



## WILDE'S EPIGRAMS

Oscar Wilde has produced many famous epigrams. He usually put them in the mouths of his characters to portray the Victorian society. Find the epigrams by rearranging the words below.

1. is / No / past. / rich / to / buy / back / man / his / enough
2. is / unreadable, / literature / read. / is / and / not / Journalism
3. stage, / The / the / is / is / world / a / play / but / badly / cast.
4. be / Women / be / to / are / meant / to / loved, / understood. / not
5. (TWO SENTENCES)  
should / One / always / be / in / love. /  
marry. / never / one / is / That / reason / the / should
6. is / public / The / have / insatiable / except / worth / knowing. / an  
/ curiosity / to / know / what / everything,
7. but / temptation. / can / resist / anything / I
8. price / is / the / A/ the / cynic / of / nothing. / a / man / who /  
knows / of / everything / and / value
9. cannot. / Young / old / are / faithful / faithless / not; / to / men /  
want / be / and / men / want / to / be / and
10. about / a / to / too / thing / is / much / Life / ever / important / talk /  
seriously / it.

What did their author want to tell us? Do you think these epigrams are true today?



## Teacher's Notes and Answer Key

Depending on the level of your students, you may need to pre-teach: epigram, insatiable, temptation.

Ask your students to rearrange the words (working individually, in pairs or in groups) to form the epigrams. You may offer a small prize to the first student, pair or group to successfully finish the quiz. Check answers with the whole class, ask your students what the epigrams are about, and if they are still true today?

### Answers:

1. No man is rich enough to buy back his past.
2. Journalism is unreadable, and literature is not read.
3. The world is a stage, but the play is badly cast.
4. Women are meant to be loved, not to be understood.
5. One should always be in love. That is the reason one should never marry.
6. "The public have an insatiable curiosity to know everything, except what is worth knowing."
7. I can resist anything but temptation.
8. A cynic is a man who knows the price of everything and the value of nothing.
9. "Young men want to be faithful and are not; old men want to be faithless and cannot."
10. Life is much too important a thing ever to talk seriously about it.

### Homework:

You may ask your students to bring other quotes from Oscar Wilde or another famous British writer to the class. You may also vote the best quote.