

The Gathered Leaves Nhb Modern Plays English Edit Workbook

Introduction to The Gathered Leaves NHB Modern Plays English Edit

The Gathered Leaves NHB Modern Plays English Edit is an acclaimed theatrical work that has garnered significant attention in contemporary drama circles. As part of the National Heritage Board (NHB) Modern Plays series, this edition offers a fresh, accessible translation and adaptation of the original script, making it a vital resource for students, educators, directors, and theater enthusiasts. The NHB (National Heritage Board) Modern Plays series aims to preserve and promote modern theatrical works while making them accessible in English to a global audience.

This particular play, known for its poignant themes and compelling storytelling, explores complex human emotions and social issues, resonating with audiences across cultures. The English edition, meticulously edited by experts, ensures that the play's nuances, cultural contexts, and artistic integrity are preserved while making it accessible for English-speaking performers and viewers. Whether used in academic settings, community theaters, or professional productions, the NHB Modern Plays English Edit of *The Gathered Leaves* offers a comprehensive resource for understanding and staging this meaningful work.

Background and Context of *The Gathered Leaves*

Origins and Development

Originally penned in its native language, *The Gathered Leaves* was created by a prominent playwright whose work often delves into societal issues, personal identity, and human resilience. The play was first performed in its original language to critical acclaim, praised for its lyrical dialogue and powerful storytelling.

Recognizing the importance of sharing this work with a broader audience, the NHB series commissioned a modern English translation and adaptation. The goal was to retain the cultural essence and emotional depth of the original while ensuring clarity and accessibility for English-speaking audiences worldwide.

Thematic Focus

The Gathered Leaves deals with themes such as:

- Memory and Nostalgia: Reflecting on the past and its influence on present identity.
- Loss and Healing: Exploring grief, acceptance, and the process of emotional recovery.
- Cultural Identity: Addressing issues of cultural heritage and assimilation.
- Human Connection: Emphasizing empathy, community, and shared experiences.

These themes make the play particularly relevant in contemporary society, where issues of cultural diversity, mental health, and social cohesion are increasingly prominent.

Features of the NHB Modern Plays English Edition

Accurate and Thoughtful Translation

The NHB edition includes a carefully crafted English translation that:

- Maintains the original's poetic language and emotional depth.
- Preserves cultural nuances and references.
- Uses contemporary language to enhance relatability.

This thoughtful translation ensures that the play's original intent and artistic beauty are accessible to modern audiences without losing its cultural authenticity.

Comprehensive Stage Directions and Annotations

To assist directors and actors, the edition provides detailed stage directions and annotations that clarify:

- Character movements and expressions.
- Scene settings and lighting cues.
- Cultural references and their significance.

These elements facilitate effective staging and performance, making it suitable for both professional and amateur productions.

Educational and Performance Resources

The NHB edition is designed as an educational tool, offering:

- Contextual background information about the playwright and the play's origin.

- Critical analysis of themes and characters.
- Discussion questions for classroom use.
- Suggested performance approaches and interpretations.

This makes the edition invaluable for drama students and educators seeking to deepen their understanding of the work.

Why Choose the NHB Modern Plays English Edition?

Accessibility and Inclusivity

The English edition broadens access, allowing non-native speakers and international audiences to engage with the play's themes and storytelling. It promotes inclusivity in educational and theatrical settings.

Preservation of Artistic Integrity

While translating and adapting, the NHB ensures that the artistic essence and emotional impact of the original work are preserved. This fidelity is crucial for maintaining the play's integrity and resonance.

Versatility for Different Productions

The edition caters to various production scales—from small community theaters to large professional stages—thanks to its detailed staging guidelines and flexible interpretation options.

How to Use *The Gathered Leaves* NHB Edition

In Educational Settings

- Incorporate the play into literature and drama curricula.
- Use discussion questions to stimulate critical thinking.
- Assign performance projects to develop practical skills.

In Theatre Productions

- Follow the detailed stage directions for effective staging.
- Use the annotations to inform character development and scene transitions.
- Explore different thematic interpretations based on the educational resources.

For Personal Study and Reflection

- Read the play alongside critical analyses to deepen understanding.
- Reflect on the themes and how they relate to contemporary issues.
- Use the play as a basis for creative writing or performance practice.

Conclusion

The Gathered Leaves NHB Modern Plays English Edit stands as a testament to the power of translation and adaptation in bridging cultural and linguistic divides. By providing a faithful, accessible, and richly annotated version of the original work, it opens doors for diverse audiences to experience its profound themes and artistic beauty. Whether for educational purposes, theatrical productions, or personal reflection, this edition is an invaluable resource that enriches the global theatrical landscape.

As modern audiences continue to seek stories that explore human resilience, cultural identity, and emotional depth, the NHB edition of *The Gathered Leaves* ensures that this compelling play remains relevant and impactful. Its thoughtful presentation and comprehensive resources make it a must-have for anyone interested in contemporary drama that challenges, inspires, and resonates across cultures and generations.

The Gathered Leaves NHB Modern Plays English Edit: A Comprehensive Exploration

Introduction

The *Gathered Leaves NHB Modern Plays English Edit* stands as a significant contribution to contemporary theatrical literature, particularly within the context of modern British and international drama. Published by the renowned National Theatre Bookshop (NHB), this edition offers a carefully curated, linguistically refined, and critically insightful version of the original play, making it accessible to a wider audience of students, scholars, and theater practitioners. As a modern classic, *The Gathered Leaves* has garnered acclaim for its thematic depth, poetic language, and innovative structure. This article delves into the origins of the play, the significance of its NHB English edition, and the broader implications for modern drama and theatrical practice.

Origins and Context of *The Gathered Leaves*

The Play's Literary Roots

The Gathered Leaves is the work of renowned playwright and poet David Lan, whose multifaceted career spans theatre directing, writing, and cultural activism. First staged in the early 21st century,

the play explores themes of memory, loss, societal change, and the human condition. It is often praised for its lyrical language and non-linear narrative, weaving personal stories into a collective tapestry that resonates across generations.

Historical and Cultural Backdrop

The play emerged during a period of significant societal upheaval, reflecting the anxieties and hopes of contemporary Britain and beyond. It addresses issues such as migration, identity, political unrest, and the healing power of art. The play's structure mirrors the fragmented nature of modern life, employing poetic monologues, visual symbolism, and multimedia elements to create an immersive theatrical experience.

Significance of the NHB Modern Plays English Edition

Accessibility and Educational Value

The Gathered Leaves NHB Modern Plays English Edit is designed to serve as an accessible yet rigorous version of the original script. It features:

- Modernized Language: The edition refines the play's poetic diction, making it more approachable without diluting its artistic integrity.
- Annotations and Footnotes: These provide contextual explanations, literary references, and performance notes, aiding students and readers in understanding nuanced themes.
- Introduction and Critical Essays: Expert commentary offers insights into the play's themes, staging, and cultural significance, enriching the reader's comprehension.

Editorial Philosophy and Approach

The NHB's editorial team aimed to preserve the play's poetic rhythm and thematic depth while ensuring clarity for modern readers. Key considerations included:

- Maintaining the play's original tone and intention.
- Balancing fidelity to the playwright's language with readability.
- Incorporating stage directions and performance cues that facilitate production and study.

This careful editing process ensures that the edition serves both academic and theatrical purposes, bridging the gap between literary analysis and practical staging.

Deep Dive into the Play's Structure and Themes

Structural Features

The Gathered Leaves defies traditional linear storytelling, opting instead for a fragmented, collage-like approach. Its structure comprises:

- Multiple Perspectives: Characters from diverse backgrounds share monologues and dialogues, creating a polyphonic narrative.
- Poetic Vignettes: Short, lyrical scenes that evoke emotion and reflection.
- Non-linear Timeline: Events are presented out of chronological order, emphasizing memory and perception.

This innovative structure challenges audiences and performers alike, prompting deeper engagement with the material.

Central Themes Explored

The play tackles complex themes that resonate universally:

- Memory and Nostalgia: The gathering of leaves symbolizes the collection of memories, both beautiful and painful.
- Loss and Healing: Characters confront personal and collective grief, seeking solace and reconciliation.
- Identity and Otherness: Questions of cultural identity, migration, and belonging are woven throughout.
- Art as Salvation: The transformative power of storytelling, poetry, and performance underscores the play's message of hope and resilience.

The NHB edition emphasizes these themes through carefully annotated text, highlighting their relevance in contemporary discourse.

The Role of Language and Poetry in the Play

Poetic Language as a Stylistic Device

The Gathered Leaves distinguishes itself through its poetic language, which elevates the theatrical experience. The edition captures this lyrical quality, ensuring that:

- The rhythm and cadence of the original are preserved.

- Metaphors and symbolism are clearly conveyed.
- Emotional nuances are accessible to modern readers.

This poetic approach invites audiences to engage not just intellectually but emotionally, fostering empathy and reflection.

Language as a Reflection of Cultural Identity

The play's language reflects its multicultural themes, incorporating diverse dialects, idioms, and poetic forms. The NHB English edition navigates this linguistic richness by providing annotations that explain cultural references and linguistic nuances, helping audiences appreciate the play's global outlook.

Practical Implications for Theatre Practitioners and Educators

For Directors and Actors

- The edition offers detailed stage directions and character notes that assist in rehearsals.
- It encourages creative interpretation, emphasizing the play's poetic and non-linear elements.
- The annotations aid in understanding character motivations and thematic subtleties.

For Educators and Students

- The critical essays and contextual information serve as valuable teaching tools.
- The accessibility of the language makes it suitable for classroom study.
- It supports interdisciplinary approaches, integrating literature, performance arts, and social studies.

For Researchers and Scholars

- The edition's scholarly apparatus facilitates critical analysis.
- It provides a foundation for further research into contemporary drama, cultural studies, and performance theory.

Broader Impact on Modern Drama and Cultural Discourse

Promoting Inclusivity and Diversity

By highlighting stories from varied cultural backgrounds, The Gathered Leaves and its NHB edition contribute to a more inclusive theatrical repertoire. It encourages dialogue around migration, identity, and societal change, aligning with contemporary movements for social justice.

Stimulating Artistic Innovation

The play's structural and linguistic innovations inspire playwrights and performers to experiment with form and language. The edition's emphasis on poetic storytelling fosters creative exploration within the theatrical community.

Enhancing Global Cultural Exchange

As part of NHB's catalog, the play reaches international audiences, promoting cross-cultural understanding through theatre. The English edition ensures that non-native speakers can engage with the work, broadening its global impact.

Future Perspectives and Continuing Relevance

The Gathered Leaves NHB Modern Plays English Edit exemplifies how contemporary plays can be revitalized through thoughtful editing and presentation. Its enduring relevance lies in addressing universal themes through innovative form and language, making it a vital resource for future generations of theatre practitioners, students, and audiences.

As societal conversations around migration, identity, and healing evolve, plays like The Gathered Leaves will remain pivotal. The NHB edition ensures that these conversations are accessible, engaging, and rooted in poetic artistry, fostering a vibrant cultural dialogue.

Conclusion

The Gathered Leaves NHB Modern Plays English Edit represents a masterful intersection of literary refinement, theatrical innovation, and cultural engagement. By carefully balancing the play's poetic depth with accessibility, the edition opens pathways for deeper understanding, creative staging, and academic exploration. It underscores the enduring power of theatre as a reflection of human experience and a catalyst for societal change, securing its place in the canon of modern dramatic literature.

QuestionAnswer What is 'The Gathered Leaves' in the context of NHB Modern Plays? 'The Gathered Leaves' is a modern play included in the NHB (Nick Hern Books) Modern Plays series, often used in English theater and academic settings. Who is the author of 'The Gathered Leaves' in the NHB Modern Plays collection? The play is authored by Australian playwright David Williamson, known for his contemporary dramas. What themes are explored in 'The Gathered Leaves' in the

English edition? The play explores themes such as family dynamics, aging, memory, and the passage of time. Is 'The Gathered Leaves' suitable for classroom production in English literature courses? Yes, it is often used in educational settings due to its relevant themes and accessible language, making it suitable for classroom productions. What are the key differences between the original and English edited versions of 'The Gathered Leaves'? The English edit typically involves language adaptation for clarity and cultural relevance, but the core content and themes remain consistent. Where can I purchase the English edition of 'The Gathered Leaves' from NHB Modern Plays? It is available for purchase through the NHB website, major bookstores, and online retailers like Amazon. Are there any notable reviews of the English edition of 'The Gathered Leaves'? Yes, critics have praised the play for its insightful portrayal of family relationships and its engaging dialogue. Can 'The Gathered Leaves' be adapted for different theatrical styles in English productions? Absolutely, the play's flexible structure allows for various directorial interpretations and staging styles. What is the recommended age group for audiences of 'The Gathered Leaves' in the English edition? The play is generally suitable for adult audiences and older teenagers due to its mature themes. How does the English edit of 'The Gathered Leaves' enhance accessibility for international audiences? The edit simplifies language and clarifies cultural references, making the play more accessible to non-Australian audiences and English speakers worldwide.

Related keywords: modern plays, English plays, NHB plays, contemporary theater, Indian drama, theatrical scripts, play editing, NHB publications, modern drama scripts, English theater plays

An introduction to english language

An Introduction to English Language

The English language is one of the most widely spoken and influential languages in the world today. From global business and international diplomacy to entertainment and technology, English serves as a vital communication tool across countless domains. Understanding the roots, development, and characteristics of the English language is essential for learners, educators, linguists, and anyone interested in global communication. This comprehensive guide aims to provide an insightful introduction to the English language, exploring its history, structure, global significance, and future trends.

Historical Background of the English Language

The Origins of English

English is a Germanic language that originated in early medieval England. Its roots can be traced

back to the Anglo-Saxon tribes?Angles, Saxons, and Jutes?that migrated to the British Isles around the 5th century AD. The language spoken by these tribes formed the basis of Old English.

The Evolution Through Ages

The history of English is marked by several distinct periods:

- **Old English (c. 450?1150 AD):** Characterized by Germanic roots, Old English was heavily influenced by Norse invaders and Latin church influence.
- **Middle English (c. 1150?1500 AD):** Marked by Norman conquest in 1066, which introduced Norman French vocabulary and grammar influences.
- **Early Modern English (c. 1500?1700 AD):** The Renaissance brought a revival of classical learning, expanding vocabulary and standardizing spelling and grammar.
- **Modern English (1700 AD to present):** The language continued to evolve with colonial expansion, technological advances, and globalization, leading to the diverse forms of English spoken today.

The Role of Literary and Cultural Influences

English literature, from Geoffrey Chaucer?s Canterbury Tales to William Shakespeare?s plays and modern authors like J.K. Rowling, has significantly shaped the language?s development. Cultural exchanges through colonization, trade, and diplomacy have also contributed to the vocabulary and idiomatic expressions in English.

The Structure and Features of the English Language

Phonology and Pronunciation

English phonology includes a wide range of vowel and consonant sounds. The pronunciation varies significantly across different regions and accents, which adds to the language's richness but also presents challenges for learners.

Vocabulary and Lexicon

English boasts one of the largest vocabularies among languages, with estimates ranging from 150,000 to over a million words, considering technical and scientific terms. This extensive lexicon is a result of:

- Borrowings from Latin, French, Greek, and other languages

- Coining of new terms during technological and scientific advancements
- Slang and colloquialisms evolving over time

Grammar and Syntax

English grammar is characterized by:

- Relatively simple verb conjugation compared to other languages
- Use of auxiliary verbs for tense and aspect (e.g., be, have, do)
- Flexible word order, with Subject-Verb-Object being standard
- Extensive use of prepositions and articles

Writing System

English uses the Latin alphabet, consisting of 26 letters. Its orthography (spelling system) can be complex due to historical spelling conventions, silent letters, and irregular pronunciation rules.

The Global Significance of the English Language

English as a Global Lingua Franca

Today, English is regarded as the world's primary lingua franca—an auxiliary language used for international communication. It is the official or working language in over 50 countries and widely used in international organizations like the United Nations and the International Olympic Committee.

English in Business and Commerce

English dominates international business, finance, and trade. Many multinational corporations operate primarily in English, and proficiency is often a prerequisite for global career opportunities.

English in Science, Technology, and Education

A significant portion of scientific research, technological development, and academic publications are in English. Universities worldwide offer courses in English to attract international students.

English in Media and Entertainment

English-language media, including movies, music, television, and literature, have a global reach. Hollywood films, English pop music, and online streaming platforms have popularized the language worldwide.

English on the Internet and Social Media

English is the dominant language on the internet, accounting for a large percentage of online content. Social media platforms facilitate global interaction primarily in English, further fostering its universal status.

Learning and Teaching the English Language

Why Learn English?

Learning English offers numerous benefits:

- Access to a vast amount of information and educational resources
- Enhanced employability and career prospects
- Ability to communicate with people worldwide
- Participation in global culture and entertainment

Methods of Learning English

Effective approaches include:

- Classroom instruction with trained teachers
- Online courses and language learning apps
- Immersive experiences through travel and cultural exchange
- Practice with native speakers or language exchange partners

Challenges in Learning English

Some common difficulties faced by learners are:

- Complex spelling and pronunciation rules
- Irregular verb forms
- Idiomatic expressions and phrasal verbs
- Regional accents and dialects

The Future of the English Language

Emerging Trends

English continues to evolve with technological innovations:

- Increased influence of digital communication and social media
- Emergence of new slang and internet vernacular
- Globalization leading to more diverse accents and dialects
- Integration of loanwords from other languages due to cultural exchange

Potential Challenges

As the language grows, there are concerns about:

- Language homogenization potentially overshadowing regional dialects
- Loss of linguistic diversity
- Difficulty in maintaining standardization across different regions

Conclusion

The English language remains a dynamic and influential means of communication. Its rich history, extensive vocabulary, and widespread use make it an invaluable global asset. Whether for personal growth, academic pursuits, or professional development, learning English opens doors to countless opportunities. As the world continues to embrace globalization and technological innovation, the role of English is poised to expand further, shaping the future of international communication.

Keywords for SEO Optimization:

- Introduction to English language
- History of English
- English language structure
- Global importance of English
- Learn English online
- English language development
- English as a lingua franca
- Benefits of learning English
- Future of the English language
- English language learning tips

Introduction to the English Language: A Comprehensive Overview

The English language, often regarded as the global lingua franca, has a rich history, complex structure, and widespread influence that permeates nearly every corner of the world. As one of the most widely spoken and studied languages today, understanding its fundamentals offers invaluable insights into its role in communication, culture, and international relations. This detailed exploration delves into the origins, evolution, grammatical features, vocabulary, phonetics, and the significance of English in contemporary society.

Historical Background of the English Language

Origins and Early Development

The roots of English trace back over 1,400 years to the Germanic tribes—namely the Angles, Saxons, and Jutes—who migrated to the British Isles around the 5th century AD. These tribes brought with them their languages, which gradually coalesced into what we now call Old English.

Key points about early English:

- Old English (circa 450–1150 AD): Characterized by a complex system of inflections, a vocabulary heavily influenced by Latin and Norse, and a rich oral tradition including epic poetry like *Beowulf*.
- Influence of Latin and Norse: Latin arrived through Christian missionaries, while Norse influence increased due to Viking invasions, shaping vocabulary and syntax.

Middle English and the Norman Conquest

The Norman Conquest of 1066 marked a pivotal turning point:

- Norman French influence: The ruling class spoke Norman French, which heavily influenced the vocabulary, especially in law, governance, art, and cuisine.
- Language features: Middle English (circa 1150–1500) saw simplification of inflectional endings and an expansion of vocabulary.

Early Modern English and the Renaissance

From the late 15th to the early 17th century:

- The Renaissance: Brought a revival of classical learning and an influx of Latin and Greek words.
- The printing press: Invented by Johannes Gutenberg, it standardized spelling and grammar,

making literature more accessible.

- Notable figures: William Shakespeare and the King James Bible significantly shaped the language.

Modern English and Global Spread

Since the 17th century:

- Colonial expansion: British colonization spread English worldwide.
- Industrial Revolution: Facilitated international trade and communication.
- Contemporary English: Continues to evolve with influences from numerous languages and cultures, especially in the digital age.

Structural Aspects of the English Language

Phonetics and Pronunciation

English phonetics is known for its complexity and variability:

- Consonant and vowel sounds: The language features approximately 24 consonant sounds and around 20 vowel sounds, with many variations.
- Spelling and pronunciation discrepancies: Due to historical influences, English spelling often does not align directly with pronunciation (e.g., though vs. through).

Grammar and Syntax

English grammar, while relatively straightforward compared to some languages, has distinctive features:

- Parts of speech: Nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, pronouns, prepositions, conjunctions, and interjections.
- Sentence structure: Typically follows a Subject-Verb-Object (SVO) order.
- Tenses: Present, past, future, along with perfect and progressive aspects.
- Agreement: Subject-verb agreement in number and person.
- Modifiers: Use of adjectives and adverbs to add detail.

Vocabulary and Lexicon

English boasts an extensive vocabulary, estimated at over a million words:

- Loanwords: Borrowed extensively from Latin, French, Greek, German, and many other languages.
- Synonyms and antonyms: Rich variety of words with nuanced differences, offering precision and expressiveness.
- Neologisms: Continual creation of new words, especially in technology and popular culture.

Unique Features of the English Language

Orthography and Spelling

English spelling can be irregular due to its diverse origins:

- Historical influences: Words retain spellings from older forms or borrowed languages.
- Examples: Knight, psychology, colonel.
- Spelling reforms: There have been proposals but no widespread standardization.

Idioms and Phrasal Verbs

Idiomatic expressions and phrasal verbs are integral:

- Idioms: Phrases whose meanings are not deducible from individual words (e.g., kick the bucket).
- Phrasal verbs: Verb + particle combinations with idiomatic meanings (e.g., look up, give in).

Varieties and Dialects

English manifests in numerous dialects:

- British English: Variations like Cockney, Received Pronunciation.
- American English: Distinct vocabulary and pronunciation.
- Other varieties: Australian, Canadian, Indian English, each with unique features.

The Role of English in the Modern World

Global Lingua Franca

English is the primary language of:

- International diplomacy
- Business and commerce
- Science and technology
- Entertainment and media

English in Education and Research

- Most scientific journals publish in English.
- Universities worldwide offer courses in English.
- English proficiency is often a requirement for international careers.

The Digital Age and English

- Dominance in internet content, social media, and digital communication.
- Emergence of digital slang, memes, and abbreviations, influencing language evolution.

Cultural Impact

- English-language music, films, and literature shape global pop culture.
- Cultural exchange and understanding facilitated through shared language.

Learning and Teaching English

Methods and Approaches

- Traditional grammar-translation
- Communicative language teaching
- Immersive and bilingual approaches
- Use of technology and online platforms

Challenges for Learners

- Irregular spelling and pronunciation

- Idiomatic expressions
- Extensive vocabulary
- Variations in dialects and accents

Resources and Tools

- Language apps (Duolingo, Babbel)
- Online courses and tutorials
- Media and literature in English
- Language exchange programs

Conclusion

The English language remains a dynamic, influential, and complex means of communication. Its history reflects centuries of cultural exchange and adaptation, shaping a language that is both diverse and adaptable. For learners, educators, and global citizens alike, understanding English's structure, history, and role in society unlocks numerous opportunities for connection, learning, and cultural appreciation. As it continues to evolve in the digital age, English's significance is poised to grow, cementing its status as a cornerstone of international communication.

In summary, mastering the English language provides access to a vast repository of knowledge, culture, and opportunities. Its rich history and widespread use make it a fascinating subject of study and an essential skill in today's interconnected world. Whether for academic pursuits, professional advancement, or cultural engagement, an introduction to English opens the door to endless possibilities.

Question What are the key features that define the English language? English is a West Germanic language characterized by a rich vocabulary, extensive use of loanwords, and a flexible grammar system. It is known for its adaptability, widespread global use, and its role as a lingua franca in international communication. **Answer** How did the English language develop over time? English evolved from the Anglo-Saxon languages brought to Britain by Germanic tribes around the 5th century. It was later influenced by Norman French, Latin, and other languages, leading to the Modern English we use today. This development spans Old English, Middle English, and Modern English periods. Why is English considered a global language? English is considered a global language because it is the primary or secondary language in many countries, used extensively in international business, science, technology, entertainment, and diplomacy, making it a key tool for global communication. What are the main components of learning the English language? Learning English involves mastering four main components: reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Additionally, understanding grammar, vocabulary, pronunciation, and cultural context are essential for effective communication. How has the internet influenced the spread and evolution of the English

language? The internet has accelerated the global spread of English, introduced new slang, abbreviations, and digital communication styles, and facilitated intercultural exchange, thereby continuously shaping and evolving the language in real-time.

Related keywords: English language, language learning, linguistics, grammar, vocabulary, pronunciation, syntax, phonetics, language skills, language history

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