

Theater English

戏剧英语

行业英语系列教材

主编 张文萍



高等教育出版社



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前言

对很多艺术类学生而言,英语是一门很难掌握的文化课。繁多的词汇、语法、句型往往令学生望而却步。学生与国外艺术家交流的困难,中国艺术工作者面对国外媒体时的尴尬,常常让高等艺术院校的英语教师产生紧迫感,千方百计地寻求解决这一难题的各种有效途径。本书正是在这一紧迫感之下孕育而生。

我们在编写本教材时,读者群定位于英语学习起点较低的学生,并没有刻意追求词汇、时态等语法概念,而是将重点放在口语、听力的培养上。书中涵盖了戏剧、导演、舞美、音乐、舞蹈、传统戏曲、影视表演、剧本创作以及电视艺术等多项内容,为学生提供了更多交流沟通的平台;文中大量插图令教材更加生动、活泼。同时,丰富多样,形式新颖的练习可有效提高学生学习的积极性。

我们希望通过本教材的使用,可以使学生体验到英语学习的乐趣,增强英语学习热情,掌握一定专业用语,并最终提高英语表达能力,从而可以较流畅地与国外艺术家沟通,促进我国文化艺术事业进一步发展。为方便教师备课和教学,书后配有各单元练习参考答案。本书听力部分配有 mp3 光盘,附于书后。

由于编者水平所限,书中难免有不妥和错误之处,恳请广大读者批评指正。

编者

2007年4月

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Theater — A Lasting Impact

Warm-up Questions

1. Describe the audience at the performance you attended (their age, dress and behavior).
2. Tell a story about theater and then explain the idea the story suggests.



TEXT

Theater — A Lasting Impact

① A story will tell you the lasting impact of theater. When I was artistic director for a professional theater in Virginia, a dinner party was held before each opening performance. It was a formal party with tuxedos and long dresses.

② I was seated across the table from a pleasant man in his mid-forties who told me he had not been “to this damned theater in over ten years!” I asked why. He told me it was because of “that damned play.” Surprised, I tried to learn what play had

set him off — for ten long years. He couldn’t remember the title. Nor who had written it. Nor who had acted in it. Nor what it was about.

③ I tried to learn what the play was by getting him to tell me what it looked like, what visual images it had left in his mind. “Well, it was about a clown,” he said. I thought hard for plays about clowns. “And there were a lot of them and they all



looked alike,” he added. “Did they all talk strangely and in broken sentences?” I asked. “Yes! That’s the one! That damned play drove me out of the theater!” I realized that the play was an avant-garde play called *Kaspar*¹, written by the highly respected Austrian playwright Peter Handke².



④ Over coffee and dessert, the gentleman told me he was an architect who designed large office buildings. I saw my opening. “Did you ever wish you could design a building that people would talk about when they walked past it? One that people would remember?” He said that had always been his dream. He was disappointed that people walked past his buildings without noticing them and never remembered them. I suggested that being not remembered must be hard for any creative person, and I sympathized with him. He saw where I was heading. He saw that a work of art that has a lasting impact is something every artist hopes to create — every Virginia architect and every Austrian playwright. And he admitted that anything that could make him feel deeply ten years after he had experienced it must have been an important piece of art.

Notes

- 1 *Kaspar*: The play is based on the true story of Kaspar Hauser, a sixteen-year-old boy who appeared from nowhere in Nuremberg in 1828 and who had to be taught to speak from the very beginning. This play is a downright attack on the way language is used by a corrupt society to depersonalize the individual.
- 2 Peter Handke: Austrian novelist and playwright. His avant-garde works often reflect his ironic sense of the constricting limitations of language and reason and the chaos of actual human experience. His plays include *Kaspar* (1968), and *The Hour We Knew Nothing of Each Other* (1994), which contains 400 characters and no dialogue.

Words and Phrases

lasting *adj.* continuing to exist for a long time or forever 持久的

impact	<i>n.</i>	a powerful effect that something, especially something new, has on a situation or person 影响,效果
professional	<i>adj.</i>	related to work that needs special training or education 专业的
formal	<i>adj.</i>	public or official 正式的
tuxedo	<i>n.</i>	dinner-jacket 燕尾服
damned	<i>adj.</i>	deserving condemnation; detestable 可恶的
title	<i>n.</i>	the name of a film, book, painting, piece of music, etc. 标题;片名;书名
visual	<i>adj.</i>	relating to seeing 视觉的
image	<i>n.</i>	a mental picture or idea which forms in a reader's or listener's mind from the words that they read or hear 形象,意象
clown	<i>n.</i>	comic entertainer (esp. in a circus) who paints his face and dresses in a ridiculous way and performs funny or foolish tricks 小丑
alike	<i>adj.</i>	similar; like each other 相似的
broken	<i>adj.</i>	made into pieces from a whole 断断续续的
drive sb. out		to force someone or something to leave 驱赶,驱逐
avant-garde	<i>adj.</i>	favoring new and progressive ideas, esp. in art and literature 先锋的,前卫的
respect	<i>v.</i>	to feel or show admiration for someone or something that you believe has good ideas or qualities 尊敬
dessert	<i>n.</i>	any sweet dish, eaten at the end of a meal 甜品
architect	<i>n.</i>	a person who designs buildings and supervises their construction 建筑师
design	<i>v.</i>	to make or draw plans for something, for example clothes or buildings 设计
disappointed	<i>adj.</i>	unhappy because someone or something was not as good as you hoped or expected, or because something did not happen 失望的
creative	<i>adj.</i>	producing or using original and unusual ideas 创意的,创新的
suggest	<i>v.</i>	to mention an idea, possible plan or action for other

		people to consider 暗示, 建议
sympathize	v.	to understand and care about someone's problems 同情
admit	v.	to agree that something is true, especially unwillingly 承认
experience	v.	to feel, suffer or learn by an experience 经历

Proper Names

Virginia 弗吉尼亚州

Austrian 奥地利的, 奥地利人的

Reading Comprehension

1. Read the text and tell whether the following statements are true or false.

- 1) It was at a dinner party that I met this architect for the first time.
- 2) I, too, thought of *Kaspar* as a rather bad play.
- 3) The architect can remember neither the playwright nor the actors of the play he had seen ten years ago.
- 4) The gentleman changed his mind about that damned play at last.

Vocabulary

2. Find the word in each set that does not belong with the other three words and explain the reason.


- | | | | |
|---------------|----------|-----------|---------|
| 1) playwright | theater | director | actress |
| 2) artist | painter | architect | clown |
| 3) sentence | dialogue | character | play |

3. Fill in the sentences with the appropriate words. Change the form where necessary.

<i>creative</i>	<i>professional</i>	<i>disappointed</i>	<i>experience</i>	<i>design</i>
<i>alike</i>	<i>title</i>	<i>image</i>	<i>respect</i>	<i>suggest</i>

- 1) We _____ a lot of difficulty in producing the play.
- 2) Are you _____ that I look fat in these trousers?

- 3) Last year we published over a hundred new _____.
- 4) He's a photographer who's just turned _____.
- 5) I learned a lot from teachers and students _____.
- 6) This range of clothing is specially _____ for shorter women.
- 7) We were deeply _____ about the result.
- 8) I teach _____ writing at college.
- 9) I have great _____ for his ideas, although I don't agree with them.
- 10) He doesn't fit my _____ of how an actor should look.



Reading

4. Rearrange the following sentences to make a story.

- 1) After entering the theater, Tom gave the ticket to his brother and said "See you at intermission."
- 2) Years later, Tom took his brother to see *The King and I*.
- 3) That's the powerful impact theater can have on a person who has learned "how to go to the theater."
- 4) Tom's first experience was in Chicago, at the Goodman Theater.
- 5) There is a first time for everything, including going to the theater.
- 6) But a moment later his brother walked to him and asked "How could I find my seat?"
- 7) His brother loves the experience so much that he considers theater a part of his life.
- 8) Tom pointed him to an usher who showed him to his seat.
- 9) His brother was a successful businessman, but the day of the performance he was anxious about what to wear.



Guided Writing

5. Fill in the following form and finish your paper on *Take Your Seats, Please*.

Take Your Seats, Please

What things should you consider before and during a performance?

First you should know when to arrive.

A performance usually begins at _____.
 Allow yourself _____ time to get to the
 theater. You are _____ if you arrive after
 the performance has begun, and
 _____ will keep you in the
 lobby until some _____ time
 in the play when you will not
 disturb those who arrived
 _____.



Choose the appropriate words
 to fill in the blanks.

- * enough
- * on time
- * 8:00 P. M.
- * usher
- * suitable
- * late

Then you should decide what to wear.

Do a little research and write how to dress appropriately
 for a performance.



*At last you should pay attention to what to do and what not to do during the
 performance.*

Make a list of the dos and don'ts during the performance.



Anecdote Reading

6. Read the story and retell it to the classmates.

Sch-h-hnabel

Artur Schnabel once found an elderly woman in the front row sleeping right

through one of his concerts. When she suddenly woke as the final ovation rang, Schnabel leaned over to apologize: "It was the applause, Madame," he spoke in a low voice, "I played as softly as I could."

concert 音乐会 ovation 欢呼 lean 倾斜 applause 鼓掌

Listen and Discuss

7. Listen to the dialogues and choose the appropriate answer to each question.

- 1) A. Mrs. Green. B. Mrs. White. C. Mrs. Grace.
- 2) A. Cinema. B. Park. C. Street.
- 3) A. She thinks so.
 B. She doesn't think so.
 C. She has no other questions.
- 4) A. Professor Jackson made a good speech.
 B. Professor Jackson did not express himself well.
 C. Professor Jackson had trouble with his students.
- 5) A. The hat matches the coat.
 B. The hat is a good gift.
 C. The coat is very beautiful.

8. Listen to an introduction on theater in UK and fill in the blanks.

For many visitors to London the _____ to see a West End show is very important. The West End of London, situated _____ Chinatown, is home to dozens of beautiful theaters.

London's West End theaters are now enjoying a high popularity and _____. According to a study, nearly _____ people attended a West End show last year.

One possible reason for this success is the use of A-list Hollywood actors in _____. Val Kilmer, star of film *Top Gun*, is now appearing in *The Postman Always Rings Twice*. And he is not the only one — other American movie stars performing in London _____ Oscar winner, Kevin Spacey, and David Schwimmer.

Ironically, it is not just that film stars are _____ in plays nowadays but films themselves are being adapted for the _____. Among the films that can

now be seen as plays or _____ are *The Lion King*, *A Few Good Men*, and *Billy Elliot*.

The _____ shows in the West End are usually musicals. The Andrew Lloyd Webber show, *Cats*, ran for 21 years and 7,000 performances, making its _____ a multi-millionaire.

However, not all musicals do so well. *Oscar Wilde: The Musical* _____ for only one night, closing after terrible reviews and poor bookings. It was quite possibly the biggest flop in London _____ history.

9. Listen to the dialogue and answer the questions.

- 1) Why will Steve go to the National Theater?
- 2) What does Steve plan to do after seeing the play?
- 3) On which street does the Riverside Restaurant stand?

10. Group Talk

- 1) Could you give a direction on how to go to the theater in your city starting from your school?
- 2) Is it a luxury to see a play in China? How much does it cost to see a play?

Movie Titles

Warm-up Questions

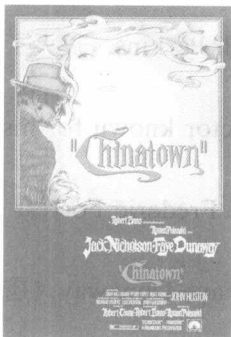
1. Brainstorm a list of movie titles.
2. Do they make sense? Could you guess what the movie is about by the title?



Movie Titles

① The first thing we know about a film is its title. A good title should give some idea of the theme, arouse one's interest, and be easily repeated. A bad title can hurt a film.

② Many movies coming from books or plays just keep the original title. But others are worked out with the audience in mind. Movie titles come in all sizes; sentences (*Don't Be A Menace to South Central while Drinking Your Juice in the Hood*¹, 1995); prepositional phrases (*About Last Night*², 1986); gerunds (*Raising Arizona*³, 1987); inseparable pairs (*Tender Mercies*⁴, 1983); names of persons (*Shirley Valentine*⁵, 1989); names of places (*Casablanca*⁶, 1942); even adjectives (*Big*⁷, 1988). For many reasons, some titles just do not work. What did Jack Nicholson's⁸ *The Two Jakes*⁹ (1990) say about its being a sequel to the tale of disloyalty in *Chinatown*¹⁰ (1974)? The newer title seems better suited for a comedy.



③ Studios register their titles with the MPAA¹¹, a



system that allows each studio to hold over 250 titles (and because the largest studios have many small production units, they hold thousands of titles). Arguments sometimes arise over the use of movie titles. When two movies appear during the same season with same words or similar sounding titles, they were sent to the MPAA for judgment. For example, when a Meg Ryan¹² romantic comedy with the name of *Paris Match* was to be released shortly after Billy Crystal's¹³ *Forget Paris*¹⁴ (1995) of the same genre, the MPAA sided with Billy Crystal, saying that the similarities could be unclear to the public. Ryan's film title was changed to *French Kiss*¹⁵ (1995).

Notes

- 1 *Don't Be A Menace to South Central while Drinking Your Juice in the Hood*: A comedy starring Wayans Brothers.《酒醉后驾车时,请不要威胁到中南部》,又名《笑枪走火》
- 2 *About Last Night*: A romantic comedy starring Rob Lowe and Demi Moore.《关于昨夜》,又名《昨夜情深》
- 3 *Raising Arizona*: A crime comedy starring Nicolas Cage and Holly Hunter.《抚养亚历桑那》,又名《宝贝梦惊魂》
- 4 *Tender Mercies*: A drama starring Robert Duvall and Tess Harper.《温柔的怜悯》
- 5 *Shirley Valentine*: A comedy starring Pauline Collins and Tom Conti.《雪莉·瓦伦丁》,又名《拜拜围裙》
- 6 *Casablanca*: A romantic drama starring Humphrey Bogart and Ingrid Bergman.《卡萨布兰卡》
- 7 *Big*: A fantasy comedy starring Tom Hanks and Elizabeth Perkins.《长大了的》,又名《大人》
- 8 *Jack Nicholson*: A highly successful, American method actor known for his often dark-themed portrayals of neurotic characters.
- 9 *The Two Jakes*: A crime movie starring David Keith and Frederic Forrest.《两个家伙》,又名《重返唐人街》
- 10 *Chinatown*: A crime movie starring Jack Nicholson and Faye Dunaway.《唐人街》

- 11 MPAA: Motion Picture Association of America 美国电影协会
- 12 Meg Ryan: American actress who specializes in romantic comedy.
- 13 Billy Crystal: American actor, writer, producer, comedian and film director.
- 14 *Forget Paris*: A romantic comedy starring Billy Crystal and Debra Winger.
《忘情夜巴黎》
- 15 *French Kiss*: A romantic comedy starring Meg Ryan and Kevin Kline.《法国又吻》,又名《情定巴黎》

Words and Phrases

theme	<i>n.</i>	the main subject of a talk, book, film, etc. 主题
arouse	<i>v.</i>	to cause someone to have a particular feeling 引起
original	<i>adj.</i>	existing or happening first, before other people or things 最初的,原本的
work out		to happen or develop in a particular way 制订出
prepositional	<i>adj.</i>	of or containing a preposition 介词的
phrase	<i>n.</i>	group of words without a verb, esp. one that forms part of a sentence 短语
gerund	<i>n.</i>	verbal noun 动名词
inseparable	<i>adj.</i>	that cannot be separated 不可分割的
adjective	<i>adj.</i>	word that indicates a quality of the person or thing referred to by a noun 形容词的
sequel	<i>n.</i>	a book, film or play which continues the story of a previous book etc. 续集
disloyalty	<i>n.</i>	unfaithfulness 不忠,背叛
comedy	<i>n.</i>	light or amusing play or film, usu. with a happy ending 喜剧
studio	<i>n.</i>	a building or place where films are made for the cinema, or a company which makes them 摄影棚,电影制片厂
register	<i>v.</i>	to put information, especially your name, into an official list or record 登记
argument	<i>n.</i>	a disagreement, or the process of disagreeing 争论
arise	<i>v.</i>	to happen 出现

similar	<i>adj.</i>	looking or being almost, but not exactly, the same 相似的
romantic	<i>adj.</i>	involving a love affair 浪漫的
release	<i>v.</i>	if a company releases a film or musical recording, it allows the film to be shown in cinemas, or makes the musical recording available for the public to buy 放映, 上映
genre	<i>n.</i>	a style, especially in the arts, that involves a particular set of characteristics 种类, 类型
side with		to support one person or group in an argument 支持

Reading Comprehension

1. Read the text and match the sentences in Box A and B accordingly.

A	B
<i>Paris Match</i> has to change the title	they would go to the MPAA for arbitration.
A good title can help you better understand a movie	while a bad title can hurt a movie.
When studios argue over a movie title	because it does not explain the theme of the movie clearly.
<i>The Two Jakes</i> is not a suitable title	because it has the same word with another movie.

Vocabulary

2. Find the word in each set that does not belong with the other three words and explain the reason.

1) <i>Paris Match</i>	MPAA	<i>Forget Paris</i>	<i>French Kiss</i>
2) Meg Ryan	producer	studio	editor
3) movie	romance	western	tragedy