

Theater - Introductory

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Here's your cue: Put this list in the spotlight and learn all about theater. Review genres of drama, parts of a play, stage directions, and more. Set the stage for vocabulary and you're sure

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action

the series of events that form a plot

adaptation

✓ a written work that has been recast in a new form

ad-lib

perform without preparation

aside

✓ a line spoken by an actor not intended for others on stage

audition

✓ a test of the suitability of a performer

backdrop

✓ scenery hung at the rear of a stage

backlighting

lighting from behind

backstage

a stage area out of sight of the audience

balcony

✓ an upper floor projecting over an auditorium's main floor

book

a written version of a play or other dramatic composition

box office

the office where tickets of admission are sold

cast

the actors in a play

casting

the choice of actors to play particular roles in a play or movie

center stage

the central area on a theater stage

character

✓ an actor's portrayal of someone

comedy

✓ light and humorous drama with a happy ending

company

organization of performers and associated personnel

conflict

✓ opposition in a work of fiction between characters or forces

costume

✓ the attire worn in a play or at a fancy dress ball

costume designer

someone who designs or supplies costumes

cue

✓ a reminder for some action or speech

curtain call

an appearance by actors or performers at the end of the concert or play in order to acknowledge the applause of the audience

debut

✓ appear for the first time in public

delivery

✓ characteristic style or manner of expressing oneself orally

dialogue

✓ the lines spoken by characters in drama or fiction

director

someone who supervises the actors and directs the action in the production of a show

downstage

the front half of the stage (as seen from the audience)

drama

✓ the literary genre of works intended for the theater

dramatization

✓ a representation intended for performance

dressing room

a room in which you can change clothes

dress rehearsal

a full uninterrupted rehearsal in costumes shortly before the first performance

encore

✓ an extra performance in response to audience demand

ensemble

✓ a cast other than the principals

epilogue

✓ a short speech by an actor at the end of a play

extra

a minor actor in crowd scenes

finale

✓ the concluding part of any performance

flashback

✓ a transition in a story to an earlier event or scene

footlights

theater light at the front of a stage that illuminate the set and actors

genre

✓ a class of art having a characteristic form or technique

gesture

✓ the use of movements to communicate familiar signals

greasepaint

a greasy substance used as makeup by actors

greenroom

a backstage room in a theater where performers rest or have visitors

houselights

lights that illuminate the audience's part of a theater or other auditorium

improvisation

✓ a performance given without planning or preparation

lead

an actor who plays a principal role

lighting

the craft of providing artificial light

line

a row of text written across a page or computer screen

mask

a covering to disguise or conceal the face

matinee

✓ a theatrical performance held during the daytime

mime

✓ an actor who communicates entirely by gesture

miscast

cast an actor, singer, or dancer in an unsuitable role

monologue

✓ a dramatic speech by a single actor

musical theater

a play or film whose action and dialogue is interspersed with singing and dancing

offstage

situated or taking place in the area of a stage not visible to the audience

opera

✓ a drama set to music

orchestra

✓ seating on the main floor in a theater

orchestra pit

lowered area in front of a stage where an orchestra accompanies the performers

overture

✓ orchestral music at the beginning of an opera or musical

pantomime

✓ a performance using gestures and movements without words

pitch

✓ the high or low quality of a sound

playbill

✓ a printed program for a theatrical performance

playwright

✓ someone who writes plays

plot

✓ the story that is told, as in a novel, play, movie, etc.

premiere

✓ the first public performance of a play or movie

producer

✓ someone who finances and supervises the making of a show

production

✓ presentation for the stage or screen or radio or television

project

✓ cause to be heard

prologue

✓ an introduction to a play

prop

any movable articles or objects used on the set of a play or movie

rehearsal

✓ a practice session in preparation for a public performance

role

✓ an actor's portrayal of someone in a play

run-through

an uninterrupted rehearsal

script

✓ a written version of a play or other dramatic composition

set

scenery used to identify a location of a dramatic production

setting

✓ arrangement of scenery and properties to represent a place

special effect

an effect used to produce scenes that cannot be achieved by normal techniques (especially on film)

spotlight

a lamp that produces a strong beam of light to illuminate a restricted area; used to focus attention of a stage performer

stage crew

crew of workers who move scenery or handle properties in a theatrical production

stage direction

an instruction written as part of the script of a play

stage fright

fear that affects a person about to face an audience

stage left

the part of the stage on the actor's left as the actor faces the audience

stage manager

someone who supervises the physical aspects in the production of a show and who is in charge of the stage when the show is being performed

stage right

the part of the stage on the actor's right as the actor faces the audience

staging

the production of a drama on the stage

suspense

✓ excited anticipation of an approaching climax

tragedy

✓ drama exciting terror or pity

troupe

✓ an organization of performers and associated personnel

understudy

✓ an actor able to replace a regular performer when required

upstage

✓ at or toward the rear of a platform for performers

villain

✓ the principal bad character in a film or work of fiction

wing

a stage area out of sight of the audience

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