



Reading > Lesson 7: Sentence Addition Questions > Exercise 7.1

FOCUS: Understanding paragraph organization and cohesion and answering sentence addition questions.

[Continue](#)


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DIRECTIONS: Read the new sentence and the passage that follows. Click on the square [...] that marks the best position for the sentence.

[Review](#)
[Continue](#)

- 1 Look at the four squares [...] that indicate where the following sentence could be added to the passage.

Others see the form as evolving out of improvisations based on the comedies of the ancient Roman writers Plautus and Terence.

Click on the square [...] that marks the best position for the sentence.

Glossary

mimes: entertainers who imitate actions and moods without speaking

Although much of the theatrical activity in Italy during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries was neither professional nor open to the public, one form—commedia dell'arte—was both. Commedia dell'arte, the comedy of professional artists, is a term used to distinguish the plays performed by certain troupes, or groups of professional entertainers, from those performed by amateur actors. No one knows precisely how or when commedia dell'arte came into being. [...] Some trace it to the **mimes** and other entertainers of Roman times whose traditions were supposedly continued thereafter by small wandering troupes. [...] Whatever its origin, commedia dell'arte is first mentioned in historical records in the 1560s. [...] By 1600 companies were playing not only throughout Italy but also in France, Spain, and other European countries. [...] Wherever they went, they easily found audiences among both the common people and the ruling classes.