

EPISODE 63

LEVEL B2

READING COMPREHENSION



BEFORE THE CONCERT

"You do realize that people nowadays **attend** (= go to) concerts dressed quite casually, right?" Timothy, sporting a pair of jeans and a brown jacket, asks Julia, who is wearing a beautiful evening **gown** (= a dress, especially a long one worn on formal occasions).

"I sure do", smiles Julia, "but it is fun to look so smart. The elderly ladies in the concert hall will be deeply impressed by me, while being full of **contempt** for you (= dislike and lack of respect)!"

"You know I respect the elderly", says Timothy, "but not to the point of dressing as if I were old myself - or, at least, older than I am. My elder brother, on the other hand, does an admirable job of that. You'll think he is 50 when you see him!"

"I'm very glad I will finally get to meet him. In the **foyer**, you said (= the large open area just inside the entrance of a public building where people can wait and meet each other)?"

"Right. I am sure he will come equipped with a pair of **opera glasses** - a **lorgnette**, as he calls it."

"These cute little binoculars, you mean?"

"The last pair he owned came with an infrared light, so he could see the **stage** (= the area where the performers are) and light his **program** to read from it. Makes me laugh just to think of it."

"Which **seats** do we have tonight?"

"**Row 15** (= the 15th line of seats), sort of opposite the **strings**, so you'll be able to watch the **violins** and **violas**."

"Violins are beautiful, and how the musicians move the **bows** across the **strings** has something magical to it. But for the sheer pleasure of watching, I always prefer the **woodwinds**: the **flute**, the **oboe**, the **clarinet**... I might actually borrow your brother's lorgnette to stare at them a bit!"



More contexts for the new words:


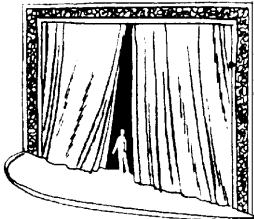




- The **strings** is the group of instruments which have **strings** (= thin wires stretched across the instrument) which you pull or hit with your fingers or rub with a **bow** (= a long thin piece of wood with hair from the tail of a horse stretched along) it to produce sound.

- The **woodwinds** are the musical instruments which are played by blowing through a thin flattened tube at one end or across a hole near one end; examples include the **clarinet**, **flute**, **saxophone** and **bassoon**.
- The **brass** is the third large group of instruments; it consists of instruments made of metal and played by blowing, such as the **trumpet**.



EXERCISE 1

Label the pictures.

| | |
|---|----------------|
|  | <p>1.</p> |
|  | <p>2.</p> |
|  | <p>3.</p> |
|  | <p>4.</p> |
|  | <p>5.</p> |
|  | <p>6.</p> |



EXERCISE 2

Put the phrases in the right order, then answer the questions. Explain your opinions.

1. is your favourite? / of instruments / Which group
2. do you like / Which seats / in the theatre / to have / or at the cinema?
3. often / attend concerts? / Do Poles

ENGLISH IN USE



Look at these sentences from the text:

*The **elderly** ladies in the concert hall will be deeply impressed by me.*

*You know I respect **the elderly**.*

*My **elder** brother does an admirable job of that.*

The adjective OLD can be graded regularly, i.e. OLD - OLDER - THE OLDEST. However, the forms ELDER and THE ELDEST are used when talking about family relationships. ELDERLY is an adjective which means the same as OLD, but sounds much more polite. THE ELDERLY is a polite way of referring to the elderly people as a group.

IDIOM CLOSE-UP



A/ How did he get so much support in the elections?

*B/ He is **IN TUNE WITH** the current political issues.*

When you are **in tune with** feelings, opinions, or needs of a group of people, you understand them. The opposite is to be **out of tune**.

PHRASAL VERBS CLOSE-UP



1. When you **TUNE IN**, you listen to or watch a particular programme on the radio or television.

*Millions of people **tuned in** to watch the election results.*

*Be sure to **tune in** to tomorrow's show.*

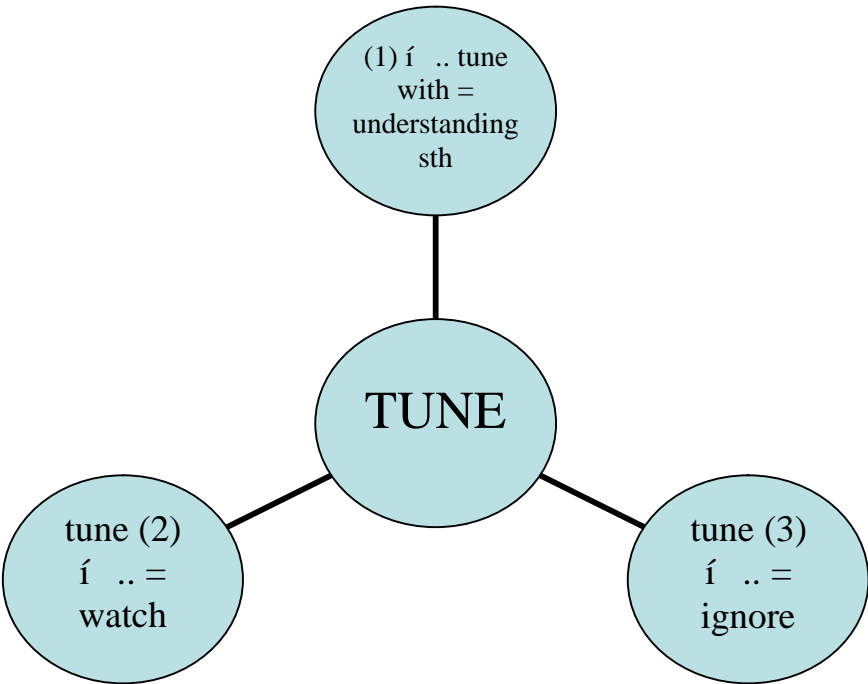
2. When you TUNE (someone/ something) OUT, you ignore a person or not give your attention to what is happening around you

*He talks such nonsense that I just **tune** him **out**.
I just **tuned out** and let John take over.*



EXERCISE 3

Complete the diagram with the missing prepositions.



NEWS



OPERA EVACUATED

The National Opera was evacuated yesterday, as a result of a **hoax** bomb alert. Everyone was made to leave the building instantly, without the opportunity to visit the **cloakroom** and put on their coats. This was especially painful for the ladies, who were wearing only **lacy** gowns and fancy hats. Although the accompanying men behaved in a gentlemanly fashion and lent the women their **tuxedos**, this did not help much, and most of the audience caught colds in the freezing weather.

Unfortunately, the opera is not going to **reimburse** the viewers for the show. The spokesperson has explained that - in case of such emergencies – refunds are not available.

GLOSSARY

- **hoax** – false
- **cloakroom** – a room in a theatre, restaurant etc where you can leave your coat
- **lacy** – made of light delicate cloth with patterns of little holes in it
- **tuxedos** – very formal jackets
- **reimburse** – give back the money

KEY TO EXERCISES

Ex.1

1. a gown
2. a stage
3. opera glasses
4. a bow
5. a clarinet
6. a violin

Ex.2

1. Which group of instruments is your favourite?
2. Which seats do you like to have in the theatre or at the cinema?
3. Do Poles often attend concerts?

Ex.3

1. in
2. in
3. out