

WICKED
ACTIVE LEARNING



Intermediate ESOL/EFL English

Task 1: Places in a theatre

Look at the names for the areas of the theatre:

the aisle
the dress circle

the stalls
the stage

Write the words in the boxes to label the pictures:



b.



a.



c.

d.

Task 2: Places and people

A:

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| 1. the auditorium | a. a performance, especially in a theatre |
| 2. the Box Office | b. a show where most of the story is told through song and dance |
| 3. the interval | c. the place in a theatre where you buy tickets |
| 4. a show | d. the part of a theatre or cinema where the audience sits |
| 5. the cast | e. a short break in the middle of a play or show |
| 6. a musical | f. all the actors in a film, play or show |

B:

Now use some of the words from **Task 2A** to complete the sentences below.

Make sure you use the correct form of the noun (singular or plural)!

1. The _____ all gave excellent performances!
2. There is usually an _____ halfway through the show when you can buy refreshments.
3. Don't forget we have to collect our tickets from the _____ before the show.
4. I absolutely love _____! The singing and dancing bring the story to life.
5. The decoration in the _____ at the Apollo Victoria Theatre is beautiful.
6. **Wicked** is my favourite _____. It's the best musical I've ever seen!

The story of Wicked

Task 3: Prediction

Look at the pictures. Talk to a partner. What do you think the story of **Wicked** is about?



Task 4: Finding information in a text

Look at the text about the musical **Wicked**. Answer the questions:

1. When was the first performance of **Wicked**?
2. What colour is Elphaba's skin?
3. Who is Fiyero?
4. Who is Doctor Dillamond?
5. Match the characters to their pictures in **Task 3**.

Wicked is an **award-winning** musical **based on** the novel by Gregory Maguire (called *Wicked: The Life and Times of the Wicked Witch of the West*). This novel is inspired by L. Frank Baum's famous story of *The Wizard of Oz*, first published in 1900.

Wicked is set a few years before a tornado brings Dorothy from Kansas to the Land of Oz, where she accidentally kills the *Wicked Witch of the East*. The original production of **Wicked** premiered on Broadway in New York in October 2003.

The story of **Wicked** centres around two young women, *Elphaba* and *Glinda*, who first meet at Shiz University in the Land of Oz. *Elphaba* is a shy but clever girl with green skin and magical powers. *Glinda* is beautiful, privileged and very popular. Because of the colour of her skin, *Elphaba* doesn't make friends, but when she has to share a room with *Glinda*, they surprisingly become good friends. At Shiz University, they also meet *Fiyero*, a handsome prince, and *Doctor Dillamond*, an animal professor.

Doctor Dillamond suffers **abuse** for being an animal who can speak. He tells *Elphaba* that he is worried that something is causing the animals in the Land of Oz to lose their powers of speech. *Elphaba* and *Glinda* ask *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* to help them fight the **intolerance** and **discrimination** against animals in Oz, but when *Elphaba* uncovers dark secrets about him, he publicly blames her for the bad things that are happening and says she is '**wicked**'.

The story is about friendship, **standing up for** your beliefs and challenging intolerance and discrimination.

Task 5: Finding words in a text

Read the definitions below and match them with the words in bold in the text:

1. Used to describe the particular place or time when a book, play or film happens:
_____ (passive verb)
2. Defending something or someone who is being criticized or attacked: _____
3. An organisation, product or person that has won one or more prizes: _____
(adjective)
4. When something is used as a model or idea for a book, film or play: _____
(passive verb)
5. Cruel, violent or unfair treatment, especially of someone who does not have the power to stop it:
_____ (noun)
6. When someone refuses to accept behaviour, beliefs or opinions that are different from their own:
_____ (noun)
7. Unfair treatment of someone because of their religion, race or other personal features:
_____ (noun)
8. Morally wrong and deliberately intending to hurt people: _____ (adjective)

Task 6: Understanding a text

Read the text again and answer the questions.

1. When is the story of **Wicked** set?
2. Why doesn't Elphaba have many friends?
3. How is Glinda different from Elphaba?
4. What happens to Doctor Dillamond?
5. Why does the Wonderful Wizard of Oz say that Elphaba is wicked?

Task 7: Discussion

Work with a partner or small group. Discuss the following questions:

1. Have you ever seen a musical before?
Which one(s)?
Did you enjoy it/them? Why/why not?
2. Have you ever experienced intolerance or discrimination?
How did you deal with it?



Extension task to complete after the students have seen **Wicked**

Writing an informal email

You have just been to see the musical **Wicked**. Write an email to a friend.

In your email:

- Say when you saw **Wicked**
- Describe the theatre and where you sat in the theatre
- Tell your friend how you felt when you were watching **Wicked**
- Tell your friend about your favourite part of **Wicked**