

Task 1. What is the meaning of this phrase "Much ado about nothing":

a) When you have lots to do and no time to do it
b) A lot of excitement and activity about something that isn't very important
c) A big group of people doing nothing

Task 2. Put these 13 statements in "Much Ado About Nothing" in order.

1	**Claudio and Hero become engaged and the wedding is set for the following week.**
2	**In a beautiful Italian town called Messina some local soldiers are coming back after winning a war. They are greeted by Leonato, the Governor of Messina and a very wealthy man, and Hero's father.**
3	**Meanwhile, one of the guests plots to discredit Hero, saying that she has been unfaithful to Claudio. Claudio is taken in by the lie.**
4	**Claudio sees Hero and falls in love with her.**
5	**At the wedding Claudio accuses Hero of being unfaithful and he leaves her. She faints from shock, and her family let everyone think that she is dead.**
6	**Claudio's friend, Benedick is teased by Beatrice, Hero's cousin.**
7	**Hero, Claudio and their friends have a plan of their own. They think that Beatrice and Benedick would make an ideal couple. They decide to play a trick on them, by convincing each of them that the other is madly in love with them.**

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8	**Beatrice and Benedick both like to speak their minds. Benedick is as clever as she is.**
9	**Beatrice and Benedick are united, too, and decide to marry.**
10	**Meanwhile, the local policeman has arrested the man who was in Hero's bedroom with the maid. Thus, he uncovered the plot of discrediting Hero. Claudio realizes he has made a terrible mistake.**
11	**Amazingly, she has forgiven him. The lovers are so happy to be back together!**
12	**To make amends for what he has done, Claudio must publicly mourn Hero's death and tell everyone she is innocent. He agrees to marry Leonato's relative. After he has married, he realizes that she is really Hero.**
13	**There is a big party and dancing as everyone comes together to celebrate the double wedding. All's well that ends well.**

Much Ado 1: A Beautiful Trick

Task 1. Watch the first part of the interview with Susan. Are the sentences true or false?

1. Susan's mother is Japanese and her father is English.
2. She grew up in England.
3. She fell in love with Shakespeare when she studied it at school.
4. Most of Shakespeare's plays are set in England.

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Task 2. Watch the second part of the interview. According to Susan, what is 'Much Ado About Nothing' about? Tick 6 answers.

1. Love
2. Relationships
3. Political ambition
4. Marriage
5. Communities
6. Younger people's frustrations
7. Older people's expectations
8. Deception and tricks
9. Right and wrong

Task 3. Watch the last part of the interview. How does Susan describe the characters of Hero and Beatrice? Put the adjectives in the correct groups.

fun/ witty/ obedient/ traditional/ quiet/ modern/ complicated/ kind/ nasty/ vulnerable/ complex

Hero

Beatrice

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Complete the groups from the transcript.

The characters Hero and Beatrice

In *Much Ado About Nothing* I played the character of Hero. And she's one of the central characters. But she's a much more traditional woman from Shakespeare's day or how people in that time would have expected women to be. So she's quiet, she's obedient, she's kind, she wants to fall in love. She falls in love at first sight with Claudio and they get married very quickly. But also she's very vulnerable and she becomes a victim. So she's basically become part of the trick and she's very vulnerable in that way. So she's a very fun and complex character but probably a simpler character to play than Beatrice who's much more modern. A modern-day woman, I suppose. She's complicated, she's witty, she's nasty. She doesn't want to do what she's told. She doesn't want to listen to what men say just because they're men and she's a woman. So that dynamic … the difference of the two women is a great part of the story. So that was very fun to play. Also the comedy is fun so it's great when the audience laugh at you when

Trask 4. Match the correct expressions from the interview with Susan.

Become a couple/ met, encountered/ changed from a child to an adult.
Understands/ has a successful ending/ start to love each other

1. I grew up_____in Munich, in Germany.

2. I first came across_____Shakespeare at school.

3. Having worked in theatre in different countries and seeing how audiences react to Shakespeare, everyone gets it_____. I think it's very universal.

4. The war between Beatrice and Benedick is so fun to watch, and then when they do get together_____at the end, it pays off_____.

5. You've got Hero and Claudio trying to trick Benedick and Beatrice so that they fall in love _____.

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