

le THÉÂTROPHONE

Lexique avec support anglais



Jouez, Monsieur Molière !

Épisode 1 : « La rencontre »

Mot ou expression / Word or Expression	Explication / Explanation
Théâtre du Palais-Royal	<i>Palais-Royal Theatre.</i> A theatre located in Paris during Molière's time, where he performed with his troupe for many years. It is also where the final performance of <i>Le Malade imaginaire</i> took place.
« Le Malade imaginaire »	<i>The Imaginary Invalid.</i> One of Molière's most famous comedies. The main character, Argan, believes he is constantly ill and is obsessed with doctors and medicine.
Saltimbanque	A street performer or entertainer. Through singing, acting, acrobatics, and other performances, a saltimbanque aims to amuse passersby.
« Tirer sa révérence »	<i>To take one's final bow / to step away.</i> An expression meaning to leave a position, role, or situation. In this context, it suggests that Molière is reaching the end of both his acting career and his life.
« Se poudrer »	<i>To powder one's face / to put on makeup.</i> At the time, basic makeup was made of white powder applied to the face. Se poudrer means to put on makeup or powder one's face.
« Se faufiler »	To slip or sneak into a place without being noticed.
« Avec fascination et révérence »	<i>With fascination and reverence.</i> This means that Louis touches Molière's belongings with great admiration and respect.
« Ce métier déshonorant »	<i>This dishonourable profession.</i> During Molière's time, acting was considered dishonourable by the Church. Some of Molière's plays — especially <i>Tartuffe</i> — shocked religious authorities.
Convoitise	<i>Covetousness / greed.</i> A strong desire to possess something, such as wealth, status, or another person's success.

« Le plus subversif des arts »	<i>The most subversive of the arts.</i> The word subversive describes something bold that challenges rules, traditions, or power structures. Molière sees theatre as the ideal art form for questioning society and authority.
« Nous tournons en dérision »	Tourner en dérision means to mock, ridicule, or make fun of something.
« Coiffés de nos cheveux blancs »	<i>Wearing our white wigs.</i> Refers to the white wigs that were very fashionable among the nobility during this period.
Scélérat	A wicked or ill-intentioned person who is likely to commit crimes or harmful acts. Similar to a villain, scoundrel, or criminal.
Sa plume	<i>His quill / feather pen.</i> A feather quill used for writing.
Bougeoir	A small candle holder, often with a handle or ring so it can be carried easily.
« Que je vous détrouse »	Détrouser means to rob someone or steal their belongings by force.
« Masqué en Pantalone »	<i>Dressed as / masked as Pantalone.</i> Pantalone is a famous character from commedia dell'arte, a style of masked theatre from Italy that greatly influenced Molière. Pantalone is usually portrayed as an old, greedy man attracted to young women.
Cassette	A small locked chest or box used to store valuables such as money, jewelry, or precious objects.
« Ma prochaine séance »	Here, séance refers to the next theatrical performance or show.
« Tout-Paris »	A French expression meaning all of Paris. It can also refer to the city's elite or influential social circles.
Ragots	<i>False or harmful gossip about someone.</i> Synonyms include rumours, hearsay, and gossip.

Épisode 2 : La première leçon

Mot ou expression / Word or Expression	Explication / Explanation
« Un sujet qui ne vous fait pas railler »	<i>A subject that does not make you laugh or mock.</i> Railler means to mock or make fun of something. In this context, Molière is unable to laugh about the relationship between parents and children.
Progéniture	<i>Offspring / children / descendants.</i> A person's children or descendants.
« Maître chanteur »	<i>Blackmailer.</i> Someone who uses threats or pressure to force another person to give them something, such as money, favours, or services.

Feindre	<i>To pretend or fake something.</i> In this context, it refers to acting out different emotions in theatre.
Jeunots	<i>Youngsters / young people.</i> An informal term used to describe young people. It can be affectionate or slightly insulting, suggesting someone is immature or naïve.
« Adultes éplorés »	<i>Grief-stricken adults / sorrowful adults.</i> Adults who are deeply upset or crying heavily because of sadness or grief.
Ragoûtante	Something tempting, attractive, or appealing. In this context, the young woman is very attractive to Pantalone.
Croupion	<i>Rear end / backside.</i> Refers to the backside or rear end of a person.
« Vous blasphémez »	<i>You are blaspheming.</i> Blasphémer means to speak disrespectfully against religion or sacred things. Synonyms include insult, offend, or profane.
Damné	<i>Damned / condemned.</i> In the Catholic religion, a damned person is someone condemned to hell because of their sins.
Vertueux	<i>Virtuous / morally good.</i> A person who behaves according to moral values and demonstrates kindness, honesty, and integrity.

Épisode 3 : Le métier

Mot ou expression / Word or Expression	Explication / Explanation
Arlequin	<i>Arlequin.</i> A character from commedia dell'arte. Arlequin is usually portrayed as a mischievous, lazy, and food-loving servant.
Sonnet	<i>Sonnet.</i> A type of poem that was very popular during Molière's time and follows strict rules. A sonnet is made up of 14 lines, rhymes, and often explores themes such as love, time, or beauty.
Affliction	A deep feeling of sadness or suffering. Synonyms include sorrow, despair, and grief.
Thésée	<i>Theseus.</i> A character from Greek mythology who is famous for defeating the Minotaur. He is a symbol of bravery and heroism. In this context, Thésée is compared to King Louis XIV.
Billevesée	<i>Nonsense / foolish talk.</i> Meaningless or foolish talk. Synonyms include nonsense, silliness, or absurdity.
Borné	<i>Narrow-minded / close-minded.</i> A narrow-minded or closed-minded person. Synonyms include stubborn, rigid, or intolerant.
« Toute la terre se prosterne »	<i>The whole world bows down.</i> Se prosterner means to bow down as a sign of respect before a person in authority. In this context, it means that everyone submits to the King.