



APEX ENGLISH

Your voice. Global.

B2 · GENERAL ENGLISH

UNIT 7 · 7B

The show must go on

Theme · On Stage



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Theme: On Stage



Learning objectives

- Use VERBS OF THE SENSES (look, sound, feel, taste, smell) + adjective / + like + noun / + as if + clause.
- Distinguish 'see' vs 'look at' vs 'watch' and 'hear' vs 'listen to' in natural speech.
- Describe body language and movement precisely: nod, shrug, wave, kneel, tremble, whisper, sigh, stare, grin, mumble, wander.
- Pronounce common SILENT CONSONANTS correctly (kn-, wr-, -mb, -sten/-stle, -gn/-gh).
- Describe a scene, a photo, a performance or a body reaction with B2 vocabulary.
- Write a short backstage report using the target grammar and lexis.

Ask the teacher — notes to bring to class



Class Book

Warm-up · trust your senses

Pick ONE prompt. Answer for your partner in full sentences — 30 seconds each.

The last live performance I saw was...

A place that always smells like childhood is...

Something that sounds better than it looks is...

A song or piece of music that makes me want to move is...

A live show I'd pay any money to see is...

followUp: Listen for any 'looks / sounds / feels / tastes / smells' + adjective — those are today's grammar.

Lead-in: read the room

Match each situation to the most natural sensory reaction. Notice how the verb works with the adjective, the noun, or the clause.

1. Your friend has just come off stage after a two-hour show, cheeks red and shirt soaked.
 2. The theatre café has just opened for the interval, and something is baking.
 3. Backstage, the dancer picks up an unlabelled bottle of water and takes a sip.
 4. You hear the orchestra warming up behind the curtain — random notes, no rhythm.
 5. The lead actor walks into the dressing room and drops onto the sofa without a word.
 6. The stage manager brushes past you carrying a large piece of scenery.
- a) 'It smells like fresh bread in here.'
 - b) 'This tastes weird — is this water or vodka?'
 - c) 'You look absolutely exhausted.'
 - d) 'It sounds like a rehearsal, not a symphony.'
 - e) 'He looks as if he's about to fall asleep.'
 - f) 'That set piece feels heavier than it looks.'

1 → c · look + adjective (exhausted)

2 → a · smell + like + noun (fresh bread)

3 → b · taste + adjective (weird)

4 → d · sound + like + noun (a rehearsal)

5 → e · look + as if + clause

6 → f · feel + comparative (heavier than...)

followUp: Rule of thumb: SENSE + adjective ('looks tired'), SENSE + like + noun ('smells like coffee'), SENSE + as if / as though + clause ('sounds as if he's crying').

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Reading: what the audience never sees

The moment the curtain rises, an audience sees magic. What it does not see is the machinery — literal and human — that produces that magic. Every performance in a major theatre is, in fact, the tip of a very large iceberg. For every actor on stage, there are eight or nine people working out of sight: dressers, sound engineers, stage managers, technicians, dancers waiting in the wings, an assistant director whispering last-minute notes into a headset.

Backstage feels nothing like the stage. It is cramped, hot, dimly lit, and it smells of dust, sweat, and — if you're lucky — coffee. Voices are kept to a murmur. People move like cats, weaving through cables and set pieces without ever making a sound. If you watched the wings during a scene change, you would see fifteen or twenty people moving in perfect silence, each one focused on their own square metre of the operation.

What surprises most first-time visitors is the language of the body. Backstage, everybody speaks in gestures. A stage manager holds up three fingers and every dancer knows they have three minutes. A wave of the hand from the wings means 'go now'. A grimace across the stage means 'my microphone is dead'. A quick nod between two actors, in the middle of a scene, means 'I'm here, I've got your line if you drop it'. None of this is written down; all of it is learned in rehearsal and passed down between generations of performers.

The great theatre director Peter Brook once said that theatre is 'the art of the almost-mistake'. Anyone who has spent time backstage will tell you he was being polite. Real theatre is the art of the actual mistake — a missed cue, a broken prop, a piece of scenery that refuses to move — and of the human choreography that hides it. The audience sees the show; the crew sees the recovery. And if the show must go on, it is because, one gesture at a time, the invisible people behind the curtain make absolutely sure that it does.

1. According to the text, roughly how many people work backstage for every performer on stage?
 - (A) One or two
 - (B) Three or four
 - (C) Eight or nine
2. How is the backstage atmosphere described in paragraph 2?
 - (A) Bright, cool and spacious
 - (B) Cramped, hot, dimly lit and silent
 - (C) Loud, chaotic and stressful
3. What does a stage manager holding up three fingers mean?
 - (A) Three actors are missing
 - (B) You have three minutes
 - (C) Take the third exit

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4. What does the writer say a quick nod between two actors mid-scene often means?
- (A) 'Look at the audience'
 - (B) 'I'm here — I've got your line if you drop it'
 - (C) 'Speak more slowly'
5. What is the writer's main point in the final paragraph?
- (A) Theatre is more dangerous than most jobs
 - (B) The show goes on because invisible people hide every mistake
 - (C) Peter Brook was too polite about the reality of theatre

Sensory & backstage vocabulary in context

Match each expression to its closest meaning.

the wings — the sides of a stage, hidden from the audience

a set piece — a large piece of scenery that stands on stage

a cue — a signal for an actor to speak or move

a prop — a small object an actor uses (a cup, a letter, a phone)

a scene change — the moment when scenery is moved during a show

move like cats — move silently and precisely, without being seen

Vocabulary: the body & movement

intro: At B2, replace vague verbs like 'move' or 'go' with the specific body verbs native speakers use. Small movements carry big meaning — that's why actors, dancers and writers care about them.

1. **label:** Head & face

2. **label:** Hands & arms

3. **label:** Whole body & movement

4. **label:** Voice & breath

practice

Complete each sentence with the correct verb from the box (correct form).

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1. He didn't say a word — he just ____ his shoulders and walked away.

2. The child ____ into the audience and waved at her father.

3. She ____ down beside the injured dancer and asked if he was okay.

4. He ____ his throat and stepped up to the microphone.

5. Please ____ — the actors are about to come on.

6. The audience ____ when the acrobat missed the bar.

7. She kept ____ at me across the room, and I had no idea why.

8. He was so cold backstage that he ____ all through the interval.

Practice 2 — collocations & rewrite

Rewrite each sentence replacing the underlined phrase with ONE word from this lesson's vocabulary. Keep the meaning identical.

1. He <u>lifted his shoulders briefly</u> to show he didn't know the answer.

2. She was <u>shaking slightly from the cold</u> as she waited in the wings.

3. We <u>walked slowly, with no fixed direction</u>, through the old town after the show.

4. He <u>curled a finger to invite</u> the stage manager over.

5. The audience <u>inhaled sharply in shock</u> when the acrobat slipped.

Practice 3 — discursive writing

prompt: Reflect on a moment when body language — yours or someone else's — communicated more than words could.

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Use at least FOUR of the target words from this unit.

Vary sentence length and use one relative clause.

Aim for a reflective, cohesive C1 register.

sample: Before my first public presentation, I remember standing backstage, trembling slightly, while a colleague who noticed simply beckoned me over and said nothing at all. When I finally walked on and someone in the front row gasped, quietly, at the opening image on the screen, I felt a strange calm settle over me. Halfway through, I lost my place for a second; I shrugged, almost involuntarily, and the audience laughed with me rather than at me. Afterwards, instead of rushing off, I ambled through the corridor outside, replaying the whole thing. What struck me later was how little of that experience had depended on the words I'd rehearsed for weeks, and how much of it had been carried by gestures nobody had planned.

Grammar: verbs of the senses

1. SENSE + adjective (a direct impression) — Use look / sound / feel / taste / smell + ADJECTIVE for a direct impression. • 'You look tired.' • 'This soup tastes salty.' • 'The material feels soft.' • 'The trumpet sounds sharp tonight.' • 'The dressing room smells stuffy.' ✗ 'You look tiredly.' (adverb) → ✓ 'You look tired.'

2. SENSE + LIKE + noun (a comparison to a thing) — Use SENSE + LIKE + NOUN when you compare the impression to a THING or a PERSON. • 'She looks like her mother.' • 'This tastes like coffee.' • 'That music sounds like the eighties.' • 'The wig feels like real hair.'

3. SENSE + AS IF / AS THOUGH + clause (a full comparison) — Use SENSE + AS IF / AS THOUGH + CLAUSE (with a verb) for a fuller comparison. • 'He looks as if he's about to cry.' • 'It sounds as though the microphone is broken.' • 'I feel as if I've been hit by a train.' In informal English, LIKE is often used instead of AS IF / AS THOUGH: • 'You look like you've seen a ghost.'

4. Active vs passive perception verbs — SEE / HEAR / SMELL / FEEL / TASTE are PASSIVE — the sensation just happens. • 'I can see the wings from here.' • 'I heard a bang backstage.' LOOK AT / LISTEN TO / TOUCH / SMELL (deliberately) / TASTE (deliberately) are ACTIVE — you choose to use the sense. • 'She looked at the script.' • 'Listen to that applause!' WATCH = look at something over a period of time (a show, a match, a person moving). ✗ 'I saw the show three times.' — usually ✓ 'I watched it three times.'

5. Common mistakes — ✗ 'You look happily.' → ✓ 'You look happy.' (adjective, not adverb) ✗ 'It sounds a good idea.' → ✓ 'It sounds like a good idea.' (LIKE before a noun) ✗ 'It looks he is angry.' → ✓ 'It looks as if / like he is angry.' ✗ 'I was seeing the match on TV.' → ✓ 'I was watching the match on TV.' ✗ 'Listen this song!' → ✓ 'Listen TO this song!'

Exercise A — SENSE + adjective / like / as if

Complete each sentence with the correct form. Add LIKE or AS IF only if needed.

1. You look ____ (tired). Long day?

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2. This coffee tastes ____ (petrol) — did the machine break?

3. The lead actor sounds ____ (he / have) a cold.

4. The dressing-room sofa feels ____ (comfortable) than mine at home.

5. That perfume smells ____ (roses) after rain.

6. The stage looks ____ (a small planet) when the spotlights hit it.

7. He looks ____ (he / be) about to cry.

8. The costume feels ____ (heavy). I can barely move in it.

Exercise B — see / look at / watch and hear / listen to

Choose the most natural verb.

1. 'Look! Can you ____ that plane in the sky?'

- (A) watch
- (B) see
- (C) look at

2. '____ this new song — I love it!'

- (A) Hear
- (B) Listen
- (C) Listen to

3. 'Every Friday, we ____ the football together.'

- (A) watch
- (B) see
- (C) look at

4. 'I ____ a noise coming from backstage. Did you?'

- (A) listened to
- (B) heard
- (C) was hearing

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5. 'Please ____ the script one more time before we start.'

- (A) see
- (B) watch
- (C) look at

6. 'I ____ that new documentary last night — brilliant.'

- (A) saw
- (B) looked at
- (C) watched

Exercise C — SENSE + adjective vs SENSE + like + noun

Choose the more natural completion.

1. It sounds ____ your microphone is broken.

- (A) as
- (B) like
- (C) for

2. You look ____ your father when you're angry.

- (A) like
- (B) as
- (C) such as

3. This bread tastes ____ my grandmother's recipe.

- (A) as
- (B) like
- (C) how

4. The dressing room smells ____ vanilla — is someone burning a candle?

- (A) as
- (B) like
- (C) of

5. This costume feels ____ silk, but it's actually polyester.

- (A) as if
- (B) like
- (C) so

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6. The rehearsal sounded ____ good today — the best all week.

(A) really

(B) as

(C) like

Exercise D — a review from the wings

Complete the text using ONE form from the box (each used once).

Word bank: looks · sounds like · feels as if · smells of · tastes · look as if · sounds · watch · listen to · hear

You should have been in the wings tonight. The set (1) ____ different when you see it from the side — bigger, greyer, more real. From here, the audience (2) ____ a distant sea, a low murmur that only breaks into waves when someone laughs. The actors (3) ____ they are moving through water, deliberate and slow, but on stage they will (4) ____ perfectly natural.

The dressing rooms downstairs (5) ____ old wood and hairspray. The tea from the machine (6) ____ terrible, but everyone drinks it anyway. Somewhere down the corridor, the pianist is warming up. It (7) ____ someone is teaching themselves to play — random notes, no melody — but he's actually running scales at half speed.

In a moment, the stage manager will (8) ____ their headset and count us down. If you close your eyes, you can (9) ____ the audience shift in their seats, one long collective breath before the curtain. The magic is about to start. From here, you get to (10) ____ the whole beautiful machine at work.

looks

sounds like

look as if

sounds

smells of

tastes

feels as if

listen to

hear

watch

Listening: backstage after the show

Two friends meet backstage after a performance. Notice how many verbs of the senses and body-language words they use.

Before you listen

Predict: something went visibly wrong on stage. What could it have been?

How is the audience likely to have reacted?

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**First listen — gist**

1. What is the overall situation?

2. How did Speaker A know something was wrong with Speaker B?

3. What is the audience's version of the same night?

Second listen — detail

1. In which act did Speaker B nearly faint?

2. What did Speaker B feel physically?

3. What did the scene partner do?

4. According to Speaker B, what should you do when something feels wrong on stage?

5. Why does Speaker B prefer live theatre to film?

A: I'm here backstage with Amara Osei, who has just come off after the final performance of her run. Amara, you look shaken. What happened out there tonight?

B: Honestly? I nearly fainted in Act Three. The stage lights felt twice as hot as usual. I could feel my heart pounding. I kept thinking, don't stop, don't stop.

A: The audience noticed nothing. From where I was sitting, you looked completely in control.

B: That's kind of you. I think I must have looked pale, though. My scene partner glanced at me and mouthed 'are you okay?' between lines. I nodded and just carried on.

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A: Body language on stage is fascinating. How much of what an audience sees is planned, and how much is real?

B: Almost everything is choreographed. Where you stand, when you turn, where your eyes go. But the tiny things — a real breath, a real tremble in the hand — those you can't fake and you shouldn't try. If something feels wrong on the night, use it. Let the audience see it.

A: You've said before that you'd rather perform live than film. Still true?

B: Absolutely. Live theatre feels alive. You hear the audience breathe. You know they can smell the same dust in the lights that you can. Film is beautiful, but I'd rather have the danger.

Speaking: describe the moment

In pairs, describe a scene you've genuinely lived (a concert, a play, a match, a wedding, a protest). You MUST use: (a) 2× SENSE + adjective, (b) 1× SENSE + like + noun, (c) 1× SENSE + as if + clause, (d) 3 body/movement verbs from section 4, (e) 1× see / watch / hear / listen to used correctly.

1. **label:** The place · **hint:** 'It looked / smelled / sounded / felt like...'

2. **label:** The people · **hint:** 'A woman near me was ____ing...'

3. **label:** The moment it changed · **hint:** 'And then suddenly...'

4. **label:** Your body reaction · **hint:** 'I ____ (nodded / gasped / trembled...)'

5. **label:** Your verdict · **hint:** 'It looked as if... / it sounded like...'

example: The clearest memory I have is of a small jazz club in Lisbon. It looked like somebody's grandmother's living room — tiny, warm, full of mismatched chairs — and it smelled of old wood and cigarettes, even though nobody was smoking anymore. The singer was maybe seventy years old. She sat down at the microphone, cleared her throat, and gave the pianist a slow nod. Then she started to sing, very quietly, almost whispering the first line. I felt as if I had walked into someone else's private grief. The woman next to me started to cry silently; I trembled a little myself. Nobody in the room moved for the whole song. When it ended, we didn't clap for maybe five seconds — we just sighed. I've watched a hundred concerts since. Nothing has ever sounded like that one.

challenge: ■ Extra ■ if you slip in 3 words with SILENT CONSONANTS (knelt, whispered, listened, wrong, thumb, sigh, castle...) AND pronounce them correctly.

Ask the teacher — notes to bring to class



Writing mini-task — 'from the wings' (100–120 words)

Write a short backstage report about a real (or imagined) performance. You **MUST** use: 3× **SENSE** verbs (look / sound / feel / taste / smell), 1× **SENSE** + **AS IF** + clause, 4 body/movement verbs from section 4, and 2 words with **SILENT CONSONANTS**. Underline every target structure.

Wrap-up · three-curtain call

Three quick prompts. Pick **ONE** and finish it out loud. Class votes on the sharpest description.

1. **label:** Curtain 1 — a sense · **prompt:** A room I can still smell, years later, is...

2. **label:** Curtain 2 — a body memory · **prompt:** The moment I remember most clearly is my hands / feet ____ing when...

3. **label:** Curtain 3 — a verdict · **prompt:** The best live performance I've ever seen looked / sounded / felt like...

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Workbook — home practice

Ask the teacher — notes to bring to class

The show must go on - Workbook

Extra practice for home study · with answer keys

1. Vocabulary - body & movement

Choose the word that fits best.

1. She didn't answer - she just ____ her shoulders and walked off.
(A) nodded
(B) shrugged
(C) waved
(D) applauded
2. Please ____ - the actors are about to start.
(A) mutter
(B) gasp
(C) whisper
(D) sigh
3. The audience ____ when the acrobat missed the bar.
(A) yawned
(B) gasped
(C) applauded
(D) sighed
4. He kept ____ at the ceiling all through the interview - he was clearly bored.
(A) staring
(B) grinning
(C) winking
(D) trembling
5. The old man ____ on his walking stick and made his way down the aisle.
(A) knelt
(B) leaned
(C) waved
(D) shrugged
6. The lead dancer ____ down beside the pianist to whisper instructions.
(A) knelt
(B) climbed
(C) yawned
(D) beamed

2. Vocabulary - backstage gap-fill

Complete each sentence with ONE word or phrase from the box (correct form).

BOX: the wings · a prop · a cue · a set piece · a scene change · backstage

1. During ____, twenty crew members move in perfect silence.
2. The stage manager waited in ____, waiting for the perfect moment.
3. He almost forgot to bring ____ - the small silver key that unlocks the plot.
4. The huge castle wall is one of the heaviest ____ in the show.

5. The lead actor missed her ____ and stared into space for two full seconds.
6. The magic happens on stage; the mistakes happen ____.

2b. Vocabulary - discursive writing

Write 120-180 words: 'The magic of theatre depends on the seamless coordination between what happens on stage and backstage. Discuss the physical and technical demands of a live performance.'

Checklist:

- [] Use target lexis from the body movement and backstage sections
- [] Use varied C1-level grammar (e.g. inversion or cleft sentences)
- [] Ensure logical cohesion and smooth transitions
- [] Maintain a formal or semi-formal academic register

[illegible]

3. Grammar - verbs of the senses (+ adjective / like / as if)

Choose the correct form.

1. You look ____.
(A) tiredly
(B) tired
(C) like tired
2. It sounds ____ a great idea.
(A) as
(B) like
(C) so
3. He looks ____ he's about to cry.
(A) like
(B) as if
(C) as

4. This costume feels ____ silk, but it's polyester.
(A) as
(B) like
(C) as if
5. The dressing room smells ____ vanilla - is someone burning a candle?
(A) as
(B) like
(C) for
6. The old actor's voice sounds ____ tonight - hoarse and quiet.
(A) differently
(B) different
(C) as different
7. It smells ____ old wood and hairspray back here.
(A) as
(B) of
(C) as if
8. You look ____ you've seen a ghost.
(A) like
(B) as
(C) such as

4. Grammar - see / look at / watch and hear / listen to

Choose the more natural verb.

1. 'Every Saturday, we ____ the football together.'
(A) watch
(B) see
(C) look at
2. 'Look! Can you ____ that plane?'
(A) watch
(B) see
(C) look at
3. '____ this new song - I love it!'
(A) Hear
(B) Listen
(C) Listen to
4. 'I ____ a strange noise coming from the wings.'
(A) listened to
(B) heard
(C) was hearing
5. 'Please ____ your lines one more time before the show.'
(A) see
(B) watch
(C) look at
6. 'I ____ that new play at the National last week.'
(A) saw

- (B) looked at
- (C) watched

5. Grammar - rewrite with SENSE verbs

Rewrite each sentence using a verb of the senses (look / sound / feel / taste / smell).

1. I think you're tired.
2. This soup has too much salt in it.
3. I have the impression that he's about to faint.
4. I think that idea is a good one.
5. The material is like real silk.
6. The room has a very stuffy atmosphere tonight.

6. Grammar - spot & fix the mistake

Each sentence has ONE mistake. Rewrite it correctly.

1. You look happily today.
2. It sounds a great idea.
3. He looks he is angry.
4. I was seeing the match on TV yesterday.
5. Listen this song, please.
6. The costume feels as silk.

7. Reading - true / false / not given

Read the short text and mark each statement T, F or NG.

In the famous 1988 revival of 'The Phantom of the Opera' on Broadway, a large chandelier is designed to fall from the ceiling towards the audience. On the opening night, a small mechanical fault meant the chandelier stopped halfway. The lead actor, without breaking character, simply looked up, sighed, shrugged his shoulders, and delivered his next line early. The audience, sensing something was wrong but not quite understanding what, applauded anyway. Backstage, twelve technicians were running in complete silence, trying to fix the mechanism. The chandelier finished its fall - three minutes late - during a musical number that was originally supposed to be a quiet duet. The next morning, the review in The New York Times called the moment 'the best piece of improvisation on Broadway in a decade'.

1. The chandelier is supposed to fall towards the audience. [T / F / NG]
2. The lead actor stopped the show when the fault happened. [T / F / NG]
3. The audience realised exactly what had gone wrong. [T / F / NG]
4. Twelve technicians ran to fix the chandelier backstage. [T / F / NG]
5. The chandelier eventually fell during a solo song. [T / F / NG]
6. The New York Times review was written by a former actor. [T / F / NG]

8. Writing - guided task

Write 80-100 words describing a place you know well using the five senses. Use at least 4 SENSE verbs (look / sound / feel / taste / smell) and 1× AS IF / LIKE + clause.

Checklist:

- [] 80-100 words
- [] 4+ SENSE verbs (look / sound / feel / taste / smell)
- [] 1+ AS IF / LIKE + clause
- [] At least 2 body/movement verbs

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal blue ruling lines. On the left side, there are short vertical blue lines that serve as margins, creating a series of narrow columns. The paper is otherwise empty of any text or markings.

9. Listening - backstage interview

Listen to the interview (interviewer + performer - clearly different voices). Answer the questions. Play twice if you need.

Audio: Backstage interview · ≈ 1:40

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

10. Dictation - key sentences

Listen again and complete each line with the missing words.

Audio: Backstage interview - key sentences

1. The stage lights ____ twice as ____ as usual.
2. I could feel my ____ pounding.
3. I think I must have ____ pale.
4. My scene partner glanced at me and ____ 'are you okay?'
5. A real ____ in the hand - those you can't fake.
6. You hear the audience ____.

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11. ■ Challenge - sentence transformation

Rewrite the second sentence using 2-5 words including the KEYWORD.

1. 1. You seem tired. → You _____. (KEYWORD: LOOK)
2. 2. He seems to be about to cry. → He _____ about to cry. (KEYWORD: AS IF)
3. 3. This has the taste of coffee. → This _____ coffee. (KEYWORD: LIKE)
4. 4. I watched the match on TV. → I _____ TV. (KEYWORD: WATCHED)
5. 5. Pay attention to this song. → _____ this song. (KEYWORD: LISTEN)
6. 6. That's a nice-sounding idea. → That _____ a nice idea. (KEYWORD: SOUNDS)

12. ■ Challenge - silent-letter quiz

Which LETTER is silent in each word?

1. 'knight'
(A) K
(B) N
(C) GH
(D) K and GH
2. 'wrestle'
(A) W
(B) R
(C) T
(D) None
3. 'thumb'
(A) H
(B) U
(C) B
(D) None
4. 'castle'
(A) C
(B) T
(C) L
(D) E
5. 'sign'
(A) S
(B) G
(C) N
(D) None
6. 'listen'
(A) S
(B) T
(C) N
(D) None
7. 'honest'
(A) H

- (B) O
- (C) T
- (D) None

8. 'muscle'

- (A) M
- (B) C
- (C) S
- (D) None

13. ■ Challenge - odd one out

Three items share a category. Pick the ODD ONE OUT.

1. 1. Body movements you make with your HEAD:

- (A) nod
- (B) frown
- (C) shrug
- (D) wink

2. 2. Voice / breath actions:

- (A) whisper
- (B) sigh
- (C) gasp
- (D) beckon

3. 3. Words with a SILENT letter:

- (A) knee
- (B) thumb
- (C) listen
- (D) actor

4. 4. Verbs that need LIKE + noun after them:

- (A) 'It sounds ____ a good idea.'
- (B) 'She looks ____ her mother.'
- (C) 'This tastes ____ coffee.'
- (D) 'You look ____ tired.'

14. ■ Challenge - extended writing

Write 130-160 words describing 'a moment I'll never forget from a live performance' (concert, play, sports event...). Use AT LEAST 4 SENSE verbs, 2 AS IF / LIKE + clause, 5 body/movement verbs, and 3 words with silent consonants.

Checklist:

- ☐ 130-160 words
- ☐ 4+ SENSE verbs (look / sound / feel / taste / smell)
- ☐ 2+ AS IF / LIKE + clause
- ☐ 5+ body/movement verbs
- ☐ 3+ silent-consonant words (whispered, knelt, thumb, sigh, castle, listened, wrong...)

15. Self-check

Tick what you can now do confidently.

- ☐ I use look / sound / feel / taste / smell + ADJECTIVE for a direct impression.
- ☐ I use SENSE + LIKE + noun to compare an impression to a thing or person.
- ☐ I use SENSE + AS IF / AS THOUGH + clause for a full comparison.
- ☐ I know when to use SEE, LOOK AT and WATCH (and HEAR vs LISTEN TO).
- ☐ I can describe body language and movement with at least 10 specific verbs.
- ☐ I do NOT pronounce the silent letters in knee, wrist, thumb, listen, sign, sigh.
- ☐ I can describe a place, a person or a scene using multiple senses in one paragraph.

The show must go on — Workbook

Extra practice for home study · with answer keys

1. Vocabulary — body & movement

Choose the word that fits best.

1. She didn't answer — she just ____ her shoulders and walked off.
(A) nodded
(B) shrugged
(C) waved
(D) applauded
2. Please ____ — the actors are about to start.
(A) mutter
(B) gasp
(C) whisper
(D) sigh
3. The audience ____ when the acrobat missed the bar.
(A) yawned
(B) gasped
(C) applauded
(D) sighed
4. He kept ____ at the ceiling all through the interview — he was clearly bored.
(A) staring
(B) grinning
(C) winking
(D) trembling
5. The old man ____ on his walking stick and made his way down the aisle.
(A) knelt
(B) leaned
(C) waved
(D) shrugged
6. The lead dancer ____ down beside the pianist to whisper instructions.
(A) knelt
(B) climbed
(C) yawned
(D) beamed

2. Vocabulary — backstage gap-fill

Complete each sentence with ONE word or phrase from the box (correct form).

BOX: the wings · a prop · a cue · a set piece · a scene change · backstage

1. During ____, twenty crew members move in perfect silence.
2. The stage manager waited in ____, waiting for the perfect moment.
3. He almost forgot to bring ____ — the small silver key that unlocks the plot.
4. The huge castle wall is one of the heaviest ____ in the show.

5. The lead actor missed her ____ and stared into space for two full seconds.
6. The magic happens on stage; the mistakes happen ____.

2b. Vocabulary — discursive writing

Write 120–180 words: 'The magic of theatre depends on the seamless coordination between what happens on stage and backstage. Discuss the physical and technical demands of a live performance.'

Checklist:

- Use target lexis from the body movement and backstage sections
- Use varied C1-level grammar (e.g. inversion or cleft sentences)
- Ensure logical cohesion and smooth transitions
- Maintain a formal or semi-formal academic register

[illegible]

3. Grammar — verbs of the senses (+ adjective / like / as if)

Choose the correct form.

1. You look ____.
(A) tiredly
(B) tired
(C) like tired
2. It sounds ____ a great idea.
(A) as
(B) like
(C) so
3. He looks ____ he's about to cry.
(A) like
(B) as if
(C) as

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4. This costume feels ____ silk, but it's polyester.
(A) as
(B) like
(C) as if
5. The dressing room smells ____ vanilla — is someone burning a candle?
(A) as
(B) like
(C) for
6. The old actor's voice sounds ____ tonight — hoarse and quiet.
(A) differently
(B) different
(C) as different
7. It smells ____ old wood and hairspray back here.
(A) as
(B) of
(C) as if
8. You look ____ you've seen a ghost.
(A) like
(B) as
(C) such as

4. Grammar — see / look at / watch and hear / listen to

Choose the more natural verb.

1. 'Every Saturday, we ____ the football together.'
(A) watch
(B) see
(C) look at
2. 'Look! Can you ____ that plane?'
(A) watch
(B) see
(C) look at
3. '____ this new song — I love it!'
(A) Hear
(B) Listen
(C) Listen to
4. 'I ____ a strange noise coming from the wings.'
(A) listened to
(B) heard
(C) was hearing
5. 'Please ____ your lines one more time before the show.'
(A) see
(B) watch
(C) look at
6. 'I ____ that new play at the National last week.'
(A) saw

- (B) looked at
- (C) watched

5. Grammar — rewrite with SENSE verbs

Rewrite each sentence using a verb of the senses (look / sound / feel / taste / smell).

1. I think you're tired.
2. This soup has too much salt in it.
3. I have the impression that he's about to faint.
4. I think that idea is a good one.
5. The material is like real silk.
6. The room has a very stuffy atmosphere tonight.

6. Grammar — spot & fix the mistake

Each sentence has ONE mistake. Rewrite it correctly.

1. You look happily today.
2. It sounds a great idea.
3. He looks he is angry.
4. I was seeing the match on TV yesterday.
5. Listen this song, please.
6. The costume feels as silk.

7. Reading — true / false / not given

Read the short text and mark each statement T, F or NG.

In the famous 1988 revival of 'The Phantom of the Opera' on Broadway, a large chandelier is designed to fall from the ceiling towards the audience. On the opening night, a small mechanical fault meant the chandelier stopped halfway. The lead actor, without breaking character, simply looked up, sighed, shrugged his shoulders, and delivered his next line early. The audience, sensing something was wrong but not quite understanding what, applauded anyway. Backstage, twelve technicians were running in complete silence, trying to fix the mechanism. The chandelier finished its fall — three minutes late — during a musical number that was originally supposed to be a quiet duet. The next morning, the review in The New York Times called the moment 'the best piece of improvisation on Broadway in a decade'.

1. The chandelier is supposed to fall towards the audience. [T / F / NG]
2. The lead actor stopped the show when the fault happened. [T / F / NG]
3. The audience realised exactly what had gone wrong. [T / F / NG]
4. Twelve technicians ran to fix the chandelier backstage. [T / F / NG]
5. The chandelier eventually fell during a solo song. [T / F / NG]
6. The New York Times review was written by a former actor. [T / F / NG]

8. Writing — guided task

Write 80–100 words describing a place you know well using the five senses. Use at least 4 SENSE verbs (look / sound / feel / taste / smell) and 1× AS IF / LIKE + clause.

Checklist:

- 80–100 words
 - 4+ SENSE verbs (look / sound / feel / taste / smell)
 - 1+ AS IF / LIKE + clause
 - At least 2 body/movement verbs
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-

9. Listening — backstage interview

Listen to the interview (interviewer + performer — clearly different voices). Answer the questions. Play twice if you need.

■ **Audio:** Backstage interview · ≈ 1:40

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

10. Dictation — key sentences

Listen again and complete each line with the missing words.

■ **Audio:** Backstage interview — key sentences

1. The stage lights ____ twice as ____ as usual.
2. I could feel my ____ pounding.
3. I think I must have ____ pale.
4. My scene partner glanced at me and ____ 'are you okay?'
5. A real ____ in the hand — those you can't fake.
6. You hear the audience ____.

11. ■ Challenge — sentence transformation

Rewrite the second sentence using 2–5 words including the KEYWORD.

1. 1. You seem tired. → You _____. (KEYWORD: LOOK)
2. 2. He seems to be about to cry. → He _____ about to cry. (KEYWORD: AS IF)
3. 3. This has the taste of coffee. → This _____ coffee. (KEYWORD: LIKE)
4. 4. I watched the match on TV. → I _____ TV. (KEYWORD: WATCHED)
5. 5. Pay attention to this song. → _____ this song. (KEYWORD: LISTEN)
6. 6. That's a nice-sounding idea. → That _____ a nice idea. (KEYWORD: SOUNDS)

12. ■ Challenge — silent-letter quiz

Which LETTER is silent in each word?

1. 'knight'
(A) K
(B) N
(C) GH
(D) K and GH
2. 'wrestle'
(A) W
(B) R
(C) T
(D) None
3. 'thumb'
(A) H
(B) U
(C) B
(D) None
4. 'castle'
(A) C
(B) T
(C) L
(D) E
5. 'sign'
(A) S
(B) G
(C) N
(D) None
6. 'listen'
(A) S
(B) T
(C) N
(D) None
7. 'honest'
(A) H

- (B) O
- (C) T
- (D) None

8. 'muscle'

- (A) M
- (B) C
- (C) S
- (D) None

13. ■ Challenge — odd one out

Three items share a category. Pick the ODD ONE OUT.

1. 1. Body movements you make with your HEAD:

- (A) nod
- (B) frown
- (C) shrug
- (D) wink

2. 2. Voice / breath actions:

- (A) whisper
- (B) sigh
- (C) gasp
- (D) beckon

3. 3. Words with a SILENT letter:

- (A) knee
- (B) thumb
- (C) listen
- (D) actor

4. 4. Verbs that need LIKE + noun after them:

- (A) 'It sounds ___ a good idea.'
- (B) 'She looks ___ her mother.'
- (C) 'This tastes ___ coffee.'
- (D) 'You look ___ tired.'

14. ■ Challenge — extended writing

Write 130–160 words describing 'a moment I'll never forget from a live performance' (concert, play, sports event...). Use AT LEAST 4 SENSE verbs, 2 AS IF / LIKE + clause, 5 body/movement verbs, and 3 words with silent consonants.

Checklist:

- 130–160 words
- 4+ SENSE verbs (look / sound / feel / taste / smell)
- 2+ AS IF / LIKE + clause
- 5+ body/movement verbs
- 3+ silent-consonant words (whispered, knelt, thumb, sigh, castle, listened, wrong...)

15. Self-check

Tick what you can now do confidently.

- I use look / sound / feel / taste / smell + ADJECTIVE for a direct impression.
- I use SENSE + LIKE + noun to compare an impression to a thing or person.
- I use SENSE + AS IF / AS THOUGH + clause for a full comparison.
- I know when to use SEE, LOOK AT and WATCH (and HEAR vs LISTEN TO).
- I can describe body language and movement with at least 10 specific verbs.
- I do NOT pronounce the silent letters in knee, wrist, thumb, listen, sign, sigh.
- I can describe a place, a person or a scene using multiple senses in one paragraph.



Answer key — Class Book

Reading: what the audience never sees

1. (C) Eight or nine
2. (B) Cramped, hot, dimly lit and silent
3. (B) You have three minutes
4. (B) 'I'm here — I've got your line if you drop it'
5. (B) The show goes on because invisible people hide every mistake

Vocabulary: the body & movement

1. shrugged
 2. beamed
 3. knelt
 4. cleared
 5. whisper
 6. gasped
 7. staring
 8. trembled
1. He shrugged to show he didn't know the answer.
 2. She was trembling as she waited in the wings.
 3. We ambled through the old town after the show.
 4. He beckoned the stage manager over.
 5. The audience gasped when the acrobat slipped.

Grammar: verbs of the senses

1. tired
 2. like petrol
 3. as if he has
 4. more comfortable
 5. like roses
 6. like a small planet
 7. as if he is / as though he is
 8. heavy
1. (B) see
 2. (C) Listen to
 3. (A) watch
 4. (B) heard
 5. (C) look at
 6. (C) watched
1. (B) like
 2. (A) like
 3. (B) like
 4. (B) like
 5. (B) like
 6. (A) really

Listening: backstage after the show

1. Two friends have just come off stage; one nearly fainted mid-scene and there was a lighting problem.
2. By body language — Speaker B looked pale and their scene partner mouthed 'are you okay?'.- 3. They noticed nothing — from the seats, Speaker B 'looked completely in control'.- 1. Act Three.
- 2. That the stage lights were twice as hot as usual; heart pounding.
- 3. Glanced at Speaker B and mouthed 'are you okay?' between lines.
- 4. Use it — let the audience see it, don't try to hide a real breath or a real tremble.

Ask the teacher — notes to bring to class



5. Live theatre 'feels alive' — you hear the audience breathe, they smell the same dust. Film is beautiful, but there's no danger.

Ask the teacher — notes to bring to class



Answer key — Workbook

Ask the teacher — notes to bring to class

The show must go on - Workbook — Answer Key

1. Vocabulary - body & movement

1. **(B)** *shrugged*
2. **(C)** *whisper*
3. **(B)** *gasped*
4. **(A)** *staring*
5. **(B)** *leaned*
6. **(A)** *knelt*

2. Vocabulary - backstage gap-fill

1. **a scene change**
2. **the wings**
3. **a prop**
4. **set pieces**
5. **cue**
6. **backstage**

2b. Vocabulary - discursive writing

Sample answer

A successful theatrical production is a feat of precision and physical control. While the audience sees the lead actor kneel or deliver a line with a dramatic gasp, the real work often happens in the wings. Technicians manage complex scene changes and set pieces in near-total silence, ensuring that every prop is in place for the next cue. For the performer, the stage is a place of intense scrutiny; a single shrug or a nervous stare can be magnified by the lights. They must project their voice, even when they whisper, to reach the back of the house. This requires a level of physical discipline that is rarely seen in other professions. As the actors lean into their roles, they must remain aware of their movement and the space around them. When the curtain falls and the audience applauds, it is a tribute to both the visible artistry and the hidden choreography that takes place backstage to make the performance feel effortless and alive.

3. Grammar - verbs of the senses (+ adjective / like / as if)

1. **(B)** *tired*
2. **(B)** *like*
3. **(B)** *as if*
4. **(B)** *like*
5. **(B)** *like*
6. **(B)** *different*
7. **(B)** *of*
8. **(A)** *like*

4. Grammar - see / look at / watch and hear / listen to

1. **(A)** watch
2. **(B)** see
3. **(C)** Listen to
4. **(B)** heard
5. **(C)** look at
6. **(A)** saw

5. Grammar - rewrite with SENSE verbs

1. *You look tired.*
2. *This soup tastes (too) salty.*
3. *He looks as if he's about to faint.*
4. *That sounds like a good idea.*
5. *The material feels like (real) silk.*
6. *The room feels stuffy tonight.*

6. Grammar - spot & fix the mistake

1. *You look HAPPY today.*
2. *It sounds LIKE a great idea.*
3. *He looks AS IF / LIKE he is angry.*
4. *I was WATCHING the match on TV yesterday.*
5. *Listen TO this song, please.*
6. *The costume feels LIKE silk.*

7. Reading - true / false / not given

1. **T**
2. **F**
3. **F**
4. **T**
5. **F**
6. **NG**

8. Writing - guided task

Sample answer

My grandmother's kitchen is a place I can visit with my eyes closed. It smells of fresh bread and old wood. The tiles feel cool under bare feet, even in summer. The kettle sounds like a small train pulling in - a long, slow whistle that never stops until she notices it. The bread tastes like nothing in any shop; it looks a little burnt on top and slightly too flat, but it is perfect. When I walk in, my grandmother always looks as if she has been waiting for me all day, even when I've arrived unannounced.

9. Listening - backstage interview

1. *She nearly fainted - the stage lights felt twice as hot as usual and her heart was pounding.*
2. *They noticed nothing - from the seats she 'looked completely in control'.*
3. *Glanced at her and mouthed 'are you okay?' between lines.*
4. *Almost everything - where you stand, when you turn, where your eyes go.*
5. *A real breath, a real tremble in the hand - the tiny real things.*
6. *Live theatre feels alive - you hear the audience breathe, they smell the same dust in the lights. Film is beautiful but there's no danger.*

10. Dictation - key sentences

1. *felt / hot*
2. *heart*
3. *looked*
4. *mouthed*
5. *tremble*
6. *breathe*

11. ■ Challenge - sentence transformation

1. *look tired*
2. *looks as if he is*
3. *tastes like*
4. *watched the match on*
5. *listen to*
6. *sounds like*

12. ■ Challenge - silent-letter quiz

1. **(D)** K and GH
2. **(A)** W
3. **(C)** B
4. **(B)** T
5. **(B)** G
6. **(B)** T
7. **(A)** H
8. **(B)** C

13. ■ Challenge - odd one out

1. **(C)** shrug
2. **(D)** beckon
3. **(D)** actor
4. **(D)** 'You look ____ tired.'

14. ■ Challenge - extended writing

Sample answer

The clearest memory I have is of a small jazz club in Lisbon. It looked like somebody's grandmother's living room - tiny, warm, full of mismatched chairs - and it smelled of old wood and cigarettes, even though nobody was smoking any more. The singer was maybe seventy years old. She sat down, cleared her throat, and gave the pianist a slow nod. Then she started to sing, almost whispering the first line. I felt as if I had walked into someone else's private grief. The woman next to me trembled and pressed a thumb to her lips. Nobody in the room moved for the whole song. When it ended, we didn't clap for a full five seconds - we just sighed. It sounded as though the club itself had exhaled. I've watched a hundred concerts since. Nothing has ever sounded like that one.

15. Self-check

Self-assessment — no fixed answers.

The show must go on — Workbook — Answer Key

1. Vocabulary — body & movement

1. **(B)** *shrugged*
2. **(C)** *whisper*
3. **(B)** *gasped*
4. **(A)** *staring*
5. **(B)** *leaned*
6. **(A)** *knelt*

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2. **the wings**
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4. **(B)** *like*
5. **(B)** *like*
6. **(B)** *different*
7. **(B)** *of*
8. **(A)** *like*

4. Grammar — see / look at / watch and hear / listen to

1. **(A)** watch
2. **(B)** see
3. **(C)** Listen to
4. **(B)** heard
5. **(C)** look at
6. **(A)** saw

5. Grammar — rewrite with SENSE verbs

1. *You look tired.*
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3. *He looks as if he's about to faint.*
4. *That sounds like a good idea.*
5. *The material feels like (real) silk.*
6. *The room feels stuffy tonight.*

6. Grammar — spot & fix the mistake

1. *You look HAPPY today.*
2. *It sounds LIKE a great idea.*
3. *He looks AS IF / LIKE he is angry.*
4. *I was WATCHING the match on TV yesterday.*
5. *Listen TO this song, please.*
6. *The costume feels LIKE silk.*

7. Reading — true / false / not given

1. **T**
2. **F**
3. **F**
4. **T**
5. **F**
6. **NG**

8. Writing — guided task

Sample answer

My grandmother's kitchen is a place I can visit with my eyes closed. It smells of fresh bread and old wood. The tiles feel cool under bare feet, even in summer. The kettle sounds like a small train pulling in — a long, slow whistle that never stops until she notices it. The bread tastes like nothing in any shop; it looks a little burnt on top and slightly too flat, but it is perfect. When I walk in, my grandmother always looks as if she has been waiting for me all day, even when I've arrived unannounced.

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10. Dictation — key sentences

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2. *heart*
3. *looked*
4. *mouthed*
5. *tremble*
6. *breathe*

11. ■ Challenge — sentence transformation

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2. *looks as if he is*
3. *tastes like*
4. *watched the match on*
5. *listen to*
6. *sounds like*

12. ■ Challenge — silent-letter quiz

1. **(D)** K and GH
2. **(A)** W
3. **(C)** B
4. **(B)** T
5. **(B)** G
6. **(B)** T
7. **(A)** H
8. **(B)** C

13. ■ Challenge — odd one out

1. **(C)** shrug
2. **(D)** beckon
3. **(D)** actor
4. **(D)** 'You look ____ tired.'

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The clearest memory I have is of a small jazz club in Lisbon. It looked like somebody's grandmother's living room — tiny, warm, full of mismatched chairs — and it smelled of old wood and cigarettes, even though nobody was smoking any more. The singer was maybe seventy years old. She sat down, cleared her throat, and gave the pianist a slow nod. Then she started to sing, almost whispering the first line. I felt as if I had walked into someone else's private grief. The woman next to me trembled and pressed a thumb to her lips. Nobody in the room moved for the whole song. When it ended, we didn't clap for a full five seconds — we just sighed. It sounded as though the club itself had exhaled. I've watched a hundred concerts since. Nothing has ever sounded like that one.

15. Self-check*Self-assessment — no fixed answers.*