

While you listen

The *Britain is Great* series tells you about some of the things that make Britain so great. There's a lot of fun facts – and lots of good language, too. See if you can answer the questions while you watch the video.

Comprehension Task 1 - Choose the things that Richard does in the video.

- He interviews two people.
- He quotes from Shakespeare.
- He reads a book.
- He sees a writer's personal belongings.
- He sits where a writer sat.
- He visits a museum.
- He visits a reconstruction of a famous building.
- He visits some famous literary landscapes.
- He watches a play.

Comprehension Task 2 - Complete the paragraphs with information (words or numbers) from the video.

1. The Globe is a recreation of Shakespeare's original theatre, which burnt down in (a) _____. It opened to the public (b) _____ years ago. The theatre has a curved (c) _____ and is unusual because it has no (d) _____.

There are approximately (e) _____ performances every year to audiences of about (f) _____ people. They do a variety of plays

by Shakespeare and his (g) _____, and new plays too.

2. Charles Dickens was a great British novelist, born (a) _____ years ago. He lived at 48 Doughty Street in London for (b) _____, and his old home has now been turned into a museum. He wrote (c) _____, *The Pickwick Papers* and *Nicholas Nickleby* there. The most important exhibits are some original manuscripts, his (d) _____, and a (e) _____ by R.W.Buss.

Dickens went to work in a (f) _____ when he was only 10 years old. He wrote about themes such as social (g) _____ and poverty, which are still relevant today.

Language Task 1 - Put the words in order to make sentences from the video.

- of / British writer / William Shakespeare / Bard / The greatest / all is the / himself - / them
- audience / appreciation / It / of Shakespeare / aims to / wider / bring / an / to a
- who is / think / of a / contemporary / as relevant / is / hardly / I can / writer / as Shakespeare
- been / what / hundreds of years / I've got / feeling of / might / ago/ a real / like / a theatre / have
- Charles Dickens / The / the urban / inspired one / giants / of English / of the / literature, / plight of / poor

Language Task 2 -Richard said " I'm going to step back in time to see how Dickens might have lived". Put the verbs in the right form, past or present. Sometimes you need to make it negative for the sentence to make sense.

1. The Globe gives you a real feeling of what a theatre _____ hundreds of years ago. (might/look like)

2. You're leaving tomorrow, and this _____ the last time we see each other for three years - so let's make a night of it! (might/be)

3. Dickens was sent to work in a factory as a child, which was an experience that _____ his novels. (must/influence)

4. There _____ a restaurant on this street somewhere - I remember coming here last year with my parents, so let's keep looking. (must/be)

5. I don't understand what's happened to Julia - she should be here by now. I suppose she _____ the message I left for her. (might/get)

6. A: Look, isn't that Jennifer over there?
B: No, it _____ her. She's in Australia on holiday for three weeks. (can/be)

7. I suppose I _____ a few lies in my time, but I'm certainly not a criminal. (might/tell)

8. I heard about the new baby! Congratulations. You and Dora _____ very happy. (must/be)

9. A: Oh no! Where's my purse?
B: You just paid for the coffees - you _____ it. (can/lose)

10. A: Look. Someone phoned three times while we were out.
B: Oh dear. It _____ Tom - he said he'd phone today. (must/be)

Comprehension Task 1 : a; b; d; e; f; g; **Comprehension Task 2**: 1. a) 1613; b) 15/fifteen; c) auditorium; d) roof; e) 300/three hundred; f) 1.500; g) contemporaries; 2. a) 200/two hundred; b) 2/two years; c) Oliver Twist; d) desk; e) painting/portrait/picture; f) factory; g) inequality;
Language Task 1 : 1. The greatest British writer of them all is the bard himself - William Shakespeare. 2. It aims to bring an appreciation of Shakespeare to a wider audience. 3. I can hardly think of a contemporary writer who is as relevant as Shakespeare is. 4. I've got a real feeling of what a theatre might have been like hundreds of years ago. 5. The plight of the urban poor inspired one of the giants of English literature, Charles Dickens.
Language Task 2 : 1. might have looked like; 2. might be; 3. must have influenced; 4. must be; 5. might not/mightn't have got; 6. can't be; 7. might have told; 8. must be; 9. can't have lost; 10. must have been