

Othello

William Shakespeare

The story step by step

- 1 Listen to the start of Act 1, Scene 1 (from 'I don't believe you ...' to '... bring torches! Help!'). Match the beginnings of the sentences you hear to (1–12) to the endings (a–l). Check your answers on pp.11–12 of the book or in the answer key. The first one is an example.

1	She's run away	a	as if there were a fire!
2	He's read about being a soldier	b	I follow only myself.
3	In following him,	c	not to come here again.
4	He's got the job	d	and married the Moor?
5	Let it be said:	e	not the middle of the countryside!
6	Let's give him some trouble,	f	but has none of the practice.
7	Make a noise	g	and poison the Moor's happiness while we're there.
8	They have taken half of your heart	h	who can tell you that your daughter has married the Moor.
9	I told you	i	we apologize for disturbing you.
10	This is Venice,	j	and half of your soul.
11	I am someone	k	I am not what I seem.
12	But if you already know all this,	l	when it's I who have shown I've got the experience of lots of battles.

- 2 Listen to Act 1, Scene 2 (from 'Roderigo spoke so badly of you ...' to '... your men are armed with swords.'). Complete the sentences from the scene with the correct form of the verbs below. Check your answers on pp.14–15 of the book or in the answer key. The first one is an example.

be call come do do find get listen make respect send speak
speak stab try wish

- a Roderigo *spoke* so badly of you.
- b Nine or ten times I _____ him.
- c Brabantio is powerful and _____ to break up your marriage.
- d I _____ good service in Venice and my actions _____ for me.
- e That _____ Brabantio, her angry father, and his friends.
- f The duke _____ to see you immediately, general.
- g Our ships in the Mediterranean _____ many messages and the duke _____ all the senators to a meeting.
- h We went to your house but _____ you there.
- i Wait here a moment and then I _____ with you.

- j If what he _____ is legal, he _____ forever.
- k He _____ married.
- l I _____ to you because I _____ your age.

3 Listen to Act 2, Scene 1 (from 'Can you see a ship?' to '... tell me how you'd describe me.')

and write the direct speech you hear next to the reported speech. The first one is an example. Check your answers on pp.23–24 of the book or in the answer key.

a Montano asked the man if he could see a ship.	Montano: <i>Can you see a ship?</i>
b Montano asked the man what he thought had happened.	
c The messenger told them that their war had ended and that that terrible storm had stopped the Turkish attack.	
d Cassio said that he was worried about General Othello.	
e Cassio said that he was confident that he would get there safely.	
f Montano said that he had heard that Othello had got married.	
g Cassio said that it was true. He had a wonderful new wife.	
h Cassio said that Iago's ship had arrived a week earlier than expected.	
i Desdemona asked what news there was of her husband.	
j Cassio said that he was sure that he was well and would be there soon.	
k Iago said that wives were always nice and quiet in company.	
l Desdemona said that she was worried about Othello.	

- 4 Listen to the start of Act 2, Scene 3 (from 'Good Cassio ...' to '... Roderigo, go after Cassio.'). You will hear the words below. One sound in each word is underlined. Put the words in the correct column according to the underlined sound. The first ones are examples. Check your answers in a dictionary or in the answer key.

argue bearer careful castle celebrate early guard her lady make
 perfect start there way

/ɑ:/	/ɛ:/	/eɪ/	/eə/
guard	early	make	careful
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

- 5 Listen to Iago's speech at the end of Act 2, Scene 3 (from 'Ha! Who says I play the villain?' to '... catch them all.'). Complete it with the correct words. The first one is an example. Check your answers on pp.36–37 of the book or in the answer key.

Iago: Ha! Who says I play the villain? Everyone thinks I am an _____ man. Desdemona is good and the Moor will do anything she asks him to do. So why am I a bad man to tell this _____ Cassio to ask her for help? I'm going to catch them all in my _____! This is my plan: he's going to ask Desdemona for help, and she's going to ask her husband to make Cassio his _____ again. And I'm going to pour _____ into Othello's ear: I'll make him believe that Desdemona only wants to help Cassio because she's in love with him. I'll make sure Othello sees the two of them talking _____, I'll make him _____ about it. Then the more she speaks in _____ of Cassio, the more she'll make Othello _____ her. I'll use her goodness in wanting to help a friend and turn it into a _____ to catch them all.

- 6 Listen to Act 3, Scene 1. Who is each of these people speaking about; Cassio, Desdemona, Iago or Othello? Write the names. The first one is an example. Check your answers on pp.38–40 or in the answer key.

- a **Emilia:** My husband doesn't like this disagreement. Iago
- b **Desdemona:** Oh, he's an honest man. _____
- c **Cassio:** But I'm worried it will be too late and he'll forget about me. _____
- d **Cassio:** I feel very uncomfortable when he is here. _____
- e **Iago:** He wouldn't have hurried away looking so guilty when he saw you coming. _____
- f **Desdemona:** I have just been talking to someone – someone you are angry with. _____
- g **Desdemona:** Please, my love, call him back. _____
- h **Othello:** Excellent girl! Let me always love you! _____

7 Listen to Act 3, Scene 2 (from 'My lord, did Cassio know you loved Desdemona ...' to '... but it makes me very poor.'). Count the number of times you hear the words 'honest', 'friend', 'seem(s)', 'thinking' and 'thoughts'. Check your answers on pp.42–43 of the book or in the answer key.

- a honest _____
- b friend _____
- c seem(s) _____
- d thinking _____
- e thoughts _____

8 Listen to Act 3, Scene 3 (from 'Ha, ha, deceiving me?' to '... has finished.'). Othello says 'Goodbye' to four things. What are they? Check your answers on p.49 of the book or in the answer key.

- a _____
- b _____
- c _____
- d _____

9 Listen to the next section of Act 3, Scene 3 (from 'Is that possible, my lord?' to '... Oh monstrous, monstrous!'). Tick the adjectives you hear. The first one is an example. Check your answers on p.50 of the book or in the answer key.

bad ✓	beautiful	best	careful	clean	dirty	foolish	friendly	good
	honest	sweet	unhappy	upset	worst			

10 Listen to Act 3, Scene 4 (from 'How are you, my lord?' to 'That's bad news.'). Put the sentences in the correct order to complete the conversation you hear between Desdemona and Othello. Then write in the names of the speakers (Desdemona or Othello). The first and the last are done for you. Check your answers on p.52 of the book or in the answer key.

- a _____ Here, my lord. 1
- b Desdemona How are you, my lord? _____
- c _____ I am well, my lady. Oh, how hard it is to lie! – How are you, Desdemona? _____
- d _____ I don't have it with me. _____
- e _____ I have a cold today. Lend me your handkerchief. _____
- f _____ I've asked Cassio to come and talk to you. _____
- g _____ No, my lord. _____
- h _____ No, not that one. The one I gave you. _____
- i _____ No? _____
- j Othello That's bad news. 12

k _____ Well, my lord. Now, let's talk about your promise. _____

l _____ What promise? _____

11 Listen to Act 4, Scene 1. Decide if the following sentences are true (T) or false (F). Check your answers on pp.55–61 of the book or in the answer key.

a A reputation is something that you can't see. _____

b Othello thinks Desdemona has kissed Cassio. _____

c Othello is ill because Iago has given him poison to drink. _____

d Iago tells Othello to hide while he talks to Cassio. _____

e Iago talks to Cassio about Desdemona. _____

f Bianca wants to marry Cassio. _____

g Cassio wants to marry Bianca. _____

h Cassio gave Desdemona's handkerchief to Bianca. _____

i Cassio got the handkerchief from another girlfriend. _____

j Iago tells Othello to poison Desdemona. _____

k Lodovico has come to Cyprus from Venice. _____

l The duke wants Cassio to go back to Venice and leave Othello in control in Cyprus. _____

m Othello hits Desdemona. _____

n Desdemona hits Othello. _____

12 Listen to Act 4, Scene 2 (from 'You saw nothing then?' to '... at deceiving people.' Read the text below as you listen and correct the mistakes you hear. The first one is an example. Check your answers on p.62 of the book or in the answer key.

nothing
Othello: You saw ~~something~~ then?

Emilia: No, and I never saw anything. I didn't think they were doing anything bad.

Othello: But you have seen Iago and Desdemona together?

Emilia: Yes, but I saw nothing wrong, and I saw everything they did.

Othello: What? Didn't they ever touch?

Emilia: Never, my lord.

Othello: Or send you off?

Emilia: Never.

Othello: To get her handkerchief or anything?

Emilia: Never, my lord.

Othello: That's strange.

Emilia: She is honest, my lord, I promise you. I think someone is telling you lies and hiding your head with doubts. If she isn't honest, then no woman is.

Othello: Ask her to come here. Emilia says Desdemona is honest, but why should I listen to her?

Desdemona is very good at deceiving people.

13 Listen to all of Act 4, Scene 3. Answer the questions. The first one is an example. Check your answers on p.64 of the book or in the answer key.

a What did Othello tell Desdemona to do?

To go to bed and wait for him.

b Does he want Emilia to stay with Desdemona?

c How does Desdemona feel about Othello?

d Is there someone knocking at the door?

e What is wrong with Desdemona's eyes?

f Would Desdemona ever deceive her husband?

g How does Emilia think wives learn to be bad?

- 14 Listen to Act 5, Scene 2 (from 'I have got to do it ...' to 'Please, my lord, I need to speak to you!'). Match the beginnings of the sentences you hear to (1–12) to the endings (a–l). Check your answers on pp.69–72 of the book or in the answer key. The first one is an example.

1	I have got to do it,	a	and still love you when you are dead.
2	But she must die,	b	I was never in love with him.
3	I'll put out the light of this torch,	c	I would have taken them all.
4	I will kill you	d	because she has given me a reason to do it which I will not say out loud.
5	I would not want to kill you	e	let me live tonight!
6	I don't know why I am afraid,	f	because if she doesn't die she'll deceive other men.
7	I liked Cassio as a friend,	g	she will want to talk to my wife.
8	He said that he kissed you,	h	and then I'll put out the light of her life.
9	If he had as many lives as hairs on his head,	i	and the earth would break in two.
10	Kill me tomorrow,	j	unless you were ready to die.
11	If Emilia comes in,	k	because you don't have any reason to kill me.
12	I wish the moon would cover the sun,	l	and you kissed him!