success /səkˈses/ noun ★★★

Level: Upper Intermediate - Advanced

Suggestions for use in the classroom

This dictation is appropriate for classes at Upper Intermediate level or above. Although the dictation is only about 1½ minutes long, using all the activities in the teacher’s notes will take about one hour of class time.

The British playwright, Harold Pinter, has penned twenty-nine plays, / over twenty screen-plays for cinema and TV, a novel and a substantial amount of poetry. / Despite announcing, in 2005, that he would retire from writing plays, / the Nobel Prize-winner for Literature has not given up the written word. / In the last couple of years, he has become, if anything, even more prolific. / A large number of political causes, ranging from the plight of Palestinians to American foreign policy, have attracted his attention. / In the vanguard of the anti-war movement, / his views are disseminated widely in hundreds of newspapers and journals, / on his own website and, to some extent, in the blogosphere. / On one occasion, however, Pinter found himself at a loss for words. / A woman he’d just met told her six-year-old son that Pinter was a great writer. / Refusing to take his mother’s word for it, the boy replied, “Oh yes? But can he do a ‘W’?”

Please note that the mark ’/’ indicates a pause in the speaker’s monologue.