

## What a sound

It was good news for the Queen that a well known **conductor** was staying in the **capital**, because she was very **fond of** music. She ordered him to arrange an orchestral concert which should **take place** on her birthday. Feeling that his reputation was **at stake**, the conductor did his **utmost** to make the concert a success, so he made his orchestra **rehearse for hours on end**.

As the day of the court concert **drew near**, he got more and more irritable. When the players made mistakes, he would stop them, lay his **baton** on his **music stand** and **swear** at those who didn't play well. Sometimes he **struck** the violinists with his baton, hoping that this way they would be more careful and try harder at not making any mistakes.

But the **climax** was the moment when he **felled** one of the cellists to the ground with a **blow** of his fist, because the **unfortunate** man had missed the beat.

The musicians could not **put up with** his **behaviour** any longer, so they decided to **avenge** the **insult**.

The evening before the concert, one of the violinists went to see his friend, called George, who asked him:

"Are you getting nervous about the concert tomorrow?", adding that he would love to see it, but since it was the **royal palace** where they were going to play he couldn't.

"Oh, but you can **attend** the concert!" answered the musician. "I've got rheumatism in my shoulder, so I can't play tomorrow, so you can go as my **substitute**."

George replied to this:

"But you know very well that I cannot play the violin."

"**Never mind!**", **continued** the violinist, "Take my violin, and sit in an empty place. Sit down and set the music on the music stand. Follow the movements of the other violinists, but do not touch the **strings** and the conductor will not even **notice** you're there."

The following evening, the young man did as he was told. Nobody asked him any questions and he sat down in an empty place.

**After a while**, the Queen entered her **box** and when she sat down the conductor gave the **sign** to his orchestra to begin.

Every man held his instrument in the position and they all **stared** at each other and the conductor, but not a sound was heard because they were all... substitutes.

### Find the words in the text that mean:

- |                                       |                              |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. replacement                        | 9. spot, see                 |
| 2. be present at                      | 10. use bad language         |
| 3. imperial                           | 11. poor                     |
| 4. it doesn't matter                  | 12. signal, mark             |
| 5. knock someone down                 | 13. go on, keep on, carry on |
| 6. the way you act                    | 14. look intensely           |
| 7. stick                              | 15. at risk, in danger       |
| 8. someone in charge of the orchestra | 16. best, maximum            |

### Finish the sentences with the following words:

TAKE PLACE BEHAVIOUR UTMOST REHEARSE INSULT AT STAKE ATTEND CLIMAX

1. She complained of her boss's inappropriate \_\_\_\_\_ towards her.
2. Only 12 people \_\_\_\_\_ the meeting.
3. They have to win the contract - thousands of jobs are \_\_\_\_\_.
4. When they told him someone wanted to see him fired, John treated the matter with the \_\_\_\_\_ seriousness.
5. It's not wise to \_\_\_\_\_ your boss.
6. The next meeting will \_\_\_\_\_ on Thursday.
7. The film reaches its \_\_\_\_\_ when the main character realises the whole truth.
8. The band has been \_\_\_\_\_ at the studio all day.

### After reading the text: TRUE OR FALSE

1. The conductor was an unkind and irritable man.
2. The queen was very satisfied with the performance.
3. None of the musicians attended the concert.
4. The musicians wanted to teach the conductor a lesson.
5. The conductor was mean to the musicians because he was terrified.
6. The queen likes music very much.
7. The conductor wanted to surprise the queen by arranging the concert in her honour.



### Matching activity with DRAW

- |                           |                       |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. draw a contract        | a) reach              |
| 2. draw a picture         | b) sketch, illustrate |
| 3. draw a conclusion      | c) decide on a limit  |
| 4. draw the people to sth | d) sign               |
| 5. draw the line          | e) attract            |

### Phrasal verbs with COME

1. When I was looking through my old photograph albums the other day, I came **about/across/by** this photograph of my parents' wedding. (find something unexpectedly)
2. How did you come **at/by/on** these tickets? I've been trying to get some for ages. (be in possession of sth.)
3. He is great at coming down **with/out in/up** with successful marketing ideas for our products. (have an idea)
4. How did that come **about/across/around**? I can't understand how it happened. (happen)
5. She knew what she wanted to say, but when she started speaking, it came **about/round/out** wrong. (result)

### Make questions for the following sentences:

1. Not a sound was heard, **because** they were all substitutes.
2. **The musicians** could not put up with his behaviour any longer.
3. She ordered him **to arrange an orchestral concert** which should take place on her birthday.
4. He is getting nervous **about the concert tomorrow**.

### Linking words: DESPITE NEVERTHELESS BUT IN SPITE OF ALTHOUGH

1. They went to the beach \_\_\_\_\_ the bad weather.
2. She found the job very tough. \_\_\_\_\_ she stayed at the company and was finally promoted.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ she apologized for taking the car without my permission, I was still angry.
4. Not only did he lose the business \_\_\_\_\_ he lost his house as well.
5. He never went to university, \_\_\_\_\_ getting top marks at school.

**Participles:** I heard him. He practised his violin.

I heard him **practising** his violin. (present participle)

1. I was waiting for him. He didn't notice me.
2. He was reading Mary's diary. She caught him.
3. I never wear pink. Can you imagine how I would look like? (wear)
4. He didn't want to tell her what happened. He just pretended everything was OK.
5. He tried to open the door. He couldn't, so he called a locksmith. (unsuccessfully)
6. "I'm not going to help you this time", he said. He also added that I shouldn't call him any more.
7. He looked at the old photos. It made him cry.
8. They stood so long in the rain. We didn't want that to happen, so we invited them in.
9. I called the fire brigade, because something was burning. I could smell it.
10. They're always behind with their work. They can't do anything on time. I can't even imagine it. (since)

### Future Continuous or Simple:

1. She \_\_\_\_\_ (do) her homework after lunch, so there's no need to ask her out.
2. I think I \_\_\_\_\_ (do) my homework after lunch.
3. This time tomorrow he \_\_\_\_\_ (lie) on a beach somewhere.
4. He \_\_\_\_\_ (sell) this big house one day.
5. When I see you next time you \_\_\_\_\_ (sit) behind bars.