

## **“IN THE SPOTLIGHT”**

### **FIRST SESSION – SECOND SESSION.**

WARM UP.- Reading.

To introduce this activity and as a way of warming up, the teacher displays this reading text “ A star is born”. The teacher reads out loud first for the whole class and on a second reading, some students take turns to read it.

### **A STAR IS BORN**



Would you like to be a Hollywood star? Most actors go to a drama school to learn the job. They usually get small parts in theatre, films or even TV commercials - like Jodie Foster, who advertised Coppertone suntan lotion when she was just a baby.

You also need an agent, a person who takes care of your career and tries to find jobs for you. Adult actors have generally got professional agents, but child actors are often represented by their parents. Then, if you are lucky, a casting director will see photos of you and call you for a casting session.

But there is another way to get into a film. Some famous actors never went to a drama school. They never even thought of being a film star. They were just walking down a street, or sitting in a park, when a casting director saw them and thought they could fit a character in a new film. This was the case for Edward Furlong, the boy in *Terminator II*, who was discovered in front of a youth club. So smile! A casting director might be walking in front of your school right now!

Next the teacher opens a conversation by asking students:

- ✓ **Have you ever thought of being a film star?**
- ✓ **What makes a good actor/actress?**
- ✓ **Have you ever acted in a theatre play?**
- ✓ **Are you keen on going to the movies?**
- ✓ **What kind of film do you like watching? (horror, thriller, musical, comedy, science fiction, romance...)**

## PRESENTATION

- ✓ Watching a film scene
- ✓ Grammar revision: ✓ Reported Speech
  - ✓ Conditional sentences.
- ✓ False friends.
- ✓ Communicative functions:
  - ① Apologies
  - ② Farewell
  - ③ Polite Request
  - ④ Asking and Giving opinion
- ✓ Oral communication and Role play.

The teacher plays the scene from Notting Hill ( 8:32 minutes). Although it's real language, the context itself and the pace of the conversation makes it easy for the students to understand the general idea. Once they have seen it once, the teacher asks them.

- \* What happens in the scene you 've just seen?
- \* What reasons does William give Ann to turn her down?
- \* Why does he change his mind in the end?
- \* What can you say about his friends?

ANNA: Well, yesterday was our last day filming and so I'm just off -  
- but I brought you this from home, and I thought I'd give it to you.

WILLIAM: Thank you. Shall I...?

ANNA: No, don't open it yet. I'll be embarrassed.

WILLIAM: Okay -- well, thank you.

I don't know what it's for.

But thank you anyway.

ANNA: I actually had it in my apartment  
in New York and just thought you'd...

but, when it came to it,

I didn't know how to call you...

having behaved so ... badly, twice.

So it's been just sitting in the  
hotel. But then you came, so I figured..

The thing is, the thing is ...

WILLIAM: What's the thing?

WILLIAM: Don't even think about it. Go away immediately.

MR. SMITH: Right. Sorry.

WILLIAM: You were saying...

ANNA: Yes. The thing is... I have to go away today but I wondered, if  
I didn't, whether you might let me see you a bit...or, a lot maybe...  
see if you could... like me again.

WILLIAM: But yesterday... that actor asked you who I was... and you  
just dismissed me out of hand... I heard -- you had a microphone... I  
had headphones.

ANNA: You expect me to tell the truth about my life to the most  
indiscreet man in England?

MARTIN: Excuse me -- it's your mother on the phone.

WILLIAM : Can you tell her I'll ring her back? .

MARTIN: I actually tried that tack -- but she said you said that  
before and it's been twenty-four hours, and her foot that was purple  
is now a sort of blackish color...

WILLIAM: Okay -- perfect timing as ever - hold the fort for a second  
will you, Martin?

MARTIN: Can I just say, I thought 'Ghost' was a wonderful film.

ANNA: Is that right?



MARTIN : Yes... I've always wondered what Patrick Swayze is like in real life.  
ANNA: I can't say I know Patrick all that well.  
MARTIN: Oh dear. He wasn't friendly during the filming?  
ANNA :Well, no -- I'm sure he was friendly -- to Demi Moore -- who acted with him in 'Ghost.'  
MARTIN: Oh right. Right. Sorry. Always been a bit of an ass.  
MARTIN: Anyway... it's lovely to meet you. I'm a great fan of yours. And Demi's, of course.  
WILLIAM: Sorry about that.  
ANNA: That's fine. There's always a pause when the jury goes out to consider its verdict.  
WILLIAM: Anna. Look -- I'm a fairly level-headed bloke. Not often in and out of love. But..., can I just say 'no' to your kind request and leave it at that?  
ANNA: Yes, that's fine. Of course. I... you know... of course... I'll just... be getting along then... nice to see you.  
WILLIAM: The truth is.. with you, I'm in real danger. It looks like a perfect situation, apart from that foul temper of yours -- but my relatively inexperienced heart would, I fear, not recover if I was once again cast aside, which I would absolutely expect to be. There are too many pictures of you everywhere, too many films. You'd go and I'd be... well, buggered, basically.  
ANNA: I see. (pause)That reality is a real 'no,' isn't it?  
WILLIAM:I live in Notting Hill. You live in Beverly Hills. Everyone in the world knows who you are.My mother has trouble remembering my name.  
ANNA: Okay. Fine. Fine. Good decision. (Pause).The fame thing isn't really real, you know. Don't forget -- I'm also just a girl, standing in front of a boy, asking him to love her.  
(Pause. She kisses him on the cheek).Bye.

#### TONY'S RESTAURANT - DAY

WILLIAM: What do you think? Good move?  
HONEY: Good move: when all is said and done, she's nothing special. I saw her taking her pants off and I definitely glimpsed some cellulite down there.  
BELLA: Good decision. All actresses are mad as snakes.  
WILLIAM: Tony -- what do you think?  
TONY: Never met her, never want to.  
WILLIAM: Brilliant. Max?  
MAX: Absolutely. Never trust a vegetarian.  
WILLIAM: Great. Excellent. Thanks. (Spike enters.)  
SPIKE: I was called and I came. What's up?  
HONEY: William has just turned down Anna Scott.  
SPIKE: You daft prick!  
BELLA : This painting isn't the original, is it?  
WILLIAM: Yes, I think that one may be.  
BERNIE: But she said she wanted to go out with you  
WILLIAM: Yes -- sort of...  
BERNIE: That's nice.  
WILLIAM: What?  
BERNIE: Well, you know, anybody saying they want to go out with you is... pretty great... isn't it...  
WILLIAM: It was sort of sweet actually -- I mean, I know she's an actress and all that, so she can deliver a line -- but she said that she might be as famous as can be -- but also... that she was just a girl, standing in front of a boy, asking him to love her.  
(A pause). Oh sod a dog. I've made the wrong decision, haven't I?  
(They look at him. Spike does a big nod).  
WILLIAM: Max, how fast is your car?

After they have had a short discussion about the film, they have a second viewing of the scene and then they are given the script of the scene.

## PRACTICE

✓ Students are divided in groups, and they will be assigned to play the scene. They won't have to memorize their role as they will have the script in front. Yet, students will be encouraged to pronounce and give the right intonation. The group itself will decide who is playing the roles. The roles to be played are: ANNA, WILLIAM, MARTIN, MR SMITH, HONEY, BERNIE, SPIKE, BELLA, MAX, TONY.

They will practice the rest of the class. They will play the scene the next session, so they will have time to practice and rehearse.

In the next session the groups in turns are asked to come out to the front of the class and play the scene. Since they are 10 each group, it will only take 3 performances and no more than 15 minutes.

Next, the teacher will concentrate on the part where William gently rejects Anna and she argues that thing of fame is just unreal. Also the part when William tells his friends what they both said. This will be used as a **Reported Speech** revision

WILLIAM: The truth is.. with you, I'm in real danger. It looks like a perfect situation, apart from that foul temper of yours -- but my relatively inexperienced heart would, I fear, not recover if I was once again cast aside, which I would absolutely expect to be. There are too many pictures of you everywhere, too many films. You'd go and I'd be... well, buggered, basically.

ANNA: I see. (pause)That reality is a real 'no,' isn't it?

WILLIAM:I live in Notting Hill. You live in Beverly Hills. Everyone in the world knows who you are.My mother has trouble remembering my name.

ANNA: Okay. Fine. Fine. Good decision. (Pause).The fame thing isn't really real, you know. Don't forget -- I'm also just a girl, standing in front of a boy, asking him to love her.

.....

WILLIAM: It was sort of sweet actually -- I mean, I know she's an actress and all that, so she can deliver a line -- but she said that she might be as famous as can be -- but also... that she was just a girl, standing in front of a boy, asking him to love her.

After this, the teacher asks the students to find examples of Conditional Sentences and False friends in the script. Since conditional sentences will be revised in later sessions, the teacher just sets this activity so that students recognize the conditional sentences structures.

Answers:

### **Conditional sentences:**

① I wondered, if I didn't, whether you might let me see you a bit...or, a lot maybe... see if you could... like me again.

② ...but my relatively inexperienced heart would, I fear, not recover if I was once again cast aside,

**False friends:** actually, sensible, in front of, embarrassed.

Just as a way of recognition and awareness of useful structures the teacher can devote some minutes to let the students know about the use of different language functions that occur in the scene.

- ⊗ **Apologies:** - WILLIAM: Don't even think about it. Go away immediately.  
- MR. SMITH: Right. **Sorry**
- ⊗ **Offer oneself to do something.** - ANNA: Well, but I brought you this from home, and I thought I'd give it to you.  
- WILLIAM: Thank you. **Shall I...?**
- ⊗ **Polite Request:** - WILLIAM : **Can you** tell her I'll ring her back?  
- WILLIAM: Okay -- perfect timing as ever - hold the fort for a second **will you**, Martin?
- ⊗ **Giving and asking opinion:** WILLIAM: What do you think? Good move?
- ⊗ **Suprasegmental features: Irony:** - WILLIAM: Okay, **perfect timing as ever**

## PRODUCTION

✓ Reading and grammar activity: Reported Speech. They will do it as a whole class oral activity at a first stage (as a review) and they will be later told to turn it into as a written exercise for next day.

Faye: Will I see you at Mike's picnic tomorrow?  
Chris: Sure. Everyone will be there. What are you going to take?  
Faye: Potato salad. I've already made it. How about you?  
Chris: Oh, no! I was going to make potato salad as well. Now I'll have to come up with something else. One potato salad is enough.  
Faye: Don't worry. You still have time to think it over.  
Chris: Yes, and if it continues to rain like this, Mike might call the picnic off.  
Faye: What will I do with twenty pounds of potato salad?

## HOMEWORK

- 1.- The students must report the conversation they have practised orally in the production stage.
- 2.- Put the following words into the right box. Then write a clear example of each word in the False Friends box.

Casualties, legal, remove, constipated, nervous, excited, alarming, problem, large, chorus, eventually, lyrics, facilities, guard.

<b>FALSE FRIENDS</b>	<b>COGNATES</b>

## **REINFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES**

✓ REPORTED SPEECH.- DIRECT SPEECH

**REWRITE THE FOLLOWING SENTENCES USING THE WORDS GIVEN**

- 1.- "I want to get home before it is dark" I said  
I explained.....
- 2.- He suggested taking the bus at three p.m because of the traffic we could find earlier  
- (Shall ).....  
- Let's.....
3. I'll never forget your kindness", he said to her.  
He told her.....
- 4.- Susan asked me why I had left early the day before  
".....?"
- 5.- "Don't call the police", the thief told us  
The thief.....
- 6.- The teacher asked us who had brought the frog to class  
"....."
- 7.- "Who is your favourite singer"? , Mark asked me  
Mark asked me .....
- 8.- Ronnie wanted to know whether his girlfriend had been there before him  
Ronnie: ".....?"
- 9.- "What time does the next train leave?", The girl asked  
The girl asked.....
- 10.- She apologised for all the lies she had told us  
( Direct Speech) She: .....

**✓FALSE FRIENDS.-**

In the scene we have seen several cases of False friends. Write a sentence with each of them and translate it.

1.- Actually.  
.....  
.....

2.- Sensible  
.....  
.....

3.- In front of.  
.....  
.....

4.- Embarrassed.  
.....  
.....