhere or other, though I hadn't quite realized that you were going away. [She looks quickly at him: he does not look at her, but examines the dessert stand on the piano and decides that he will eat an apple]. You might marry, you know. [He bites a large piece out of the apple, and munches it noisily]. You see, Eliza, all men are not confirmed old bachelors like me and the Colonel. Most men are the marrying sort (poor devils!); and you're not bad-looking; it's quite a pleasure to look at you sometimes--not now, of course, because you're crying and looking as ugly as the very devil; but when you're all right and quite yourself, you're what I should call attractive. That is, to the people in the marrying line, you understand. You go to bed and have a good nice rest; and then get up and look at yourself in the glass; and you won't feel so cheap.

[ELIZA again looks at him, **speechless**, and does not stir.]

[The look is quite lost on him: he **eats** his apple with a **dreamy** expression of happiness, as it is quite a good one.]

HIGGINS

[a **genial** **afterthought** **occurring** to him] I daresay my mother could find some chap or other who would do very well--

LIZA.

We were above that at the corner of Tottenham Court Road.

HIGGINS

[waking up] What do you mean?

Thesaurus

afterthought: (n) aftercome, aftercourse, aftergrowth, afterpart, afterpiece, second thought, reversal, turnaround, turnabout, improver, postscript. ANTONYMS: (n) presupposition, forethought.
condescending: (adj) arrogant, snobbish, superior, haughty, gracious, patronizing, supercilious, arch, benign, affable, merciful. ANTONYMS: (adj) humble, unassuming, approachable,

unpretentious, friendly, admiring, modest, respectful, deferential.
dreamy: (adj) faraway, romantic, impractical, somnolent, visionary, sleepy, pensive, moony, idealistic, drowsy; (v) balmy. ANTONYMS: (adj) cynical, vigorous, pragmatic, practical, awake, alert, ordinary, prosaic.
eats: (n) grub, chuck, food, meat, meal, diet, nurture, eat, dinner, board, feed.
genial: (adj) cheerful, bright, affable,

cordial, amiable, nice, friendly, convivial, warm, agreeable, suave. ANTONYMS: (adj) disagreeable, hostile, mean, discourteous, frosty, gloomy, reserved, unapproachable, abominable.
occurring: (adj) going on.
speechless: (adj) silent, mute, dumb, dumbfounded, voiceless, quiet, tongueless, tacit, noiseless, mum, wordless. ANTONYMS: (adj) loquacious, eloquent, talkative.

LIZA.

I sold flowers. I didn't sell myself. Now you've made a lady of me I'm not fit to sell anything else. I wish you'd left me where you found me.

HIGGINS

[slinging the core of the apple **decisively** into the **grate**] Tosh, Eliza. Don't you insult human relations by dragging all this **cant** about buying and selling into it. You needn't marry the fellow if you don't like him.

LIZA.

What else am I to do?

HIGGINS.

Oh, lots of things. What about your old idea of a florist's shop? Pickering could set you up in one: he's lots of money. [**Chuckling**] He'll have to pay for all those **togs** you have been wearing today; and that, with the hire of the jewellery, will make a big hole in two hundred pounds. Why, six months ago you would have thought it the **millennium** to have a flower shop of your own. Come! you'll be all right. I must clear off to bed: I'm **devilish sleepy**. By the way, I came down for something: I forget what it was.

LIZA.

Your slippers.

HIGGINS.

Oh yes, of course. You shied them at me. [He picks them up, and is going out when she rises and **speaks** to him].

LIZA.

Before you go, sir--

HIGGINS

[dropping the slippers in his surprise at her calling him sir] Eh?

LIZA.

Do my clothes belong to me or to Colonel Pickering?

Thesaurus

cant: (*n*) jargon, lingo, slang, vernacular, argot; (*n, v*) bank, tilt, bias, incline; (*adj, n*) bevel; (*v*) list.

chuckling: (*n*) laughter.

decisively: (*adv*) resolutely, conclusively, firmly, finally, fatefully, crucially, definitively, positively, absolutely, definitely, flatly. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) irresolutely, unconvincingly, indecisively, aimlessly, insignificantly, halfheartedly, hesitantly.

devilish: (*adj, v*) diabolic, satanic, infernal, mephistophelian, demoniacal; (*adj*) demonic, wicked, diabolical, terrific; (*v*) Stygian; (*adv*) devilishly. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) cherubic, godlike, good, saintly, virtuous.

grate: (*v*) grind, creak, scrape, abrade, gall, gnash, fret, rub, aggravate, provoke; (*n*) lattice.

millennium: (*n*) Happy Valley, chateaux en Espagne, future, century,

Atlantis, millenary, remote future, period, millennial, thousand years, crack of doom.

sleepy: (*adj*) drowsy, dozy, slow, lazy, hypnotic, inactive, comatose, dull, heavy, dreamy; (*adv*) asleep.

ANTONYMS: (*adj*) awake, energetic, vigorous, clear, lively, refreshed.

speaks: (*n*) talks.

togs: (*n*) threads, duds, gear, suit, livery, apparel, clothes, clothing, toggery, accouterment, caparison.

HIGGINS

[coming back into the room as if her question were the very **climax** of **unreason**] What the devil use would they be to Pickering?

LIZA.

He might want them for the next girl you pick up to experiment on.

HIGGINS

[shocked and hurt] Is *that* the way you feel towards us?

LIZA.

I don't want to hear anything more about that. All I want to know is whether anything belongs to me. My own clothes were burnt.

HIGGINS.

But what does it matter? Why need you start bothering about that in the middle of the night?

LIZA.

I want to know what I may take away with me. I don't want to be accused of **stealing**.

HIGGINS

[now deeply wounded] Stealing! You shouldn't have said that, Eliza. That shows a want of feeling.

LIZA.

I'm sorry. I'm only a common ignorant girl; and in my station I have to be careful. There can't be any feelings between the like of you and the like of me. Please will you tell me what belongs to me and what doesn't?

HIGGINS

[very **sulky**] You may take the whole damned houseful if you like. Except the **jewels**. They're hired. Will that satisfy you? [He turns on his heel and is about to go in extreme dudgeon].

LIZA

[drinking in his emotion like **nectar**, and **nagging** him to **provoke** a further

Thesaurus

climax: (*n, v*) peak, crown; (*n*) top, zenith, culmination, acme, height, summit, pinnacle, meridian; (*adj, n*) orgasm. ANTONYMS: (*v*) dip, drop, delve; (*n*) low, nadir, bathos, anticlimax, comedown, base, trough, prelude.
jewels: (*n*) jewelry, gems, wealth, hoops, Perrie, riches, studs, fortune, fineness, earrings, decoration.
nagging: (*adj*) critical, troublesome, nagging, captious, vexatious,

bothersome, demanding, moaning, uneasy; (*n*) torment.
nectar: (*n*) delicacy, secretion, juice, beebread, fruit crush, fruit juice, goody, kickshaw, liquid, bitterweed.
provoke: (*n, v*) excite; (*v*) defy, offend, enrage, anger, irritate, arouse, kindle, inflame, invite, get. ANTONYMS: (*v*) please, soothe, mollify, deter, inhibit, dampen, arbitrate, allay, defuse, discourage, douse.
stealing: (*n*) pilferage, larceny, theft,

steal, burglary, misappropriation, embezzlement, stolen, thievery, pilfering, thieving.
sulky: (*adj*) gloomy, grouchy, morose, surly, peevish, moody, dismal, cross, petulant, crabby; (*adj, v*) glum. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) resigned, cheerful; (*n*) cheeriness.
unreason: (*n*) insanity, absurdity, hysteria.

supply] Stop, please. [She takes off her jewels]. Will you take these to your room and keep them safe? I don't want to run the risk of their being missing.

HIGGINS

[furious] Hand them over. [She puts them into his hands]. If these belonged to me instead of to the **jeweler**, I'd ram them down your ungrateful throat. [He **perfunctorily** thrusts them into his pockets, unconsciously **decorating** himself with the **protruding** ends of the chains].

LIZA

[taking a ring off] This ring isn't the jeweler's: it's the one you bought me in Brighton. I don't want it now. [Higgins dashes the ring violently into the fireplace, and turns on her so **threateningly** that she crouches over the piano with her hands over her face, and exclaims] Don't you hit me.

HIGGINS.

Hit you! You infamous creature, how dare you accuse me of such a thing? It is you who have hit me. You have wounded me to the heart.

LIZA

[thrilling with hidden joy] I'm glad. I've got a little of my own back, anyhow.

HIGGINS

[with dignity, in his finest professional style] You have caused me to lose my temper: a thing that has hardly ever happen to me before. I prefer to say nothing more tonight. I am going to bed.

LIZA

[pertly] You'd better leave a note for Mrs. Pearce about the coffee; for she won't be told by me.

HIGGINS

[formally] Damn Mrs. Pearce; and damn the coffee; and damn you; and damn my own folly in having lavished *my* hard-earned knowledge and the treasure of my regard and intimacy on a **heartless** guttersnipe. [He goes out with impressive **decorum**, and spoils it by slamming the door savagely].

Thesaurus

decorating: (*adj*) ornamental; (*n*) decoration.

decorum: (*n*) propriety, gentility, decorousness, dignity, fitness, manners, correctness, ceremony, properness, politeness, grace.

ANTONYMS: (*n*) impoliteness, rudeness, informality, indecorum, impropriety, indecency, corruption, abandon, vulgarity.

heartless: (*adj*) hardhearted, ruthless, cruel, pitiless, obdurate, merciless,

unfeeling, unkind, stony, insensitive, grim. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) kind, caring, hearted, warmhearted, compassionate, softhearted, merciful, sympathetic, concerned, flattering, generous.

jeweler: (*n*) goldsmith, shaper, merchandiser, maker, merchant, silversmith, jewelry maker.

perfunctorily: (*adv*) superficially, automatically, carelessly, as a formality, involuntarily, quickly,

hastily, unthinkingly, passingly, automatically, fleetingly. ANTONYM: (*adv*) thoroughly.

protruding: (*adj*) obtrusive, projecting, jutting, protrusive, salient, projected, bulging, protuberant, noticeable, sticking out, proposed.

threateningly: (*adv*) sinisterly, ominously, seriously, warningly, perilously, gloomily, dangerously, minatorily, grimly, minaciously, loweringly.

[ELIZA smiles for the first time; expresses her **feelings** by a wild **pantomime** in which an **imitation** of Higgins's **exit** is **confused** with her own **triumph**; and finally goes down on her **knees** on the hearthrug to look for the ring.]



Thesaurus

confused: (*adj*) abashed, baffled, befuddled, bemused, dizzy, chaotic, confounded, deranged, incoherent, disjointed, indistinct. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) enlightened, orderly, alert, clearheaded, organized, oriented, precise, systematic, ordered, unimpressed, methodical.
exit: (*n*) departure, door, egress, outlet, going, gate, way out; (*v*) leave, go, go out, die. ANTONYMS: (*n*) arrival, entry, entrance, greeting; (*v*) arrive,

come.
feelings: (*n*) emotions, opinion, bosom, emotion, thought, reputation, honor, feeling, sentiments, thoughts, manner.
imitation: (*adj, n*) fake, sham, reproduction; (*n*) dummy, forgery, mockery, copy, emulation; (*n, v*) parody; (*adj*) false, bogus. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) genuine, real, natural; (*n*) original, formalism.
knees: (*n*) knee.

pantomime: (*n, v*) gesture; (*n*) dumb show, mummery, acting, playacting, performing, playing, pantomimist; (*v*) mimic, roleplay, playact.
triumph: (*v*) exult, prevail, crow, rejoice, succeed; (*n, v*) glory, win, joy; (*n*) victory, conquest, exultation. ANTONYMS: (*n*) failure, defeat, sorrow, unhappiness, dud, sadness, loss, flop; (*v*) fail, lose, forfeit.

ACT V

[Mrs. Higgins's drawing-room. She is at her writing-table as before. The Parlor-Maid comes in.]

THE PARLOR-MAID

[at the door] Mr. **Henry**, mam, is **downstairs** with Colonel Pickering.

MRS. HIGGINS.

Well, show them up.

THE PARLOR-MAID.

They're using the **telephone**, mam. Telephoning to the police, I think.

MRS. HIGGINS.

What!

THE PARLOR-MAID

[coming further in and **lowering** her voice] Mr. Henry's in a state, mam. I thought I'd better tell you.

MRS. HIGGINS.

If you had told me that Mr. Henry was not in a state it would have been more **surprising**. Tell them to come up when they've **finished** with the police. I **suppose** he's lost something.

Thesaurus

downstairs: (*adv*) beneath, below, underneath, down the stairs, downward, infra, at a lower place, downhill, on a lower floor; (*adj*) downstairs; (*n*) floor. ANTONYMS: (*adj, adv*) upstairs.
finished: (*adj, adv*) ended, completed; (*adj*) complete, consummate, absolute, accomplished, ruined, spent, ripe, polished; (*adj, v*) done. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) incomplete, remaining, rough, leftover,

uncultured.
henry: (*n*) physicist, scag, smack, William Henry, horse, diacetylmorphine, Patrick Henry, Joseph Henry.
lowering: (*adj*) heavy, dismal, gloomy, threatening, dark, glum, murky; (*n*) fall, drop, cut, decline.
suppose: (*v*) infer, guess, speculate, divine, presume, conjecture, reckon, imagine, estimate, consider, assume. ANTONYMS: (*v*) disbelieve, know,

measure, despair, doubt, speculate.
surprising: (*adj, n*) marvelous, strange, incredible; (*adj*) amazing, remarkable, wonderful, shocking, extraordinary, striking, unusual; (*adj, v*) startling. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) predictable, comforting, ordinary, normal, unremarkable.
telephone: (*v*) call, ring, call up, give a call, wireless telephone; (*n, v*) telegraph; (*n*) telephony, earpiece, radiophone, radiotelephone, handset.

THE PARLOR-MAID.

Yes, mam [going].

MRS. HIGGINS.

Go **upstairs** and tell Miss Doolittle that Mr. Henry and the Colonel are here. Ask her not to come down **till** I send for her.

THE PARLOR-MAID.

Yes, mam.

[HIGGINS bursts in. He is, as the parlor-maid has said, in a state.]

HIGGINS.

Look here, mother: here's a confounded thing!

MRS. HIGGINS.

Yes, dear. Good-morning. [He **checks** his **impatience** and kisses her, whilst the parlor-maid goes out]. What is it?

HIGGINS.

Eliza's **bolted**.

MRS. HIGGINS

[calmly continuing her writing] You must have **frightened** her.

HIGGINS.

Frightened her! nonsense! She was left last night, as usual, to turn out the lights and all that; and instead of going to bed she changed her clothes and went right off: her bed wasn't slept in. She came in a cab for her things before seven this morning; and that **fool** Mrs. Pearce let her have them without telling me a word about it. What am I to do?

MRS. HIGGINS.

Do without, I'm afraid, Henry. The girl has a perfect right to leave if she chooses.

HIGGINS

[wandering **distractedly** across the room] But I can't find anything. I don't

Thesaurus

bolted: (*adj*) barred, Bolten, secured, firm, barricaded, blockaded, bolted attachment, fast, fastened, latched, tight.

checks: (*n*) dibs, cent.

distractedly: (*adj, adv*) madly; (*adv*) distraughtly, frantically, frenziedly, wildly, forgetfully, absentmindedly, inattentively, vaguely, confusedly, preoccupiedly. ANTONYM: (*adv*) calmly.

fool: (*n*) blockhead, dunce, clown,

idiot, ass, booby, buffoon; (*v*) deceive, bamboozle; (*n, v*) joke, gull. ANTONYM: (*n*) savant.

frightened: (*adj*) fearful, timid, startled, terrified, scared, alarmed, anxious, apprehensive, horrified, intimidated, restless. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) unimpressed, confident, brave, fearless, reassured.

impatience: (*n*) annoyance, eagerness, anger, intolerance, restlessness, fidget, nervousness, fidgetiness,

enthusiasm, edginess; (*adj*) nonendurance. ANTONYMS: (*n*) calmness, endurance, apathy.

till: (*conj, prep*) until, unto; (*v*) plow, hoe, farm, dig; (*adj*) up to; (*n*) tiller, drawer; (*adv*) so far; (*prep*) to.

upstairs: (*adj*) upstairs; (*adv*) on a higher floor, in the mind, in the head, up the stairs, over; (*n*) heaven, administration, authority, board, eternity. ANTONYMS: (*adj, adv*) downstairs.

know what appointments I've got. I'm-- [PICKERING comes in. Mrs. Higgins puts down her pen and turns away from the writing-table].

PICKERING

[shaking hands] Good-morning, Mrs. Higgins. Has Henry told you? [He sits down on the ottoman].

HIGGINS.

What does that ass of an **inspector** say? Have you **offered** a **reward**?

MRS. HIGGINS

[rising in **indignant amazement**] You don't mean to say you have set the police after Eliza?

HIGGINS.

Of course. What are the police for? What else could we do? [He sits in the Elizabethan chair].

PICKERING.

The inspector made a lot of **difficulties**. I really think he **suspected** us of some improper purpose.

MRS. HIGGINS.

Well, of course he did. What right have you to go to the police and give the girl's name as if she were a **thief**, or a lost umbrella, or something? Really! [She sits down again, deeply vexed].

HIGGINS.

But we want to find her.

PICKERING.

We can't let her go like this, you know, Mrs. Higgins. What were we to do?

MRS. HIGGINS.

You have no more sense, either of you, than two children. Why--

[The PARLOR-MAID comes in and breaks off the conversation.]

Thesaurus

amazement: (*n*) admiration, wonder, surprise, consternation, stupefaction, stupor, wonderment, feeling, alarm, jolt; (*v*) amaze. **ANTONYMS:** (*n*) preparation, indifference, expectation, coolness, cool, composure, calmness, contempt, belief.
difficulties: (*n*) hardships, problems, trouble, difficulty, troubles, necessity, privation, bother, lack.
indignant: (*adj*) angry, incensed,

furious, enraged, wrathful, hurt, rage, provoked, hot, anger, irate. **ANTONYMS:** (*adj*) cool, content, unaffected.
inspector: (*n*) supervisor, auditor, controller, warden, superintendent, surveyor, visitor, assessor, manager, reviewer; (*n, v*) investigator. **ANTONYM:** (*n*) underling.
offered: (*adj*) presented, accessible, existing, obtainable, available, ready, on hand, to be had, unsolicited.

reward: (*n, v*) recompense, return, compensation, guerdon, wage, meed, prize, bribe; (*v*) repay, requite; (*n*) payment. **ANTONYMS:** (*n*) penalty, sentence; (*v*) dishonor, penalize.
suspected: (*adj*) supposed, doubted, suspicious, suspicion, inspiring distrust, distrusted.
thief: (*n*) burglar, bandit, pirate, plunderer, filcher, stealer, pickpocket, pilferer, crook, brigand, despoiler.

THE PARLOR-MAID.

Mr. Henry: a gentleman wants to see you very particular. He's been sent on from Wimpole Street.

HIGGINS.

Ob, bother! I can't see anyone now. Who is it?

THE PARLOR-MAID.

A Mr. Doolittle, Sir.

PICKERING.

Doolittle! Do you mean the dustman?

THE PARLOR-MAID.

Dustman! Oh no, sir: a gentleman.

HIGGINS

[springing up **excitedly**] By George, Pick, it's some relative of hers that she's gone to. Somebody we know nothing about. [To the PARLOR-MAID] Send him up, quick.

THE PARLOR-MAID.

Yes, Sir. [She goes].

HIGGINS

[eagerly, going to his mother] Genteel relatives! now we shall hear something. [He sits down in the Chippendale chair].

MRS. HIGGINS.

Do you know any of her people?

PICKERING.

Only her father: the fellow we told you about.

THE PARLOR-MAID

[announcing] Mr. Doolittle. [She withdraws].

[DOOLITTLE enters. He is **brilliantly** dressed in a new fashionable frock-coat, with white **waistcoat** and grey **trousers**. A flower in his **buttonhole**, a **dazzling silk** hat, and patent leather shoes complete the effect. He is too

Thesaurus

brilliantly: (*adv*) brightly, glitteringly, gloriously, superbly, radiantly, shiningly, resplendently, splendidly, magnificently, dazzlingly, vividly. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) incompetently, terribly, poorly, dimly, badly, abysmally.
buttonhole: (*v*) accost, solicit, besiege, intercept, harangue, detain, lobby; (*n*) bouquet, button hole, posy, bunch.
dazzling: (*adj*) brilliant, blinding, splendid, glaring, vivid, stunning,

dazzlingly, striking, sparkling, fulgent, resplendent. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) dim, ugly, uninspired, unremarkable, unexceptional, gradual, abysmal, humdrum, dark.
excitedly: (*adv*) passionately, feverishly, wildly, frantically, nervously, ardently, enthusiastically, eagerly, animatedly, fervently, cheerfully. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) lifelessly, patiently, peacefully, nonchalantly, indifferently,

despondently, unenthusiastically.
silk: (*adj*) silky, down, silken, velure, velvet; (*n*) silks, satin, cloth, animal fiber, fabric, dental floss.
trousers: (*n*) breeches, knickers, pantaloons, trows, bellbottoms, chinos, cords, denim, flannel, gabardine, knickerbockers.
waistcoat: (*n*) CHUDDER, barbe, garment, jerkin, jubbah, oilskins, pilot jacket, pajamas, cardigan, singlet, talma jacket.

concerned with the business he has come on to notice MRS. HIGGINS. He walks straight to HIGGINS, and accosts him with **vehement** reproach.]

DOOLITTLE

[indicating his own person] See here! Do you see this? You done this.

HIGGINS.

Done what, man?

DOOLITTLE.

This, I tell you. Look at it. Look at this hat. Look at this **coat**.

PICKERING.

Has Eliza been **buying** you clothes?

DOOLITTLE.

Eliza! not she. Not half. Why would she buy me clothes?

MRS. HIGGINS.

Good-morning, Mr. Doolittle. Won't you sit down?

DOOLITTLE

[taken aback as he becomes **conscious** that he has forgotten his **hostess**] Asking your pardon, ma'am. [He approaches her and shakes her proffered hand]. Thank you. [He sits down on the ottoman, on PICKERING'S right]. I am that full of what has happened to me that I can't think of anything else.

HIGGINS.

What the dickens has happened to you?

DOOLITTLE.

I shouldn't mind if it had only happened to me: anything might happen to **anybody** and nobody to **blame** but Providence, as you might say. But this is something that you done to me: yes, you, Henry Higgins.

HIGGINS.

Have you found Eliza? That's the point.

DOOLITTLE.

Have you lost her?

Thesaurus

anybody: (*adv*) any, each; (*n, pron*) any person, a person; (*n*) everyone, somebody, nobody, everybody, someone; (*pron*) whoever.

blame: (*v*) arraign, chide; (*n, v*) reprimand, censure, attack, charge, reproach, rap, rebuke, fault; (*n*) onus. ANTONYMS: (*n, v*) praise; (*v*) absolve, exonerate, commend, clear, acquit; (*n*) vindication, exoneration, honor, absolution, glory.

buying: (*n*) purchasing, buy, purchase,

business, shopping, import, export, transaction, ownership, patronage, sale.

coat: (*v*) cloak, blanket; (*n, v*) sheath, plaster; (*n*) coating, fur, film, crust, jacket, layer, bark. ANTONYMS: (*v*) reveal, expose.

conscious: (*adj*) alive, premeditated, mindful, deliberate, cognizant, calculated, intended, discerning, self-conscious, studied, voluntary.

ANTONYMS: (*adj*) unaware,

ignorant, unintentional, dead, accidental, inanimate, spontaneous, subconscious, unplanned, inadvertent, oblivious.

hostess: (*n*) mistress, air hostess, flight attendant, housewife, steward, innkeeper, landlady, prostitute, host. **vehement:** (*adj*) fierce, intense, violent, strong, furious, passionate, ferocious, eager, hot, fervent, fervid.

ANTONYMS: (*adj*) impassionate, indifferent, mild, calm.

HIGGINS.

Yes.

DOOLITTLE.

You have all the luck, you have. I ain't found her; but she'll find me quick enough now after what you done to me.

MRS. HIGGINS.

But what has my son done to you, Mr. Doolittle?

DOOLITTLE.

Done to me! **Ruined** me. Destroyed my happiness. **Tied** me up and delivered me into the hands of middle class **morality**.

HIGGINS

[rising **intolerantly** and standing over DOOLITTLE] You're **raving**. You're drunk. You're mad. I gave you five pounds. After that I had two conversations with you, at half-a-crown an hour. I've never seen you since.

DOOLITTLE.

Oh! Drunk! am I? Mad! am I? Tell me this. Did you or did you not write a letter to an old **blighter** in America that was giving five millions to found Moral Reform Societies all over the world, and that wanted you to **invent** a universal language for him?

HIGGINS.

What! Ezra D. Wannafeller! He's dead. [He sits down again carelessly].

DOOLITTLE.

Yes: he's dead; and I'm done for. Now did you or did you not write a letter to him to say that the most original **moralist** at present in England, to the best of your knowledge, was Alfred Doolittle, a common dustman.

HIGGINS.

Oh, after your last visit I remember making some silly joke of the kind.

DOOLITTLE.

Ah! you may well call it a silly joke. It put the lid on me right enough. Just give him the chance he wanted to show that Americans is not like us: that

Thesaurus

blighter: (*n*) chap, cuss, dog, fella, lad, beau, feller, gent, nudnik, associate, pest.

intolerantly: (*adv*) bigotedly, impatiently, narrowly, edgily, prejudicedly, conservatively, rigidly, unfairly, overweeningly, opinionatedly, dogmatically.

ANTONYM: (*adv*) patiently.

invent: (*v*) devise, form, create, excogitate, concoct, imagine, contrive; (*n, v*) forge, fabricate,

design, coin.

moralist: (*n*) disciplinarian, martinet, philosopher, utilitarian, stickler, moraliser, egalitarian, dictator, authoritarian, elitist.

morality: (*n*) ethics, goodness, virtue, honesty, decency, integrity, righteousness, chastity, behavior, moral philosophy, rectitude.

ANTONYMS: (*n*) immorality, decadence, wickedness, indecency.

raving: (*adj, v*) wild; (*adj*) frantic,

delirious, furious, mad, insane; (*adj, n*) madness, distraction, rage; (*n*) rabid, delirium.

ruined: (*adj, v*) lost; (*adj*) dilapidated, desolate, broke, broken, bankrupt, finished, devastated, desolated, insolvent, spoiled. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) solvent, pure, rich, whole.

tied: (*adj*) bound, connected, laced, united, fixed, even, liable, tight, spiked, responsible, attached. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) untied, unlaced.

they recognize and respect merit in every class of life, however **humble**. Them words is in his blooming will, in which, Henry Higgins, thanks to your silly **joking**, he **leaves** me a share in his Pre-digested Cheese Trust worth three thousand a year on condition that I lecture for his Wannafeller Moral Reform World League as often as they ask me up to six times a year.

HIGGINS.

The devil he does! Whew! [**Brightening** suddenly] What a **lark**!

PICKERING.

A safe thing for you, Doolittle. They won't ask you twice.

DOOLITTLE.

It ain't the **lecturing** I mind. I'll lecture them blue in the face, I will, and not turn a hair. It's making a gentleman of me that I object to. Who asked him to make a gentleman of me? I was happy. I was free. I touched pretty **nigh** everybody for money when I wanted it, same as I touched you, Henry Higgins. Now I am worried; tied neck and heels; and everybody touches me for money. It's a fine thing for you, says my solicitor. Is it? says I. You mean it's a good thing for you, I says. When I was a poor man and had a solicitor once when they found a **pram** in the dust cart, he got me off, and got shut of me and got me shut of him as quick as he could. Same with the doctors: used to **shove** me out of the hospital before I could hardly stand on my legs, and nothing to pay. Now they finds out that I'm not a healthy man and can't live unless they looks after me twice a day. In the house I'm not let do a hand's turn for myself: somebody else must do it and touch me for it. A year ago I hadn't a relative in the world except two or three that wouldn't speak to me. Now I've fifty, and not a decent week's wages among the lot of them. I have to live for others and not for myself: that's middle class morality. You talk of losing Eliza. Don't you be anxious: I bet she's on my **doorstep** by this: she that could support herself easy by selling flowers if I wasn't respectable. And the next one to touch me will be you, Henry Higgins. I'll have to learn to speak middle class language from you, instead of speaking proper English. That's where you'll come in; and I daresay that's what you done it for.

Thesaurus

brightening: (*n*) blooming, polishing, limb, illumination, first blush, break of day.

doorstep: (*n*) threshold, sill, brink, door, curbside.

humble: (*v*) demean, humiliate, mortify; (*n, v*) disgrace, debase; (*adj. n, v*) abase; (*adj*) base, lowly, unassuming, docile, low.

ANTONYMS: (*adj*) impressive, arrogant, haughty, imposing, conceited, pompous, snooty,

overbearing, presumptuous, proud, exalted.

joking: (*n*) banter, fooling, fun; (*adj*) jocose, jocular, humorous, funny, kidding, playful, puckish, comical. ANTONYM: (*n*) seriousness.

lark: (*n*) joke, fun, trick, prank, antic, caper, game; (*n, v*) romp, frolic, gambol; (*v*) rollick.

leaves: (*n*) departure, leaving, plants, trees, vegetation.

lecturing: (*n*) instruction, talk.

nigh: (*adj, adv, prep*) near; (*adj, adv*) close, nearly, almost, nearby, most, all but, about, adjacent; (*prep*) by; (*adj*) approximate.

pram: (*n*) pushchair, carriage, baby carriage, bassinet, stroller, baby buggy, rig, cart, flatboat, go-cart, buggy.

shove: (*n, v*) thrust, jostle, poke, elbow, prod, boost, hustle; (*v*) press, impel, shift, stuff. ANTONYMS: (*v*) pull, leave.