

***The Importance of Being Earnest*** LITERARY ELEMENTS WORKSHEET**Comedic Convention**

Comedy makes us laugh — but why? Find an example of each of the following conventions in *The Importance of Being Earnest*, and copy them into the chart below. Be sure to cite by Act and page number (and line number if your version includes them).

Comedic Convention	Example from Play
<b>Exaggeration:</b> making something more than it is; an overstatement or overemphasis	
<b>Incongruity:</b> something that seems out of time, place, or character	
<b>Anticipation:</b> looking forward to something funny (Anticipation can be created with a <b>plant</b> —an idea, line, or action that shows up early in the play and is repeated.)	
<b><i>Deus ex machina:</i></b> an artificial contrivance used to resolve comedic plots	
<b>Ambiguity:</b> double meaning (Puns are an excellent source of ambiguity, as are mistaken identities.)	