

## ЗАДАНИЯ К УРОКУ “Going to an opera”

Задания предназначены для самоконтроля, отправлять на проверку учителю не надо.

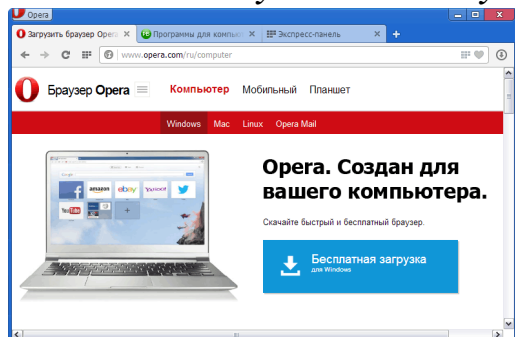
10 класс

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Тема урока: Going to an opera

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### 1. Which comes to your mind when you hear the word OPERA? Try and guess the topic of the lesson.



### 2. Read part 1 and write out 10 words about opera.

An opera is a dramatic work which blends elements of theatre, dance and music. Almost all of the dialogue is sung, or at least delivered in a pitched tone. Opera composers generally start with a written script of the storyline called a *libretto*, or "little book." The libretto may be a completely original story, or an adaptation of an existing literary piece. The words and storyline form the basic structure of an opera.

### 3. Read part 2 and find a matching word to each highlighted word.

The composer then decides which **lyrics** will become a large musical **pieces** and which just move the story forward thematically informing the listener about events. If the lyrics reveal the true **emotions** of a character, such as love or fear, the opera's composer may **create** a fully scored song called an *aria*. An aria might be sung by any of the main **characters**, but quite often it works as a **showcase** for a particularly **strong** singer. Many arias have become quite **familiar** worldwide.

*famous, popular  
good, outstanding  
passions, feelings  
personages, participants  
poetry, lines  
demonstration, display  
songs, parts  
writes, makes up*

### 4. Read part 3 and change words on the right so that they grammatically match the text.

An opera also contains numerous _____ when the characters	1. moment
are essentially having conversations amongst_____.	2. they
For those scenes, the _____ composer may use a musical form called a <i>recitative</i> . A recitative <u>is</u> a piece of dialogue set to music,	3. opera
although the music may be _____ to the audience and simpler. The performer of a recitative may sing his or her lines without much concern for an actual melody.	4. interesting
Some modern composers no _____ use recitatives, but allow	5. long
the actors to speak _____ lines as they would in the real life.	6. they
In the _____, classic form, however, all dialogues are set to some sort of music.	7. one

5. Read part 4 and find 5 passive forms of verbs.

Many musical historians suggest the first opera to be performed was a piece called *Dafne*, written by Jacopo Peri in 1598. It was not considered a commercial success in its day, and is rarely performed by modern opera companies. The first composer whose work still enjoys popularity in the opera world was an Italian musician named Claudio Monteverdi. Monteverdi is credited with helping music theory transition from the Renaissance style to the Baroque style exemplified by composers such as J.S. Bach.

Opera has survived as a musical form primarily because it can adapt, or at least be adapted, to whatever form of music is popular at the time. Over the years, it has incorporated folk music, patriotic or nationalistic anthems, jazz, blues and even rock music. The staging of an opera can also be quite creative and breathtaking in scale. Performing the entire *Rings of the Nibelung* cycle by Richard Wagner, for example, can take several weeks of scheduled productions.

6. Read part 5 and change words on the right so that they lexically and grammatically match the text.

Overture (from _____ <i>ouverture</i> , lit. "opening") in music	1. France
was originally the _____ introduction to a ballet, opera, or oratorio in the 17th century. During the early Romantic era,	2. instrument
composers such as Beethoven and Mendelssohn composed overtures which were _____, self-existing	3. dependent
instrumental, programmatic works that presaged genres such as the _____ poem. These were	4. symphony
at first _____ intended to be played at the head of a programme.	5. undoubted

7. Label parts of the theatre.



- a) aisle
- b) balcony
- c) box
- d) curtain
- e) dress circle
- f) gallery
- g) orchestra pit
- h) orchestra seats
- i) prompter's box
- j) setting
- k) stage
- l) wing

8. If you want to check your knowledge try and match top greatest operas to their composers.

- 1) Carmen
- 2) Don Giovanni
- 3) La Bohème
- 4) La Traviata
- 5) Rigoletto
- 6) The Barber of Seville
- 7) The Magic Flute
- 8) The Marriage of Figaro
- 9) The Valkyrie
- 10) Tosca

- a) Bizet
- b) Mozart
- c) Puccini
- d) Rossini
- e) Verdi
- f) Wagner

9. Read the text and choose the correct answer.

<p>It was the evening on which the managers of the Opera were giving a last gala performance to mark their retirement. Suddenly the dressing room of Sorelli, one of the principal dancers, was invaded by half-a-dozen young ladies of the ballet, who had come up from the stage. They rushed in among great confusion, some laughing unnaturally, others crying in terror. Sorelli, who wished to be alone for a moment to go through the speech which she was going to make to the resigning managers, looked around angrily at the mad crowd. It was little Jammes – the girl with the upturned nose, the forget-me-not eyes, the rose-red cheeks and the lily-white neck -who explained in a trembling voice: “It’s the ghost!” And she locked the door.</p>	<p>1 Sorelli wanted to be left alone because ... A she was afraid of the ghost. B she was preparing to resign. C she was feeling confused. D she wanted to get a speech ready.</p>
<p>Sorelli’s dressing room was decorated elegantly. A mirror, a sofa, a dressing table and a cupboard provided the necessary furniture. On the wall hung an engraving of her mother, who had known the glories of the old Opera. But it seemed a palace to the brats of the ballet, who in their dressing rooms, spent their time singing, quarrelling, smacking the dressers and hairdressers and buying one another drinks until the stage bell rang. Sorelli was very superstitious. She shook when she heard little Jammes speak of the qhost, called her a “silly little fool” and then, as she was the first to believe in ghosts in general, and the Opera ghost in particular, at once asked for details:</p>	<p>2 Sorelli’s dressing room ... A was very disorganised. B was much nicer than the ballet girls’. C had no furniture. D had belonged to her mother.</p>
<p>“Have you seen him?” “As plainly as I see you now!” said little Jammes, who dropped with a moan into a chair. Then, little Giry — the girl with eyes black as plums, hair black as ink, a dark complexion and a poor little skin stretched over poor little bones — added: “If that’s the ghost, he’s very ugly!” “Oh, yes!” cried the chorus of ballet girls. The ghost had appeared to them in the shape of a gentleman in dress-clothes, who had suddenly stood before them in the passage, without their knowing where he came from. He seemed to have come straight through the wall. “Rubbish!” said one of them. “You see the ghost everywhere!”</p>	<p>3 Little Jammes ... A didn’t believe in ghosts. B was sure that she had seen the ghost. C wasn’t at all afraid. D couldn’t speak about the ghost.</p>
<p>And it was true. For several months, there had been nothing discussed at the Opera but this well-dressed ghost who stalked about the building, like a shadow, who spoke to nobody, to whom nobody dared speak and who vanished as soon as he was seen. Like a real ghost, he made no noise in walking. People began by laughing and making fun of this spectre dressed like a man of fashion or an undertaker; but the ghost legend soon grew to enormous proportions among the ballet dancers. joke played on them, or lost something, it was at once the fault of the ghost.</p>	<p>4 The ghost was ... A badly-dressed.                      C invisible. B silent.                                      D friendly.</p>
<p>All the girls pretended to have met this supernatural being. And those who laughed the loudest were not the most at ease. When he did not show himself, he betrayed his presence by causing accidents, for which everyone held him responsible. Whenever someone fell, or had a practical joke played on them, or lost something, it was at once the fault of the ghost. After all, who had seen him? You meet so many well-dressed men at the Opera who are not ghosts. But his suit was peculiar. It covered a skeleton, the ballet girls said. The chief stage designer had met the ghost on the little staircase</p>	<p>5 The story of the ghost ... A spread rapidly among the ballet girls. B was ignored by the ballet girls. C was an issue from time to time. D was believed by everyone.</p>



which leads to the cellars. He had seen him for a second – for the ghost had fled – and claimed that:

“He is extraordinarily thin and his dress-coat hangs on a skeleton frame. His eyes are so deep that you can hardly see the fixed pupils. You just see two big black holes, as in a dead man’s skull. His skin, which is stretched across his bones like a drum, is not white, but a nasty yellow. His nose is so little that you can’t see it from the side; and the absence of that nose is a horrible thing to look at. All the hair he has is three or four long dark locks on his forehead and behind his ears.”

6 The skin on the ghost’s face is ...

- A loose and white.      C tight and ugly.  
B healthy looking.      D invisible.

*Two following tasks are for RNE-takers.*

10. **RNE** *Read the text aloud. You can prepare for 1,5 minutes. Read no longer than 1,5 minutes.*

An opera is a dramatic work which blends elements of theatre, dance and music. Almost all of the dialogue is sung, or at least delivered in a pitched tone. Opera composers generally start with a written script of the storyline called a *libretto*, or "little book." The libretto may be a completely original story, or an adaptation of an existing literary piece. The words and storyline form the basic structure of an opera.

11. **RNE** *Study the two photographs. In 1.5 minutes be ready to compare and contrast them. You will speak for not more than 2 minutes. You have to talk continuously.*

- give a brief description (object)
- say what the pictures have in common (colours, audience, orchestra)
- say in what way the pictures are different (number of tiers, angle of looking, part of the play, lamps and lights, type of curtain)
- say which which theatre you like more
- explain why

