Who Is Bridget Jones?

Bridget Jones came to life internationally with <u>Bridget Jones's Diary</u>, a **romcom** released in 2001. The film is about Bridget, a **thirtysomething** single who tries to get control of her life... and find a partner in the competitive world of post-Thatcher London. The original book was written by <u>Helen Fielding</u>, and inspired by Jane Austen's <u>Pride and Prejudice</u>: the "hero" of both Bridget Jones and *Pride and Prejudice* is called Darcy, and Colin Firth has played both characters.

Bridget Jones is typically middle-class and "White British", and has issues with her body, cigarettes and alcohol. She is played amazingly by Renée Kathleen Zellweger, who is from Texas!

(**Romcom** – a romantic comedy; **thirtysomething** – someone in their 30s (originally the name of <u>a TV series in the late 1980s</u>); **White British** – an official population category; **to have issues with** something – to have problems with something)



The <u>trailer [video presenting the film] of the *Bridget Jones's Diary* captures the film's ambience and story well. Hugh Grant is the "villain" of the plot, a **cad** [a man who behaves dishonourably, especially towards women].</u>

Look at these words from the summary of the trailer below, THEN read the trailer summary, and THEN watch the trailer (use the Youtube subtitles to help you).

Resolutions — decisions, promises, goals; **Flirtation** — teasing, attraction, romantic interest; **Charming** — attractive, charismatic, likeable; **Reserved** — quiet, introverted, private; **Flirt** — joke, tease, playfully interact; **Awkward** — embarrassing, uncomfortable, clumsy; **Confusion** — uncertainty, doubt, misunderstanding; **Challenge** — difficulty, problem, obstacle; **Trust** — believe, rely on, have confidence in; **Outcome** — result, ending, conclusion

Trailer summary (link to the Youtube video)

- a) **Introducing Bridget** The trailer starts by showing Bridget Jones, a single woman in her early 30s, feeling lonely and writing in her diary.
- b) **New Year's Resolutions** Bridget decides to change her life, improve herself, and find love.
- c) **Meeting Mark Darcy** Bridget meets Mark Darcy, a serious and reserved man, at a Christmas party. He does not seem interested in her (Darcy is wearing a childish pullover from his mother).
- d) **Her Job and Social Life** Bridget works in an office and spends time with her friends, who give her advice about dating.
- e) **Daniel Cleaver** Bridget's flirtation with her charming boss, Daniel Cleaver, begins. He is fun and confident, and she enjoys his attention.
- f) **Love Triangle** Bridget finds herself caught between Daniel Cleaver and Mark Darcy. The two men seem very different.
- g) **Funny and Embarrassing Moments** The trailer shows Bridget in awkward and funny situations, like falling down or saying the wrong thing.
- h) Romantic Confusion Bridget faces challenges in her love life and is unsure who she can trust.
- i) A Surprise Fight There is a dramatic and humorous fight scene between Mark Darcy and Daniel Cleaver over Bridget.
- j) **Happy Ending?** The trailer suggests that Bridget will have to choose between the two men, but does not reveal the final outcome.