

# 7 Opening night

## Glossary

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- 7.1 **opening night** (n) /'əʊpənɪŋ naɪt/  
first public performance • *The actors felt nervous on the opening night and hoped the play would be a success.* ❖ serata della prima  
📖 Syn: premiere
- 7.2 **box office** (n) /bɒks 'ɒfɪs/  
money from ticket sales for a show or film, etc. • *The film became an instant box office success.* ❖ botteghino
- 7.3 **genre** (n) /'ʒɛrə/  
a style of film, art, music, etc. which has particular characteristics • *Black comedy is a film genre which can address serious issues by using humour.* ❖ genere
- 7.4 **sci-fi** (n) /'saɪ faɪ/  
abbreviation of science fiction • *I enjoy watching sci-fi series about time travel, such as Doctor Who.* ❖ fantascienza

### Reading Pages 78–79

- 7.5 **scoundrel** (n) /'skaʊndrəl/  
a person who cheats, lies or treats others badly • *The insurance agent was simply a scoundrel who ran off with his customers' money.* ❖ furfante
- 7.6 **saint** (n) /seɪnt/  
a very good, kind person • *She's regarded as a saint for her volunteer work with the homeless.* > saintly (adj) ❖ santo
- 7.7 **lead actor** (n) /li:d 'æktə(r)/  
the actor who plays the main role • *Frances McDormand won an Oscar as the female lead actor in the film Nomadland.* ❖ protagonista
- 7.8 **release** (v) /rɪ'li:z/  
make available to buy, listen to, watch, etc. • *When will the band's new album be released?* > release (n) ❖ rilasciare
- 7.9 **fictional** (adj) /'fɪkʃənəl/  
imaginary and from a book or story • *My favourite fictional character is Arya from Game of Thrones.* > fiction (n) ❖ di immaginazione  
📖 Opp: factual
- 7.10 **effectiveness** (n) /ɪ'fektɪvənəs/  
the fact of achieving an aim • *They're experimenting to test the effectiveness of different stage lighting.* > effective (adj), effectively (adv) ❖ efficacia  
📖 Opp: ineffectiveness

- 7.11 **blind** (v) /blaɪnd/  
make sb confused or unable to notice sth  
• *The film's all-star cast blinded us to the weakness of the plot.* > blind (adj, adv), blindly (adv), blindness (n) ❖ accecare
- 7.12 **gloom** (n) /'glu:m/  
a background or situation that is dark, making it difficult to see clearly; darkness • *I looked out into the gloom, but I didn't see anyone on the dark street.* > gloomy (adj) ❖ oscurità
- 7.13 **swiftly** (adv) /'swɪftli/  
quickly • *The singer swiftly rose to fame after his first hit.* > swift (adj), swiftness (n)  
❖ rapidamente
- 7.14 **triumph** (n) /'traɪʌmf/  
a great achievement or success • *The fans gathered to celebrate their team's latest triumph.* > triumphant (adj), triumphantly (adv)  
❖ trionfo
- 7.15 **admirable** (adj) /'ædmərəbl/  
worth respect or approval • *Despite their admirable performances, neither of the lead actors won an award.* > admire (v), admiration (n), admirably (adv) ❖ ammirevole
- 7.16 **exaggeration** (n) /ɪg,zædʒə'reɪʃn/  
a statement that makes sth seem much better or worse, larger or smaller in importance than it is • *The film was so bad that it would be no exaggeration to call it an absolute flop.*  
> exaggerate (v) ❖ esagerazione
- 7.17 **masterpiece** (n) /'mɑ:stəpi:s/  
a work of art, literature or music that is particularly successful or representative of the artist's work • *Frida Kahlo's self-portrait is considered to be a masterpiece.*  
❖ capolavoro
- 7.18 **realism** (n) /'ri:əlɪzəm/  
being very like real life • *Fantasy is generally more entertaining than realism in children's books.* > realistic (adj), realist (n)  
❖ realismo
- 7.19 **cast** (n) /kɑ:st/  
all the people who act in a play or film  
• *The actor Joaquin Phoenix headed the cast of Joker.* > cast (v) ❖ cast
- 7.20 **found** (v) /faʊnd/  
begin an organisation, company, etc.  
• *He founded the newspaper in order to present unbiased reports of current affairs.*  
> founder, foundation (n) ❖ fondare

- 7.21 uncanny** (adj) /ʌn'kæni/  
strange or mysterious • *He has an almost uncanny ability to predict the weather correctly.*  
➤ uncannily (adv) ❖ inspiegabile
- 7.22 alert** (adj) /ə'lɜ:t/  
paying attention and thinking quickly • *When caring for a new-born baby, you have to stay alert at all times.* ➤ alert (v) ❖ all'erta
- 7.23 narrative** (n) /'nærətɪv/  
a story; a description of an event • *The book was such a thrilling narrative I didn't want to put it down till the end.* ➤ narrate (v), narrator (n) ❖ narrazione
- 7.24 motion picture** (n) /,məʊʃn 'pɪktʃə(r)/  
a film made for cinema • *The film industry has come a long way since the first motion pictures of the late 19th century.* ❖ pellicola cinematografica
- 7.25 cast** (v) /kɑ:st/  
choose an actor for a particular role in a play or film • *The director Todd Phillips cast Joaquin Phoenix as the Joker.* ➤ cast (v) ❖ scritturare
- 7.26 venture** (v) /'ventʃə(r)/  
dare to say or suggest • *He ventured the idea that the painting was a copy and not the original.* ➤ venture (n) ❖ osare
- 7.27 tricky** (adj) /'trɪksɪ/  
very complicated and confusing • *The special effects were a little too tricky for my liking. I prefer more realism.* ➤ trick (n, v) ❖ complicato
- 7.28 obscure** (adj) /əb'skjʊə(r)/  
unclear in meaning • *The plot was too obscure for most of the viewers to understand.* ➤ obscure (v), obscurity (n) ❖ oscuro
- 7.29 directness** (n) /də'rektnəs/  
the quality of speaking clearly in a simple understandable way • *Shakespeare's classic Romeo and Juliet has a directness that appeals to many people regardless of their educational background.* ➤ direct (adj), directly (adv) ❖ franchezza 📝 Opp: indirectness
- 7.30 blockbuster** (n) /'blɒkbɒstə(r)/  
a very popular and successful film or book • *The series Stranger Things was a blockbuster that made Milly Bobby Brown famous.* ❖ successo commerciale
- 7.31 soundtrack** (n) /'saʊndtræk/  
the music for a film • *She bought the CD of the soundtrack from the film Mamma Mia!* ❖ colonna sonora
- 7.32 spotlight** (n) /'spɒtlaɪt/  
a large, bright light that shines onto a stage • *With the spotlight shining on him, the singer couldn't see the audience.* ❖ riflettore
- 7.33 playwright** (n) /'pleɪraɪt/  
sb who writes theatrical plays • *J. M. Barrie was the Scottish author and playwright who wrote Peter Pan.* ❖ drammaturgo
- 7.34 screenplay** (n) /'skri:npleɪ/  
the script of a film, including the stage instructions for actors and film crew • *J.K. Rowling wrote Fantastic Beasts as a screenplay for a film.* ❖ sceneggiatura, copione
- 7.35 award-winning** (adj) /ə'wɔ:d wɪnɪŋ/  
that has won a prize for an achievement • *She has written several award-winning novels.* ➤ award (n, v) ❖ premiato
- 7.36 adaptation** (n) /ædæp'teɪʃn/  
a film or series based on a book or a play • *Have you seen the latest film adaptation of the book The Call of The Wild?* ➤ adapt (v) ❖ adattamento
- 7.37 back story** (n) /'bæk stɔ:ri/  
background events involving the characters of a story, film, etc. • *The book begins with a brief back story of the relationship between the main characters.* ❖ storia di fondo
- 7.38 graphic novel** (n) /,græfɪk 'nɒvl/  
a book with the story told in pictures, like a comic • *Although it was about a serious social issue, the graphic novel presented the facts in an eye-catching way.* ❖ graphic novel
- 7.39 dress rehearsal** (n) /dres rɪ'hɜ:sl/  
the final practice with actors wearing their costumes before the first performance • *The director made a few changes to our stage positions during the dress rehearsal.* ❖ prova costumi
- 7.40 sequel** (n) /'si:kwəl/  
a book or film which continues a story from an original one • *I was delighted to see that the Sherlock Holmes sequel was every bit as good as the original film.* ❖ continuazione
- 7.41 climax** (n) /'klaɪmæks/  
the most exciting or important point in a story • *The film reached a dramatic climax where the crime was solved a few minutes before the end.* ❖ apice
- 7.42 interval** (n) /'ɪntəvəl/  
a short break during a cinema or theatre performance • *We had a quick drink in the theatre foyer during the interval.* ❖ intervallo
- 7.43 backdrop** (n) /'bækdɒp/  
the circumstances in which a story or event is set, which generally affect the action • *The plot unfolded against the backdrop of the French Revolution.* ❖ sfondo

## Vocabulary Page 80

- 7.44 gripping** (adj) /'grɪpɪŋ/  
exciting and holding your interest • *It was a gripping story, full of action and emotion.*  
> grip (n, v) ❖ appassionante
- 7.45 autobiography** (n) /ˌɔːtəbaɪ'ɒgrəfi/  
a person's life story written by himself or herself • *After reading his autobiography, I appreciate the author's ability to laugh at himself and admit his failings.*  
> autobiographical (adj) ❖ autobiografia
- 7.46 drop-out** (n) /'drɒp.aʊt/  
a person who leaves a school or university without completing it • *During the first year of university, there are a high number of drop-outs as students realise the course is not for them.* > drop out (phr v) ❖ studente che abbandona gli studi
- 7.47 novelist** (n) /'nɒvəlɪst/  
an author who writes novels • *He rose to fame as a children's novelist and many of his books have been made into films.* > novel (n)  
❖ romanziera
- 7.48 folk tale** (n) /'fəʊk teɪl/  
a traditional old story that was passed down through generations in spoken form • *Folk tales can convey ethical messages from historical or fictional events.* ❖ racconto popolare
- 7.49 illustration** (n) /ɪlə'streɪʃn/  
a picture in a book • *My grandma's copy of Alice in Wonderland contains black and white illustrations of the characters.* > illustrate (v), illustrator (n) ❖ illustrazione
- 7.50 hilarious** (adj) /hɪ'leɪrɪəs/  
extremely funny • *We laughed at the hilarious scenes in the comedy.* ❖ esilarante

### People

cast	lead actor	saint
drop-out	novelist	scoundrel
extra	playwright	

## Grammar Page 81

- 7.51 halfway** (adv) /'ha:fweɪ/  
in the middle (between two points) • *They were only halfway home when the weather changed.* > halfway (adj)  
❖ a metà strada

## Listening Page 82

- 7.52 Don't make me laugh!** (expr) /dəʊnt meɪk miː lɑːf/  
used when you disagree about sth or think it is stupid • *'I'll never fall for his lies again.'* *'Don't make me laugh!'* ❖ non farmi ridere
- 7.53 You can say that again!** (expr) /juː kən seɪ ðæt ə'geɪn/  
used when you agree with sth that sb said • *'What a waste of time that film was!'* *'You can say that again!'* ❖ Puoi ben dirlo!
- 7.54 each to their own** (expr) /iːtʃ tu ðeɪr əʊn/  
everybody's taste is different • *I don't understand what you liked about the film, but each to their own.* ❖ i gusti sono gusti
- 7.55 Speak for yourself** (expr) /spiːk fə ʒɔː'self/  
used to say that what sb said is different from your experience or opinion • *The test was so difficult.* *'Speak for yourself. I found it really easy.'* ❖ parlare per sé
- 7.56 hit the nail on the head** (expr) /hɪt ðə neɪl ɒn ðə hed/  
express what is exactly right • *The film was awful and the reviewer's comments hit the nail on the head.* ❖ colpire nel segno
- 7.57 Tell me about it!** (expr) /tel miː ə'baʊt ɪt/  
used to express agreement when you have had the same experience • *'I'm fed up with seeing that ad.'* *'Tell me about it! They show it every half hour during my favourite series!'*  
❖ Non me ne parlare!
- 7.58 dedicated** (adj) /'dedɪkeɪtɪd/  
willing to give all your time and effort (to sth/sb) • *He is dedicated to his work and seldom takes a day off.* > dedicate (v), dedication (n)  
❖ dedicato 📖 Syn: committed, devoted
- 7.59 committed** (adj) /kə'mɪtɪd/  
willing to give all your time and effort (to sth/sb) • *They are committed party members who will support their leader at all costs.*  
> commit (v), commitment (n) ❖ impegnato 📖 Syn: dedicated, devoted
- 7.60 bizarre** (adj) /bɪ'zɑː/  
strange, weird • *She told us a bizarre story about having seen a UFO.* ❖ bizzarro
- 7.61 stunning** (adj) /'stʌnɪŋ/  
impressive, extremely beautiful • *The drone images of the island are absolutely stunning.*  
> stun (v) ❖ stupendo

# Speaking Page 83

- 7.62 theme park** (n) /θi:m pɑ:k/  
an amusement park based on a theme  
• *When they went to Paris, they spent a day at the Euro Disney theme park.* ❖ parco a tema
- 7.63 scenario** (n) /sə'nɑ:riəʊ/  
an outline description of a situation or plot  
• *After writing her book, she presented the scenario to her publisher.* ❖ canovaccio
- 7.64 venue** (n) /'venju:/  
the place where an event takes place  
• *The venue for the opening performance is the King's Theatre.* ❖ sede, locale

# Use your English Page 85

- 7.65 common knowledge** (exp) /'kɒmən 'nɒlɪdʒ/  
a fact that most people know • *It is common knowledge that the lead actor began his career as a stuntman.* ❖ cosa nota, dominio comune
- 7.66 feature film** (n) /'fi:tʃə fɪlm/  
a film with a complete story, not a documentary  
• *The book was adapted as a screenplay for a two-hour feature film.* ❖ film
- 7.67 convey** (v) /kən'veɪ/  
communicate feelings or information • *The film conveys an encouraging air of hope.*  
❖ esprimere
- 7.68 harsh** (adj) /hɑ:ʃ/  
cruel or unpleasant • *The film portrays the harsh realities of war.* > harshness (n)  
❖ duro
- 7.69 high expectations** (n pl) /haɪ 'ekspek'teɪʃnz/  
great ambitions • *She went to drama school with high expectations of becoming a star.*  
❖ aspettative elevate
- 7.70 leading** (adj) /'li:dɪŋ/  
first, important • *Who is to play the leading role in the next James Bond film?* > lead (v)  
❖ principale
- 7.71 capture the imagination** (expr) /'kæptʃə ðɪ ɪ,mædʒɪ'neɪʃn/  
attract and hold your interest and make you think • *The sci-fi series captured the imagination of viewers of all ages.*  
❖ catturare l'immaginazione
- 7.72 rave review** (n) /,reɪv rɪ'vju:/  
a very favourable review • *Despite some doubts before the sequel's release, it received rave reviews and became a huge success.*  
❖ critica entusiastica

- 7.73 animated** (adj) /'ænɪmeɪtɪd/  
with images made to look as if they are moving; made in cartoon form • *The film included real actors with animated characters as the aliens.* > animation (n), animate (v)  
❖ animato
- 7.74 critical** (adj) /'krɪtɪkl/  
analytical, giving opinions on the good or bad qualities of sth • *She wrote a critical report of the play after the opening night.* > critic (n), criticise (v) ❖ critico
- 7.75 sensational** (adj) /sen'seɪʃənl/  
intended to excite or shock people  
• *The sensational news of their divorce quickly spread throughout the media.* > sensation (n)  
❖ sensazionale
- 7.76 supporting** (adj) /sə'pɔ:tɪŋ/  
playing an important role in a film, but not the main one • *He won an Oscar as the best supporting actor of the year.* > support (n, v)  
❖ fare da spalla
- 7.77 noticeable** (adj) /'nəʊtɪsəbl/  
easy to notice • *There was a noticeable improvement in the team's performance in the second half of the match.* > notice (v), noticeably (adv) ❖ visibile, evidente
- 7.78 minimal** (adj) /'mɪnɪml/  
very little; the smallest possible • *The film was produced at a minimal cost, which is evident in some of the low-quality musical scenes.*  
> minimum (n, adj) ❖ minimo
- 7.79 on the plus side** (expr) /ɒn ðə 'plʌs saɪd/  
the advantage is • *On the plus side, the lead actor Gary Oldman's performance as Winston Churchill was stunning.* ❖ il lato positivo è che...
- 7.80 extra** (n) /'ekstrə/  
an actor with a small role in a film • *His first role was as an extra when he played a Roman soldier in a battle scene.* ❖ comparsa

## Expressions

capture the imagination	Speak for yourself.
Don't make me laugh!	Tell me about it!
each to their own	think outside the box
hit the nail on the head	You can say that again!
on the plus side	

# Writing Pages 86–87

- 7.81 tension** (n) /'tenʃn/  
a feeling of excitement and suspense  
• *The dramatic background music helped create an atmosphere of tension as the predator approached.* > tense (adj)  
❖ *tensione*
- 7.82 biopic** (n) /'baɪəʊpɪk/  
a biographical film • *It was a romantic biopic based on the life of Queen Elizabeth I.*  
❖ *biopic*
- 7.83 debatable** (adj) /dɪ'beɪtəbl/  
uncertain, questionable • *It's debatable whether there'll be a sequel as the film received such bad reviews.* > debate (n, v)  
❖ *opinabile*
- 7.84 dreadful** (adj) /'dredfəl/  
awful, unpleasant • *It was such a disappointment because the acting was dreadful.* ❖ *terribile*
- 7.85 encounter** (n) /ɪn'kaʊntə(r)/  
a meeting which may be unexpected • *I was still quite shaken an hour after my sudden encounter with the large snake.*  
> encounter (v) ❖ *incontro*
- 7.86 stubbornly** (adv) /'stʌbənlɪ/  
in a determined way • *She stubbornly refused to listen to her parents' advice.* > stubborn (adj) ❖ *ostinatamente*
- 7.87 knowledgable** (adj) /'nɒlɪdʒəbl/  
who knows many things • *Orson Welles was very knowledgable about filming techniques.*  
> knowledge (n) ❖ *esperto* 📖 Also: *knowledgeable*
- 7.88 devoted** (adj) /dɪ'vəʊtɪd/  
very loving or caring about sb/sth • *The writer was a devoted animal lover, who highlighted the close bonds between the main character and his horse.* > devote (v), devotion (n)  
❖ *devoto* 📖 Syn: committed, dedicated
- 7.91 open-minded** (adj) /,əʊpən 'maɪndɪd/  
willing to consider or accept new ideas  
• *Until the nineteenth century, society in general was not open-minded enough to accept female writers.* > open-mindedness (n)  
❖ *di mente aperta*
- 7.92 imaginative** (adj) /ɪ'mædʒɪnətɪv/  
creative and using imagination • *Despite the film's low budget, the producer's imaginative use of lighting and sound made it a success.*  
> imagination (n), imaginatively (adv)  
❖ *fantasioso* 📖 Opp: unimaginative
- 7.93 obstacle** (n) /'ɒbstəkl/  
sth that blocks your progress • *Her main obstacle was finding a publisher to accept her first book.* ❖ *ostacolo*
- 7.94 engaging** (adj) /ɪn'geɪdʒɪŋ/  
interesting; holding people's attention  
• *It was an engaging tale of rags to riches with an unexpected ending.* > engage (v), engagement (n) ❖ *coinvolgente*
- 7.95 inclusive** (adj) /ɪn'klʊːsɪv/  
including people of all types and backgrounds  
• *The sports centre has adapted its facilities to be more inclusive for people of all levels of physical ability.* > inclusion (n), inclusively (adv) ❖ *inclusivo* 📖 Opp: exclusive
- 7.96 doodle** (n) /'duːdl/  
a drawing you make when you are thinking about sth else • *He drew doodles of random designs on his notebook during the seminar.*  
> doodle (v) ❖ *scarabocchio*
- 7.97 abstract** (adj) /'æbstrækt/  
unclear or not practical • *The image represented the abstract concepts of freedom and hope.* > abstract (n) ❖ *astratto*
- 7.98 visualise** (v) /'vɪʒʊəlaɪz/  
imagine how sb/sth looks • *I could visualise how the cast would look wearing their costumes on stage.* > visualisation (n)  
❖ *visualizzare*

## The arts: compound nouns

backdrop	motion picture
backstory	opening night
blockbuster	rave review
box office	screenplay
dress rehearsal	soundtrack
feature film	spotlight
folk tale	theme park
graphic novel	
leading role	
masterpiece	

# Live well, study well

## Page 88

- 7.89 think outside the box** (expr)  
/θɪŋk aʊt'saɪd ðə bɒks/  
think differently from the most common way  
• *Thinking outside the box, they decided to move out of the city and start their own farm.*  
❖ *pensare fuori dagli schemi*
- 7.90 chore** (n) /tʃɔː(r)/  
a necessary routine job which may be boring or unpleasant • *Adapting the novel as a screenplay was a difficult chore.*  
❖ *compito, incombenza*

### **The arts: other nouns**

adaptation	genre	scenario
autobiography	illustration	sci-fi
biopic	interval	sequel
climax	narrative	venue
doodle	realism	

### **The arts: adjectives**

abstract	dreadful	minimal
animated	engaging	noticeable
award-winning	gripping	open-minded
bizarre	harsh	sensational
committed	hilarious	stunning
critical	imaginative	supporting
debatable	inclusive	
dedicated	knowledgable	