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# BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

## Words in the News

### Playing 'Harry Potter'



*NB: This is not a word-for-word transcript*

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#### Transcript

If you thought this was like a scene from the Harry Potter movies then you'd be right.

This castle in Poland has been transformed into a temporary college of **wizardry**.

Students from all over the world have flown in to do **role play** in this **makeshift** Hogwarts.

Now organisers want to **cast a spell** on potential **investors**. It's so they can buy their own castle and make this a permanent attraction.

#### Vocabulary

##### **wizardry**

the practice of magic; great skill in a particular area

##### **role play**

pretending to be another person in order to learn something

##### **makeshift**

improvised, pretend

##### **cast a spell**

say words which are supposed to have magical powers

##### **investors**

people who give money to commercial ventures in expectation of making a profit

**Watch the video online: Playing 'Harry Potter'** <http://bbc.in/1FQaUiZ>

## Exercise

Use one of the words or phrases below to complete each of these sentences from news reports. Note that you may have to change the form of a word to complete the sentence correctly.

**wizardry / role play / makeshift / cast a spell / investors**

1. A man accused of plotting to kill the adoptive parents of a friend he met on the internet told a court it was just "\_\_\_\_\_".
2. Dressed in his white witch robes, he will make a circle of stones and burn incense while \_\_\_\_\_ invoking earth, air, fire and water.
3. A shopkeeper in New Delhi is doing his bit to help raise children out of poverty by setting up a \_\_\_\_\_ school underneath a railway bridge.
4. The Dubai development is 15 minutes from a golf course and the sea and half an hour from the busiest international airport in the world.  
  
In 2007 \_\_\_\_\_ put down tens of thousands of dollars but have so far received nothing.
5. Younger audiences are targeted with productions like The Magic Flute which combines opera and animation, and the superb National theatre of Scotland show Dragon which uses puppetry and other \_\_\_\_\_ to tell a universal tale.

## Answers

1. A man accused of plotting to kill the adoptive parents of a friend he met on the internet told a court it was just "**role play**".

**Source:** Double death plot was "role play"

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/lancashire/8166090.stm>

2. Dressed in his white witch robes, he will make a circle of stones and burn incense while **casting a spell** invoking earth, air, fire and water.

**Source:** White witch to tempt Nessie

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/southern\\_counties/2981386.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/southern_counties/2981386.stm)

3. A shopkeeper in New Delhi is doing his bit to help raise children out of poverty by setting up a **makeshift** school underneath a railway bridge.

**Source:** The makeshift school helping India's poorest children

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-21507893>

4. The Dubai development is 15 minutes from a golf course and the sea and half an hour from the busiest international airport in the world.

In 2007 **investors** put down tens of thousands of dollars but have so far received nothing.

**Source:** Amid fears of more bubble trouble, who'd buy in Dubai?

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-31988871>

5. Younger audiences are targeted with productions like The Magic Flute which combines opera and animation, and the superb National theatre of Scotland show Dragon which uses puppetry and other **wizardry** to tell a universal tale.

**Source:** Edinburgh International Festival woos a younger audience

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-edinburgh-east-fife-31945062>