

# The Opening Night Scramble

At the Theatre

## PART 01 Warm-Up Activity

- When was the last time you went to the theatre or a live performance?
- Do you prefer sitting in the front row or further back? Why?
- Have you ever tried to buy tickets for a sold-out show? What happened?

## PART 02 The Scenario

It is the opening night of "The Phantom of the Opera." The show is almost sold out. A group of friends is arriving at the box office to collect tickets, while others are trying to find last-minute seats.

### The Theatre Layout & Availability:

- **The Stalls:** Only 2 seats left (Row A, Seats 10-11).
- **The Boxes:** Box 5 is available (4 seats), but it is very expensive.
- **The Front Row:** Completely sold out.
- **Returns:** 2 tickets just became available in the back row because of a cancellation.
- **Cloakroom:** Located next to the bar; open until 11:00 PM.
- **Show Schedule:** Starts at 7:30 PM. Interval at 8:30 PM (lasts 20 minutes).

### THE TASK & GOAL

Work together to ensure everyone gets into the theatre and finds their correct location before the curtain rises.

1. Discuss the ticket situation at the box office.
2. Decide where to sit based on the remaining availability and budget.
3. Coordinate where to meet during the interval and where to leave your coats.
4. Roleplay the interaction from the box office to the seats.

### ROLES & PERSPECTIVES

#### A: BOX OFFICE MANAGER

You have the seating chart. You must explain what is sold out and what "returns" you have. You need to ask for booking references from people who pre-ordered.

#### B: THE PLANNER

You pre-booked 2 tickets online but want to buy 2 more for friends who joined at the last minute. You have a limited budget and want to know exactly where the seats are.

#### C: THE LATE FRIEND

You arrive late and need to find your friends. You have a heavy coat to leave in the cloakroom and want to know how long you have before the show starts.

**REFERENCE** Useful Language

AT THE BOX OFFICE	FINDING YOUR WAY	DURING THE INTERVAL
I'm picking up tickets for...	Follow me, you're in...	How long is the interval?
Any seats left for tonight?	Is there a cloakroom nearby?	Time for a drink at the bar!
I've just had two returns.	We've booked seats in the stalls.	The show is about to start.

**PLANNING & NOTES**

*Plan your dialogue here*

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**PART 03** Reflection

1. Did everyone manage to get a seat? Which seats were the best choice?
2. Which phrases from the "Useful Language Box" were the most helpful for solving the problem?

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# The Opening Night Scramble

Target language practice.



TIME

**30-40** MINS

OBJECTIVE

To practice functional language for booking tickets and navigating a theatre setting using B1-level structures.



GRAMMAR FOCUS

PRESENT PERFECT FOR  
RECENT EVENTS &  
PREPOSITIONS OF PLACE

- I've just had two returns
- I've booked seats in the stalls
- You're in the front row.

KEY VOCABULARY

BOOKING REFERENCE

STALLS

INTERVAL

BOX OFFICE

RETURNS

## Procedure

1. **Warmer (5 mins):** Use the warm-up questions to elicit theatre-related vocabulary. Write "Box Office" and "Interval" on the board and ask for definitions.
2. **The Task (20 mins):**
  - Divide students into groups of three.
  - Direct them to "The Situation" and the "Theatre Layout."
  - Monitor as they negotiate which tickets to buy and how to organize their evening.
  - Encourage them to use the Present Perfect ("I've already booked...") during the roleplay.
3. **Feedback (10 mins):** Ask one or two groups to perform their box office interaction. Correct any errors with prepositions (e.g., "on the stalls" vs "in the stalls").