

Lesson 3**Performing Arts**

All the words in this lesson may be associated with the performing arts.

- actress** N. a girl or woman who acts on television, in movies, or on the stage (A girl who is good at pretending to be someone else could make a very good *actress*.)
- amateur** N. of or by people doing something for pleasure and not for money (The singer was an *amateur* who loved to perform in her spare time.)
- audition** V. to perform as a test (Ballet dancers must *audition* for the director before they are chosen to dance.)
- auditorium** N. a large room with a stage and a place for an audience (In the packed *auditorium*, people waited eagerly for the play to begin.)
- character** N. person in a play, movie, or book (The main *character* in the movie finally escaped from the burning building.)
- climax** N. the most exciting part; the high point of the story (At the play's *climax*, the mad scientist destroyed his secret formula.)
- dramatist** N. a writer of plays (A *dramatist* usually enjoys seeing his or her own plays performed on stage.)
- hilarious** ADJ. very funny (The show was so *hilarious* that we laughed from start to finish.)
- illusion** N. a false notion (The magician created the *illusion* of a rabbit disappearing into a hat.)
- impromptu** ADJ. done without prior thought or preparation (Picking topics at random, the drama teacher asked students to stand up and give *impromptu* speeches.)
- improvise** V. to make up without preparation (Even when he didn't know a song, the jazz trumpeter could *improvise* as he played with the band.)
- mime** V. to act without words (Using only gestures, the clown could *mime* the part of an angry policeman or a happy hunter.)
- portray** V. to act the part in a movie or play (Sally was asked to *portray* a beautiful princess in the school play.)
- professional** ADJ. receiving payment for skill or performance in sports, arts, or business (We hired a *professional* band to play at the dance.)
- puppeteer** N. a person who performs with puppets (After many years of practice, the *puppeteer* learned to move her puppets with ease.)
- rehearse** V. to practice for a performance (The director asked us to *rehearse* our parts at home before we met on stage.)
- spectator** N. a person who watches (I would rather be a *spectator* in the audience than the concert performer.)
- sponsor** N. a person or group who supports (The dancers needed a *sponsor* to pay for their shoes and costumes.)
- villain** N. a wicked person (Laughing fiendishly, the *villain* tied the hero's girlfriend to the railroad tracks.)
- wings** N. space to the right or left of the stage (The actors exit offstage through the *wings* when the scene ends.)

Exercise 1

Write the letter of the word that best completes the sentence.

- The actor was only twenty-six, but he created the _____ that he was one hundred years old. _____
 A. climax B. illusion C. audition D. wings
- The _____ stood behind the curtain making puppets dance and sing. _____
 A. actress B. character C. puppeteer D. sponsor