**The Importance of Being Earnest – Part 3 – Lost and Found** http://www.bbc.co.uk/learningenglish/english/features/drama/earnest-ep3

Jack has proposed to his darling Gwendolen, and she has accepted. But Gwendolen's mother, Lady Bracknell, has other ideas. Meanwhile, Algernon has become interested in Jack's cousin, Cecily.

**Narrator:** Jack has asked Gwendolen to marry him. She thinks his name is Ernest, her favourite name, and has happily accepted. But her mother, Lady Bracknell, is not pleased about the engagement. She wants to ask Jack some questions about his background and finances.

**Lady Bracknell:** Now, Mr Worthing, I am quite prepared to add your name to my list of eligible young men for my daughter if you answer my questions in a suitable way... \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?

**Jack**: Well, yes, I do.

**Lady Bracknell:** I'm glad to hear it. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?

**Jack**: Twenty-nine.

**Lady Bracknell:** The best age to be married in my opinion. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?

**Jack**: Between seven and eight thousand a year.

**Lady Bracknell:** Seven and eight thousand. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?

**Jack**: Well, I have a country house with some land.

**Lady Bracknell**: A country house! How many bedrooms? You have a town house, I hope? A girl like Gwendolen could not be expected to live in the country.

**Jack**: Well, I own a house in Belgrave Square, but I rent it to Lady Bloxham.

**Lady Bracknell:** Very well. Now to more minor subjects. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?

**Jack**: I have lost both my parents.

**Lady Bracknell:** To lose one parent, Mr Worthing, is unlucky; to lose both looks like carelessness. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?

**Jack**: I'm afraid I don't know. The fact is, Lady Bracknell, I said I had lost my parents. It would be more truthful to say that my parents lost me... I was... well, I was found.

**Lady Bracknell**: Found!

**Jack**: The late Mr Cardew, one of the kindest gentlemen I've ever met, found me, and gave me the name of Worthing, because he happened to have a ticket for Worthing in his pocket at the time. Worthing is in Sussex.  It's the **most delightful** seaside resort...

**Lady Bracknell**:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?

**Jack**: In a handbag.

**Lady Bracknell**: A handbag?

**Jack**: Yes, Lady Bracknell, I was in a handbag - a rather large, black handbag, with **handles** to it.

**Lady Bracknell:**And where did Mr Cardew come across this ordinary handbag?

**Jack**: In the **cloakroom** at Victoria Station. It was given to him by mistake instead of his own.

**Lady Bracknell**: The cloakroom at Victoria Station?

**Jack**: Yes.

**Lady Bracknell:** Mr Worthing, I have to say I feel rather confused by what you have just told me. To start life in a bag, whether it had handles or not, shows a lack of respect for family life. As for the bag being found in a cloakroom at a railway station, that isn't **the best** way to begin a successful life in society today.

**Jack**: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_then what I should do? I would do anything to **ensure** Gwendolen's happiness.

**Lady Bracknell**: I would strongly advise you, Mr Worthing, to **acquire**some relations as soon as possible, and to try to produce at least one parent.

**Jack**: Well, I don't see how I can do that. I can produce the bag now. It's at home. That should be enough for you, surely, Lady Bracknell.

**Lady Bracknell**: Mr Worthing! You can hardly imagine that I and Lord Bracknell would allow our only daughter to **marry into** a cloakroom, and **form an alliance** with a parcel? Goodbye, Mr Worthing!

**Jack:** Goodbye!