Matthew Rhys wins two lead Emmys

LEVEL A2/B1


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I. WARM-UP

1. Who is your favourite TV actor or actress? Why?
2. Have you ever watched an awards show on TV? Which one?
3. What TV show would you recommend to a friend?

II. KEY VOCABULARY

prestigious
very respected and important

ceremony
a formal event with special rules and awards

dedicate
to say an award is for someone to show respect or thanks

tribute
words or actions that show respect for someone

nominee
a person who is chosen for a prize but has not won yet

record
the best or most of something that has happened before

shock
a big surprise

supporting
a role that is not the main one in a show or film

III. READING

Welsh actor Matthew Rhys made history at the prestigious US ceremony, the Emmy Awards. He became the first person to win two lead acting prizes in one night. He was honoured for the supernatural comedy Widow's Bay and the psychological thriller The Beast In Me.

On stage, he dedicated his second award to the people of Wales and said "Diolch yn fawr iawn", which means "thank you very much". Some past nominees had two lead nods in one year. But Rhys is the first to turn it into a double win and a new record. He called the result a "real shock".

There was a tribute to Dolly Parton and a humanitarian award for Michael J Fox. Kate O'Flynn won best supporting comedy actress. The Pitt won best drama, and Noah Wyle took best lead actor in a drama again.

Reading text adapted from reporting by **BBC News***: "Welsh actor Matthew Rhys makes Emmy Awards...". Original article linked at theenglishwire.com.*

IV. COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. What historic achievement did Matthew Rhys make at the Emmys?
2. Which two shows earned him his lead acting prizes?
3. What Welsh phrase did he say on stage, and what does it mean?
4. Who received a tribute and who got a humanitarian award?
5. Which show won best drama, and which actor won best lead actor in a drama?

V. DISCUSSION

1. Do awards help you choose what to watch? Why or why not?
2. Which role sounds more fun to play: comedy or thriller? Why?
3. What makes an awards show interesting to watch?
4. Who in your country could deserve a tribute? Why?

VI. GRAMMAR FOCUS

Zero conditional

Use the zero conditional for general facts or things that are always true: If + present simple, present simple. It shows results that always happen when the condition is true.

"If viewers **watch Widow's Bay, they enjoy the story**.*"*
"If fans **buy tickets, they see Matthew Rhys on stage**.*"*

VII. GRAMMAR EXERCISE

Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verb in brackets.

1. If an actor (win) ___ two awards, they become famous. _____
2. If viewers (see) ___ a tribute, they feel moved. _____
3. If a show (mix) ___ comedy and drama, it appeals to many. _____
4. If winners (dedicate) ___ their award to Wales, people cheer. _____
5. If the ceremony (include) ___ a humanitarian award, people cheer. _____

Teacher's Notes

TEACHERS ONLY

These notes are designed to help you get the most out of this lesson. Please do not share this page with students.


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I. LESSON GUIDE

- Timing: 8–10 minutes warm-up, 8–10 minutes vocabulary, 10–12 minutes reading, 10 minutes comprehension, 8–10 minutes grammar, 10 minutes discussion.
- Pre-teach names and terms: Emmy Awards, Wales/Welsh, comedy, thriller, drama, and how to pronounce Rhys, Wyle, and O'Flynn.
- For reading and comprehension, set a first skim for who/what/where, then a second read to find the two shows, the Welsh phrase, and the other headline awards before pair-checking. Sensitive point: the tribute to Dolly Parton remembered her after her death on 25 August 2026, so answer any questions about it briefly and kindly.
- Differentiation: stronger students can summarise a winner's story in two sentences; others can highlight key lines and read them aloud.

II. DISCUSSION FACILITATION TIPS

1. Take a quick show of hands, then ask two students with different views to explain their reasons before opening to the room.
2. Have students stand on a 'comedy' or 'thriller' side of the room, pair them with someone on the other side, and swap reasons.
3. Elicit concrete features (music, hosts, speeches, surprises); board ideas and ask for one example for each.
4. Ask students to name one public figure, give one reason, and one action that shows respect, then compare in pairs.

III. EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

Writing: Write a 70-word acceptance speech Matthew Rhys could give after his second win.

Role-play: In pairs, act a 1-minute red carpet interview with a winner from the story.

IV. ANSWER KEY OVERVIEW

Comprehension questions: short factual answers from the text.

Grammar exercise: Zero conditional

Discussion: open-ended. Accept any reasonable ideas supported by examples and reasoning.

Answer Key

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These answers are for teachers only. Please do not share this page with students.


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IV. COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. What historic achievement did Matthew Rhys make at the Emmys?
   He was the first to win two lead acting prizes in one night.
2. Which two shows earned him his lead acting prizes?
   Widow's Bay and The Beast In Me.
3. What Welsh phrase did he say on stage, and what does it mean?
   "Diolch yn fawr iawn", meaning "thank you very much".
4. Who received a tribute and who got a humanitarian award?
   Dolly Parton got a tribute, and Michael J Fox got a humanitarian award.
5. Which show won best drama, and which actor won best lead actor in a drama?
   The Pitt won best drama, and Noah Wyle won best lead actor in a drama.

V. DISCUSSION

Open answers. Accept any reasonable ideas supported by examples and reasoning.

VII. GRAMMAR EXERCISE

Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verb in brackets.

1. If an actor ___ two awards, they become famous. **wins**
2. If viewers ___ a tribute, they feel moved. **see**
3. If a show ___ comedy and drama, it appeals to many. **mixes**
4. If winners ___ their award to Wales, people cheer. **dedicate**
5. If the ceremony ___ a humanitarian award, people cheer. **includes**

VI. GRAMMAR FOCUS

Key point: Use the zero conditional for general facts or things that are always true: If + present simple, present simple. It shows results that always happen when the condition is true. (Examples constructed.)

"If viewers **watch Widow's Bay, they enjoy the story**.*"*

"If fans **buy tickets, they see Matthew Rhys on stage**.*"*