**Actuele lesbrief Engels – Waiting Game**

**Voor de docent**

Een geplande uitvoering van *Wachten op Godot* heeft tot veel commotie geleid.

**ERK-niveau**

*Lezen B2 – Lezen om informatie op te doen: Kan artikelen en verslagen over hedendaagse problemen begrijpen, waarin de schrijvers bepaalde stellingen of standpunten innemen. (LEB2-3a)*

Leesstrategieën – *Kan gebruikmaken van uiteenlopende strategieën om tot tekstbegrip te komen, waaronder het letten op hoofdpunten.* – *Kan van minder frequente woorden en uitdrukkingen de betekenis controleren door gebruik te maken van websites, (online) fora en eentalige woordenboeken.*

**Intro**

A recent production of *Waiting for Godot* has caused a big mess.

Assignment 1

You may use English-language Internet sources to help you.

a Brainstorm with a classmate to make a list of 5 or more words related to theatre productions.

**Waiting Game**

Samuel Beckett was an Irish writer. *Waiting for Godot* is a play written by Beckett. In the play, two characters, Vladimir and Estragon, wait for this Godot. While they wait, they discuss all sorts of things and talk with several people passing by.

*Waiting for Godot* premiered in 1953, but it is still a popular production. Sometimes, [a production of *Waiting for Godot* may cause a big argument.](https://www.irishtimes.com/culture/stage/2023/02/04/irish-directors-all-male-beckett-play-cancelled-as-only-men-could-audition/)

Assignment 2

Read the text. Find (and mark) the following words in the text:

*all-male – (to) audition – venue – inclusivity – policy – spokesperson – (to) stage – outdated –   
(to) uphold – (to) sue – estate – (to) deviate – tackling – casting call – leniency*

Read the following definitions. Match the above words and expressions with their correct definitions.

1. dealing with
2. to do something that is different from what is expected
3. the intellectual property of an artist who has died
4. a man or woman who speaks for someone or something
5. not modern or current
6. an officially accepted set of rules or ideas about what should be done
7. only consisting of men
8. the place where an event takes place
9. the practice of not excluding members or participants on the grounds of gender, race, class, sexuality, disability, etc.
10. to produce a play or other performance in a theatre
11. a series of auditions held in order to find suitable actors
12. to start a legal case against someone
13. to support and defend something
14. sympathy; mildness
15. to try out for a role in a play or film, a position in an orchestra, etc.

Assignment 3

a Choose the best summary.

1 A production of *Waiting for Godot* was cancelled at the University of Groningen, because the theatre company only allowed male performers to audition.

2 A theatre company has decided not to perform Samuel Beckett’s *Waiting for Godot* because the gender discussion has become utterly absurd.

3 Beckett left strict instructions about how his plays were to be staged. For example, *Waiting for Godot* is only to be performed by male actors.

4 *Waiting for Godot* is outdated and archaic because it is a play for five white guys that excludes all people of other genders for the roles.

b Who is Oisín Moyne?

1 A director who is sued by the Beckett estate for casting women for *Waiting for Godot*.

2 A theatre programmer working at a cultural centre of the University of Groningen.

3 An Irish man in Groningen who wanted to direct Beckett’s play *Waiting for Godot*.

4 One of the main characters in Samuel Beckett’s absurd play *Waiting for Godot*.

c Medeea Anton said that “the decision to cancel overlooked the important role of the non-acting crew in the production of the play.” What does she mean?

1 In a theatre production, the people backstage, who are not acting, are far more important than the actors on stage.

2 In this production, the actors on stage are men, but most people working backstage are female and/or from the LGBT community.

3 It was a good idea to cancel the production because the people working backstage are always overlooked.

4 The women working backstage feel cancelled because everybody is only talking about the male actors.