

6TH YEAR PLUS - UPPER INTERMEDIATE

LISTENING

RADA



4.10

A Becoming a truly great actor requires talent, hard work and hours of study. In Britain, the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art (RADA) ¹ _____ trained and produced many of the country's most famous actors since it was established in 1904, but just how does RADA turn passionate young hopefuls into respected professionals?

B One of the methods RADA teaches is the Stanislavski acting technique. The technique was devised ² _____ the famous Russian actor Konstantin Stanislavski in 1911, after he had been performing in theatres ³ _____ over thirty years. It requires actors to really live the role that they are playing. The actors not ⁴ _____ have to learn the lines that they have to say, but also recreate everything about the character's life.

C But if modern audiences would be surprised to discover that students learn an acting technique that is over a century old, they might ⁵ _____ astonished to discover that they also study a form of theatre that has been around for over two millennia: Greek tragedy. The Greeks used to study playwriting and acting and produced some important theoretical works on the subject. Their ideas are still considered very relevant today and anybody ⁶ _____ wants to obtain a degree from RADA has to study them.

D RADA students also spend many hours training their voices and learning ⁷ _____ use their bodies to communicate in the same way that a musician learns how to play an instrument. A RADA student's objective is to use their creativity to transform written words into a three-dimensional character. Evidently, becoming an actor is ⁸ _____ serious business and definitely not for people who are only interested in fame.

1. Audio 4.11. Read and listen. What three things does it mention that a RADA student learns?

2. Complete the text about RADA. Write one word in each gap.

3. Audio 4.11. Listen to an interview about how actors prepare for their roles. Match the people (1-3) with the things that they did (A-C).

1. Konstantin Stanislavski

2. Meryl Streep

3. Leonardo DiCaprio

A. _____ studied psychiatric patients

B. _____ prepared a list of questions

C. _____ prepared for a film about the Second World War

4. Listen again. Are the sentences T (true) or F (false)?

1. Copying certain emotions is not so difficult for actors ____
2. The Stanilavski system involves actors asking themselves questions about their own acting ability. ____
3. Meryl Streep studied a foreign language. ____
4. Meryl Streep wanted to read poetry in a foreign language. ____
5. Leonardo DiCaprio met people who had had experiences that he wanted to recreate in a film. ____
6. Leonardo DiCaprio visited a psychiatric hospital on an island to prepare for a film. ____

READING

1. READ THE ARTICLE. WHAT ARE THE TWO LIES THAT IT MENTIONS?

1. _____
2. _____



Despite predictions that the traditional media were going to disappear in the internet age, newspapers, the radio and television have managed to survive. However, their survival has come at a price. Digital technology has given birth to social media, tools that allow ordinary people to create, share and exchange information without the need for

story. Here was a perfect example of why people should only trust the traditional media. However, while the mainstream media takes every opportunity to expose the dangers of social media, social media has become good at demonstrating that the traditional press is also far from perfect.

35

40

the usual news channels. Moreover, social media is also attracting a large share of advertisers' money away from the traditional media. As a result, newspapers, the radio and television are always looking for ways to hurt their new rival and they are more than happy to publish stories that play on people's fears about how untrustworthy and unsafe social media is.

When Zilla van den Born left home for a five-week trip around South-East Asia, she promised her family in Amsterdam that she would keep in touch and she did. Zilla regularly uploaded photos to her Facebook page of herself on the beach, on sightseeing trips and dining out. She also made Skype calls to her family to tell them that everything was going just as she had planned. And it was, but not as she had led her family to believe, because Zilla hadn't gone abroad; she was holed up in her flat in Amsterdam.

The reason for Zilla's devious behaviour was her university project, which aimed to demonstrate how social media can distort the truth. Zilla certainly succeeded. In her flat she made out she was on holiday – photoshopping pictures by inserting images of herself into photos of South-East Asian beaches and temples. For the Skype calls, she used old Christmas decorations and a Chinese paper umbrella to disguise her bedroom and create an Asian hotel room. When Zilla finally let on that her holiday had been a hoax, her family admitted that they had been completely taken in. Zilla explained that the experiment demonstrated how today we can manipulate reality and the press loved the

As all football fans know, the sports media has to work harder between matches to fill their pages and sites. The most popular method of doing this is by speculating about the players that clubs might buy or sell, especially talented foreigners. However, many readers often suspect that these stories are the products of lazy journalism and, if not completely false, contain very little truth and a lot of exaggeration. One Irish football fan decided to find out by using social media to invent Masal Bugduv, a sixteen-year-old football superstar from the small Eastern European country of Moldova. The fan set up a Wikipedia page for the player that explained that Bugduv had already played for his national team and that his nickname was 'Massi'. He then wrote false press agency stories that claimed Bugduv would soon join Arsenal and sent them to sports blogs. The blogs accepted the stories as true, but the big surprise came when *The Times* newspaper included an article entitled Football's Top 50 Rising Stars. At number thirty on the list was 'Moldova's finest', sixteen-year-old Masal Bugduv, who had been linked with Arsenal and 'plenty of other top clubs as well.'

While most people would agree that the traditional press should warn people about the dangers of new technology, it is also good to know that social media can expose the unprofessional practices of some journalists. The more they zoom in on each other's unacceptable practices, the better for the readers.

2. READ THE ARTICLE AGAIN AND CHOOSE THE CORRECT ANSWER:

1. The traditional media find ways to attack social media because it

- A. is untrustworthy and unsafe
- B. can't defend itself
- C. sees it as a threat
- D. isn't a dangerous rival

2. Zilla van den Born's project

- A. shows how social media can be used to lie.
- B. was done to deceive her family.
- C. was done to fool the traditional media.
- D. shows how universities can distort the truth.

3. To deceive her family and friends, Zilla

- A. just created virtual holiday world on her computer.
- B. went on holiday to a local beach.

- C. used both real objects and computer programs.
- D. stayed in a hotel room.

4. Zila's experiment was used by the traditional press to

- A. highlight the difference between social and traditional media.
- B. discuss how the mainstream media manipulates reality.
- C. show how your people deceive their families.
- D. promote the use of social media.

5. A lot of readers of sports journalism think that

- A. talented foreign players are often lazy.
- B. it's more difficult to write about football when games aren't being played.
- C. stories about players are usually invented.
- D. Masal Bugdub really exists.

6. The writer includes the story about Masal Bgdub to

- A. show sports journalism is not very serious.
- B. provide a balanced approach to the topic.
- C. demonstrate how untrustworthy traditional media is
- D. show how lazy journalists are.

3. In the text there are two examples of deception. Do you think that Zilla's and the Irish football fan's acts of deception were justified? Why/Why not?

4. Match the highlighted phrasal verbs in the text with the definitions.

- 1. to tell people about a secret _____
- 2. to notice and give special attention to something _____
- 3. to deceive someone _____
- 4. to state that something false is true _____
- 5. to create something _____
- 6. to hide somewhere _____
- 7. to discover something _____
- 8. to take advantage of someone's feelings _____