

## Episode 4: Covent Garden

**Level:** Intermediate / Upper intermediate

**Age:** Young adults / Adults

**Aims:** In this lesson the students will:

1. learn about Covent Garden;
2. practise listening for gist and reconstructing audio stories from memory using comprehension questions as prompts;
3. compare and contrast standard forms of English with more common colloquial and idiomatic expressions related to ambition and determination;
4. practise these expressions in a personalized speaking task;
5. discuss attitudes to ghosts and the supernatural and practise paraphrasing each other.

**Materials:** One copy of the worksheet per student; full transcript for Episode 4 (with all key vocabulary highlighted in red for reference); Track 1 (full audio for Episode 4); Track 2 (conversation) – all downloaded from onestopenglish

**Summary:** Follow Lord Jeffrey as he meets you in Covent Garden, in London's West End. Meet an aspiring young actor who will stop at nothing to become a great success. Finally, wander into the Drury Lane Theatre through a secret passageway and meet two more ghosts who fail, at first, to recognize Lord Jeffrey.

### Warmer activities

**Aims:** to engage students with the theme of Covent Garden; to introduce Lord Jeffrey, the Ghost of London (not required if students have already listened to previous episodes); to pre-teach a few key pieces of vocabulary; to practise listening for gist

1. Write *Covent Garden* on the board and discuss what students know about this area of London. What is it famous for? Has anyone been there before?

Here are just a few ideas to share with your students:

- It's on the edge of London's West End and is well known for its theatres, the Royal Opera House and the Drury Lane Theatre.
- It was once a fruit and veg market but is now a famous area full of tourists, all enjoying an array of shops, cafés and market stalls.
- It's well known for its street performers – come rain or shine, you'll find crowds watching a diverse range of performers,

- from singer-songwriters to acrobats to contortionists.
- Nearby Neal Street and Neal's Yard offer a large variety of trendy clothes stores, juice bars and hair salons.

2. (Only required if this is the first time students have listened to an episode.) Explain to students that they are going to listen to a very special guide to Covent Garden.

Read this to the class:

*Your guide is Lord Jeffrey, the Ghost of London, who is hundreds of years old. He's seen London change so much during this time and has been there to experience it all – from the Great Fire of London in 1666, to the explosion of music and fashion on the King's Road in the 1960s. He's the perfect person to show you around. He can choose to be either in human form or ghost form at any time and, as you'll hear, he often changes his form to scare people who try to cheat him!*

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3. Pre-teach the following vocabulary: *evening dwellers, playwrights, auditoriums, pitch-black, passageway, skeletal remains*. Here are some definitions and notes on culture to help you:

**evening dwellers** – people who like to go out in the evenings to socialize

Covent Garden is bustling with people well into the evening on nearly every day of the week. It has lots of late-night venues and its shops and restaurants have long opening hours.

**playwrights** – people who write plays, especially as their jobs

**auditoriums** – large rooms or buildings used for meetings, lectures or public performances; the parts of theatres or cinemas where the audiences sit

The auditoriums in Covent Garden aren't just found indoors – many performances happen outside, on the cobbled streets around the market. Covent Garden Market is surrounded by buildings on all four sides, making this outside space the perfect 'auditorium'.

**pitch-black** – completely black or dark

When Lord Jeffrey and the actor enter the Drury Lane Theatre, the door closes (or is closed) behind them and it's so dark that they cannot see anything.

**passageway** – a long narrow area with walls on each side that leads from one room or place to another

**skeletal remains** – the bones of a person or animal that has died

The Drury Lane Theatre is said to be one of the world's most haunted theatres. Its most famous ghost (and the one which Lord Jeffrey talks about here) is the Man in Grey, a nobleman who was murdered in the 18th century and whose *skeletal remains* were found in the theatre in 1848.

4. Explain to the students that they are going to listen to a guide to Covent Garden. Dictate these three questions:

- What playwright does Lord Jeffrey mention in his introduction?

- Who does he meet on the street?
- Where does he go with the person he meets?

5. Play Track 1 (full audio for Episode 4).

**Key:** William Shakespeare; an actor (actress); into the Drury Lane Theatre

### Memory task

**Aims:** to encourage students to work collaboratively in groups; to mentally reconstruct what they have listened to

1. Hand out the worksheet and refer students to the memory task. Put students into small groups to answer the questions.

**Key:** 1. many of London's greatest theatres; 2. any three of the following: evening dwellers, street performers, playwrights, cafés, fantastic restaurants, actors, auditoriums; 3. Hamlet; 4. because Hamlet is a male character usually performed by a male actor; 5. an entrance into the theatre; 6. when the door closes and it's pitch-black; 7. a ghost; 8. the Man in Grey; 9. a large knife; 10. because they recognize Lord Jeffrey

### Idiomatic language task: Ambition and determination

**Aims:** to compare and contrast standard forms of English with more natural sounding idiomatic equivalents; to focus on the meaning, form and use of these expressions in a collaborative speaking task

1. Explain to the students that they are going to listen to part of the conversation between Lord Jeffrey and the actor, which is full of idiomatic language related to ambition and determination, for a second time.
2. Refer students to the instructions of the first task.
3. Play Track 2 (conversation).
4. Refer students to the idiomatic phrases in the second task and get them to replace the phrases they have underlined.

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**Key:** 1. you need to accept new ideas and understand what's happening now = get with the programme; 2. make more effort than what is expected of you = go the extra mile; 3. make every effort to achieve something = pull out all the stops; 4. decide that you want something very much = have your heart set on something; 5. be patient and wait = hang in there; 6. going to be successful = going places; 7. back to where you started at the beginning = back to square one; 8. means everything to me = means the world to me

5. Play Track 2 again for students to check their answers.

6. Put students in pairs to discuss questions.

### Discussion task: Ghosts

**Aims:** to discuss attitudes towards ghosts and the supernatural in a personalized speaking task; to practise paraphrasing each other

1. Put students into pairs to discuss the questions. Remind them that they must listen carefully in order to retain as much information as possible.
2. Monitor students as they speak, listening out for any errors and examples of good language to write on the board at the end of the lesson.
3. Put students into new pairs and explain that they must paraphrase and explain their previous partner's attitudes towards ghosts to their new partner. Again, monitor while students are speaking.
4. Have brief whole-class feedback, asking a few pairs to report back on what they have discussed.

### Extension activities

- Students write their own dialogues, including language from the idiomatic language task.
- Students work in groups and tell each other ghost stories.
- Students work in groups and write their own ghost stories. These can be based on real stories from their country or on their own experience.

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### Memory task

Work together with your partner and see if you can answer these questions from memory.

1. What does Lord Jeffrey say Covent Garden is home to?
2. Mention three things Covent Garden's cosmopolitan streets are full of?
3. What character is the actor rehearsing when Lord Jeffrey approaches her?
4. Why does this surprise him?
5. What appears when the bricks move?
6. When does the actor first become very frightened?
7. Who closed the door?
8. What is the name of the ghost the actor talks about?
9. What was found buried deep in his chest?
10. Why do the ghosts apologize?

### Idiomatic language task: Ambition and determination

1. You are going to listen to the conversation between Lord Jeffrey and the actor for a second time. Read and listen to the conversation. Underline eight sections of the conversation that are different from what you hear on the recording.

<b>Actor:</b>	Alas, poor Yorick! I knew him, Horatio; a fellow of infinite jest ..
<b>Lord Jeffrey:</b>	Look! It's an actress rehearsing <i>Hamlet</i> , one of Shakespeare's greatest plays!
<b>Actor:</b>	I beg your pardon? I am an <i>actor</i> sir, not an actress. Would you call a lady doctor a <i>doctress</i> ? Or an author an <i>authress</i> ?
<b>Lord Jeffrey:</b>	Erm, no. However, if I'm not mistaken, Prince Hamlet was a man ...
<b>Actor:</b>	You old people <i>really</i> don't understand, do you? Prepare to be taken on an emotional rollercoaster by <i>my</i> Hamlet – it's evolution, my dear. You need to accept new ideas and understand what's happening now!
<b>Lord Jeffrey:</b>	I am sorry; I didn't mean to offend you.
<b>Actor:</b>	Apology accepted. It's not easy being an actor, you know. You need ambition and determination. You need to make more effort than what is expected of you.
<b>Lord Jeffrey:</b>	Does that mean you find it hard to get work?
<b>Actor:</b>	Sometimes. But you have to make every effort to achieve something if you want to get to the top.
<b>Lord Jeffrey:</b>	I guess once you decide that you want something very much, you need to work hard, be patient and wait and ... hope for the best.
<b>Actor:</b>	Absolutely; I'm going to be successful and I'm going to do whatever I can to get there!
<b>Lord Jeffrey:</b>	Well, you seem extremely determined. I have every sympathy for actors; as soon as one job is finished, it seems like you're back to where you started at the beginning. Personally, I couldn't cope with all the rejection.
<b>Actor:</b>	Well, I never intend to give up – acting means everything to me.

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2. Replace the eight underlined phrases in 1 with the correct form of the appropriate idiomatic phrases below.

get with the programme

going places

back to square one

hang in there

means the world to me

go the extra mile

have your heart set on something

pull out all the stops

3. Listen again to check your answers.

4. Discuss the following questions with your partner.

1. Do you know anybody in your life that needs to **get with the programme**?
2. Do you think you're **going places**? Why? Why not?
3. Have you ever felt that you are **back to square one**?
4. Was there a time in your life when you had to **hang in there**?
5. What **means the world to you**?

Notice that we often use *the world* to mean 'everything'. Another example is *to love someone all the world* (often said by a parent to a child). Do you **love** someone **all the world**?

6. Have you ever **gone the extra mile** in your studies or your job?
7. Do you **have your heart set on something**?
8. Have you ever **pulled out all the stops** in order to achieve something?

### Discussion task: Ghosts

1. Read the information in the box below.

In Episode 4, we heard about one of the ghosts of the Drury Lane Theatre, known as the Man in Grey. Unlike Lord Jeffrey, who is a fictional ghost, the Man in Grey is based on real-life stories told by actors and stagehands who have witnessed seeing him in the theatre.

2. Work with a partner and talk about your views on the subject of ghosts and the supernatural. When your partner is talking, listen carefully and remember as much information as you can. Here is a list of questions to help you:

- Do you believe in ghosts or ghost stories like the one above?
- Do you believe that dead people come back to life as ghosts?
- Would you talk to a ghost if you saw one?
- Do you know any good ghost stories?
- Do you know anyone who has seen a ghost?
- Have you ever seen a ghost?

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- If one of your friends told you they had seen a ghost, would you believe him or her? Why? Why not?
  - What is the scariest ghost story you know?
  - Do you believe that houses can be haunted? Have you ever been to a haunted house?
  - If you were a ghost, who or what would you haunt?
  - Can you recall any strange or unexplained events in your life?
3. **Now swap partners and tell your new partner about your old partner's views on ghosts and the supernatural.**

**Listen carefully to your partner and ask him or her at least one question about their beliefs when they've finished talking!**

**If you come to London, remember to visit Covent Garden. It's a fantastic place!**

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Yes, yes, yes! It's me again! Lord Jeffrey, the Ghost of London! I'd like to welcome you to Covent Garden, the heart of the West End and home to many of London's greatest theatres! Let's walk.

One can't help but be seduced by the atmosphere here. These cosmopolitan roads are full of evening dwellers, street performers and playwrights, cafés, fantastic restaurants, actors and auditoriums. I think if Shakespeare were alive today, you would find him here, weaving amongst the revellers and writing ... oh, his writing!

- Actor:** Alas, poor Yorick! I knew him, Horatio; a fellow of infinite jest ...
- Lord Jeffrey:** Look! It's an actress rehearsing *Hamlet*, one of Shakespeare's greatest plays!
- Actor:** I beg your pardon? I am an *actor* sir, not an actress. Would you call a lady doctor a *doctress*? Or an author an *authress*?
- Lord Jeffrey:** Erm, no. However, if I'm not mistaken, Prince Hamlet was a man ...
- Actor:** You old people *really* don't understand, do you? Prepare to be taken on an emotional rollercoaster by *my* Hamlet – it's evolution, my dear. **Get with the programme!**
- Lord Jeffrey:** I am sorry; I didn't mean to offend you.
- Actor:** Apology accepted. It's not easy being an actor, you know. You need ambition and determination. You need to **go the extra mile.**
- Lord Jeffrey:** Does that mean you find it hard to get work?
- Actor:** Sometimes. But you have to **pull out all the stops** if you want to get to the top.
- Lord Jeffrey:** I guess once you **have your heart set on something**, you need to work hard, **hang in there** and ... hope for the best.
- Actor:** Absolutely; I'm **going places** and I'm going to do whatever I can to get there!
- Lord Jeffrey:** Well, you seem extremely determined. I have every sympathy for actors; as soon as one job is finished, it seems like you're **back to square one.** Personally, I couldn't cope with all the rejection.
- Actor:** Well, I never intend to give up – acting **means the world to me.**
- Actor:** ... What was that?
- Lord Jeffrey:** I swear, I just saw ... Look over there! These bricks have moved and an entrance has appeared!
- Actor:** I wonder what's inside. It's very dark.

Track 2

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- Lord Jeffrey:** Let's take a closer look.
- Actor:** Did you close the door?
- Lord Jeffrey:** No, I didn't do it.
- Actor:** If you didn't do it, then who *did* do it?
- Lord Jeffrey:** Well, I don't know who did it!
- Actor:** Well, whoever did it needs to undo it right now! It's pitch-black, I can't see anything and I'm really quite scared! You must have heard the stories about the ghosts of the Drury Lane Theatre?
- Lord Jeffrey:** Ghosts? There are no ghosts here! I tell you my dear, if there were ghosts *here*, I'd certainly know about them.
- Actor:** What do you mean? Oh, hang on; I've got a torch on my phone. There we go!!
- Lord Jeffrey:** Look, there's a passageway – shine the torch down ...
- Ghost 1:** It wasn't me who closed the door.
- Lord Jeffrey/Actor:** ARRGGHH! GHOSTS!
- Ghost 1:** Well, I opened it but I, I certainly didn't close it!
- Ghost 2:** It was me that closed it – you were letting the cold air in!
- Ghost 1:** I was letting *fresh* air in.
- Ghost 2:** *Cold* air!
- Ghost 1:** *Fresh* air!
- Ghost 2:** *Cold* air!
- Lord Jeffrey/Actor:** Run!
- Actor:** They were ghosts! *Real* ghosts! That's what I was trying to tell you! I've read about them. There's a famous ghost that haunts this theatre called the Man in Grey. It's said that his skeletal remains were found here in the 18th century, with a large knife buried deep within his chest!
- Lord Jeffrey:** Ah, yes. I remember when he disappeared. Terribly shocking at the time. Anyway, I think we've lost them for now ...
- Ghost 1:** We're all lost in one way or another, my dear.
- Ghost 2:** I would be lost without the glory of the stage, the opening night, the bright lights as the curtain rises!
- Lord Jeffrey:** Right, that's quite enough! You've scared this poor girl half to death! You should be ashamed to call yourselves ghosts! Show yourselves.



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**Ghost 1:** Sorry.

**Ghost 2:** Sorry.

**Ghost 1:** In the dark we didn't realize it was you, Lord Jeffrey ....

**Lord Jeffrey:** Open the door, please – we're leaving. ... There's the exit up ahead. Are you OK, my dear? You seem ... very ... tense.

**Actor:** Fine. I'm fine.

**Lord Jeffrey:** Yes. Well, you've ... you've probably guessed now that ... I'm a ghost.

**Actor:** Yes.

**Lord Jeffrey:** Are you sure you're OK?

**Actor:** Yes.

**Lord Jeffrey:** Would you like me to ... go away now and ... never, ever come back?

**Actor:** Yes.

**Lord Jeffrey:** OK, I'll erm, just leave you, erm, here, then. Ah, OK. Bye!

Ah. Didn't handle that one particularly well, did I? Hmm. Oh dear. Well, she'll probably get over it after a few years of counselling – never mind! Come on, traveller; onwards!

Now, if you liked that theatre, you just wait until you see the Palladium! No ghosts there, I believe, but it's one of the most fantastic places in London ...