



# English

Year **11**

#личные  
финансовые  
кризисы  
#English  
#11 класс

## Lesson Topic: An Illusion of Comfort. Inheritance Law in Sense and Sensibility by Jane Austen

*Lesson created by Maria Garder*

**Teacher's comments:** In this lesson, students read an extract from Sense and Sensibility by Jane Austen, watch a fragment of the 1995 Sense and Sensibility film and discuss similarities and differences of inheritance law in 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century England and Russia.

**Aims.** By the end of the lesson the students will have managed the following, grouped by category:

1. **English:** practice reading for specific information, practice summarising and making conclusions basing on different texts.
2. **Cross-subject:** consolidate knowledge of history by comparing Russian and English 18th-19th century legislation on land and property inheritance by women.
3. **Financial Literacy:** discuss reasons for personal financial crises and various strategies of managing crisis, understand the evolution in the inheritance legislation.

**Key vocabulary and structures:** property, estate, land, owner, income, interest, bequeath, inherit, heir, dowry, heritage, inheritance, settlement, jointure, guardianship.

**When to teach:** *Passive skills.* To benefit from the lesson, students should be able to understand moderately adapted fiction and subtitled extracts from a screen adaptation

of 19<sup>th</sup> century period drama. *Active skills:* Students should be able to use intermediate level vocabulary describing personality, emotions and a person's financial situation.

**Time:** 40 minutes.

**Resources:** Whiteboard, markers, OHP and screen / computer, loudspeakers, video of 1995 *Sense and Sensibility* (directed by Ang Lee), handouts (see Teacher's Materials file), paper, pens.

### Lesson procedure

Timing	Action	Goals
Reading 5 min	Read the beginning of the book. On his deathbed, Henry Dashwood talks to John Dashwood, his son, asking him to help his widow and their three daughters after Henry dies. Q: What do you think could happen next? Why? Watch the respective fragment of the film (from 1:00 to 3:50). Has your opinion changed?	To get students' interest, to familiarise students with the historical context; to practice reading and listening; to activate schemata related to difficult financial situation and inheritance issues.
Listening 10 min	Watch the scene of Fanny and John's arrival at Norland. Qs before watching: Why is this happening? What is the reaction of Mrs Dashwood? Why? How does Fanny react when she sees Mrs Dashwood packing furniture/dishes...? Qs after watching: What could happen to Mrs. Dashwood and the girls next? Why?	To practice listening for detail; to evaluate the gravity of the Dashwoods' financial situation through the emotional tension and conflict displayed in the very early scenes of the film.
Reading 10 min	Read extracts describing English inheritance law. Explain how what you read correlates with what you saw. What do you think people could do in such a situation? What would you do?	To practice reading; to understand prospects and options of a 19 <sup>th</sup> -century English family of a widowed mother and three young unmarried daughters; to think of strategies of coping with a similar financial crisis under similar legislative conditions.
Speaking 10 min	Think of examples from the Russian classical literature (18 <sup>th</sup> and 19 <sup>th</sup> centuries). Find similarities and differences. Недоросль, Онегин (семья Лариных).	To practice analysing and comparing texts, to practice long-term speaking with elements of argumentation; to compare historical situations in 18 <sup>th</sup> and 19 <sup>th</sup> century Russia and England; to practice using vocabulary related to finance.
Closure 5 min	Homework. Watch the full film, <i>Sense and Sensibility</i> . Find more financial issues raised in the book/film. (Sir John Middleton and his cottage; Colonel Brandon and his father's	To give closure to the lesson and outline its prospects.

Timing	Action	Goals
	ward; Edward Ferrars and his disownment or Willoughby's disownment). Compare them with what you know about Russian history of the same period (from books/films). Недоросль, Онегин (семья Лариных). Write a paragraph for every similarity / difference you find.	

**Potential problems and solutions**

1. Students may find subtleties of English inheritance legislation in 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries very convoluted. It is good to remember that we cannot hope to give it a comprehensive analysis in one lesson in high school, but the main implications for the lives of unmarried women are plain to see and their prospects less than bright.

**References:**

1. Text: Oxford Bookworms 5. Sense and Sensibility by Jane Austen. Retold by Clare West. ISBN 978-0-19-479233-2
2. Film: Sense and Sensibility. Directed by Ang Lee. 1995
3. On inheritance law of the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century Britain:  
<https://callynpierson.wordpress.com/2011/07/15/inheritance-law-and-sense-and-sensibility/>
4. On the Effect of Wills and Entailments on Family Connections in Sense and Sensibility: <http://www.jasna.org/essaycontest/2002/graduate.html>