

Bridget Jones's Diary

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A Before Reading

- 1 *Bridget Jones's Diary* was made into a successful film. Have you seen the film? Do you know which famous actors were in it?

You can check the answer on page 7.

- 2 *Bridget Jones's Diary* tells the story of a year in the life of a single woman in her thirties living in London. Below is the list of things she decides she must do – resolutions – that year:

- 1 Stop smoking.
- 2 Develop a mature relationship with an adult man.
- 3 Go to the gym.
- 4 Be kinder and help others more.

How many of these resolutions do you think she will be successful with? Which will be the easiest or most difficult? What advice would you give her to help her to achieve them?

- 3 Look at the picture of Bridget Jones below. What do you think she is like? What does she think about? What is her life like? Make some predictions about her character and what might happen to her in the book, and write them in the box.



Check your answers as you read the book.

B While Reading

- 4 a Daniel Cleaver and Mark Darcy are both important men in Bridget's life during the year. As you read, choose words and phrases from the box which you think best describe each man and write them in the box on the next page; the first one has been done for you. You may need to look up some of the words in the dictionary before you begin.

sexy selfish successful in his career a womaniser confident
 reliable helpful divorced easily embarrassed a sports fan rude
 hard-working flirtatious an emotional coward in love with Bridget
 dishonest honest attractive well-known



sexy,...	
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b Now write a paragraph comparing the two men, using the expressions above and your own ideas and saying whether you think Bridget chooses the right man at the end of the story.

5 As you read, match a party with what happens there and put them in the order that they take place through the year. The first one has been done for you.

Order (1-8)	Party	What happens?
	Bridget's birthday party	a Bridget meets Mark Darcy for the first time and the meeting does not go well.
1	The Alconburys' New Year's Day Turkey Lunch	b Bridget serves blue soup.
	Magda and Jeremy's dinner party	c Bridget's friends take her to a restaurant instead of eating shepherd's pie at her house.
	The Darcys' ruby wedding party	d Bridget finds herself with four married couples who ask her why she is not married.
	Christmas Day at Bridget's parents' house	e Julio is arrested.
	The publication party for <i>Kafka's Motorbike</i>	f Bridget is the only person wearing fancy dress.
	Una and Geoffrey's summer party	g Bridget tries to use the advice she has read in a magazine about how to behave at parties.
	Bridget's November dinner party	h Mark asks Bridget if she has read any good books lately and then invites her for dinner sometime.

6 a *I'm scared about this party. I'm not very good at parties. But I have been reading a magazine article about how to behave at them. (p39)*

What two pieces of advice does Bridget get from the article and how successful is she in following them?

- b Write a similar article called 'How to have a good dinner party' to give Bridget the advice she needs before her birthday.

Example: *You should always give yourself plenty of time to prepare the food.*

- c Imagine you are planning a party for your own birthday and that you can spend as much money as you need for it. Complete the chart below with your dream party plans.

Place (home/restaurant/beach, etc)	
Guests to invite	
Food and drink	
Music/entertainment	

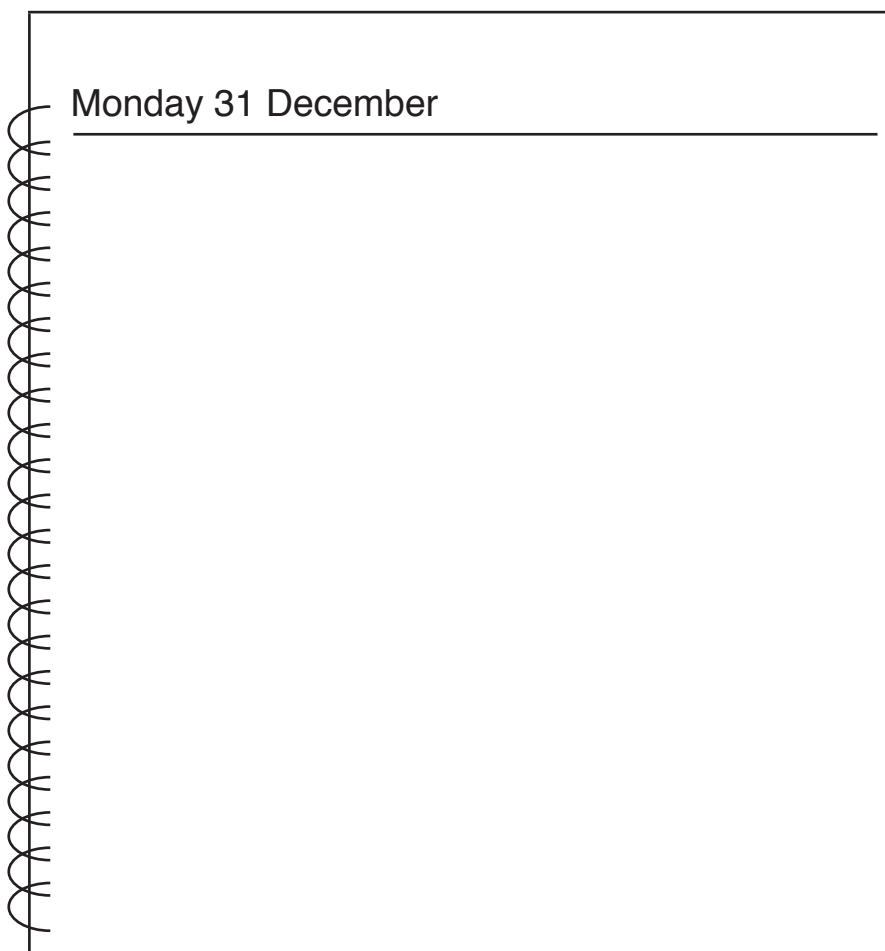
C After Reading

- 7 a *'You should enjoy being single while you can, Bridge,' said Magda. 'It's very hard work, staying at home and looking after kids.'* (p50)

In your opinion, who has the better lifestyle: Bridget or Magda? Complete the table with your ideas on the advantages and disadvantages of each.

Bridget's lifestyle	Advantages	
	Disadvantages	
Magda's lifestyle	Advantages	
	Disadvantages	

- b** In your country, is it common or unusual for women to be single and live alone in their thirties? Is it the same situation for men? What do you think is the average age that men/women get married in your country? At what age is it common to have a first child?
- c** In your own opinion, how important is it to get married? Can your career be as important as, or more important than, marriage and family? Write a paragraph giving your opinion with reasons.
- 8** Imagine you are Bridget Jones and you are writing a diary entry for 31 December one year after the end of the story. Include details of:
- where and with whom you spent the day (Mark Darcy? Daniel Cleaver? Another man? Alone?)
 - what has happened in your life during the past year (career, health, friends) and which resolutions you have kept/broken
 - what your parents are doing



Monday 31 December
