# The pursuit of happyness

## Answer the following questions about the film:

**1. "The Pursuit of Happyness" is anchored to a very specific time and place, from the characters' constant use of buses and trains to a televised presidential address lamenting the state of the economy. Where and when is the movie set?**

- Dallas in 2004
- New York in 1990
- San Francisco in 1981
- Chicago in 1972

**2. At the center of the film is the relationship between Chris Gardner (Will Smith) and his five-year-old son Christopher Jr. (Jaden Smith), a strong and loving bond despite the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune. How did young Jaden land the part?**

- The director was impressed by his ease and charm in a cereal commercial.
- He is the grandson of the real Chris Gardner.
- The director, choosing between Jaden and one other child, decided that it would be good luck for both leads to have the same last name.
- He is the son of Will Smith.

**3. The title of the movie misspells the word "happiness," but this isn't the fault of the marketing department. Instead, the misspelling is a reference to a sign that appears several times in the film. Where is the word "happyness" displayed?**

- On a mural outside Christopher's daycare
- On a motivational sign by the brokerage elevator
- On a pamphlet posted all over the Gardners' neighborhood
- On an advertisement in the city buses

**4. Chris Gardner, his wife Linda, and their son Christopher are living on the edge of financial disaster. She works two shifts, while he spends his days trying to sell the not-quite-revolutionary medical equipment that they'd invested their life savings in. What type of equipment does Chris tote around the city, peddling to doctors and hospitals?**

- Bone density scanners
- Blood oxygen monitors
- Portable MRI machines
- Ventilators

**5. One bright day, Chris is strolling the streets of the Financial District, medical equipment in hand, when he gets the fateful idea to apply for an internship at the Dean Witter stock brokerage firm. What inspires him to make this bold move?**

- He sees a colorful, persuasive poster advertising the internship.
- He sees a stockbroker parking a luxurious red convertible.
- He overhears a conversation between two stockbrokers about their European vacation homes.
- Reading a brochure about Dean Witter's services, he thinks, "Hey, this is just sales. I can do that!"

**6. As the application process continues, Chris suffers further setbacks. Linda leaves, taking with her the family's only regular paycheck. Chris's landlord evicts him, allowing him to stay an extra few days with young Christopher only if Chris agrees to paint the place himself. Finally, Chris's final interview for the internship arrives -- and he is forced to arrive unshowered, unshaven and half-dressed. Why?**

- While he was painting the previous day, he'd been evicted anyway, and had no place to clean up and change.
- Out of spite, Linda had taken all of his business suits when she left.
- While he was painting the day before, he'd been arrested for failure to pay parking tickets and held overnight in jail.
- He'd started painting the apartment that morning, remembering the interview only just in time to catch the train downtown.

**7. At first, Chris seems to be holding it all together. He drops Christopher off at daycare, heads to work and spends the day making sales calls, striving for the job offer that awaits the best intern. He leaves at 4:00 (the other interns stay until the evening) to pick his son up and take him home to the long-term motel. On weekends he sells medical equipment, making just enough to cover rent and food. Then, one day, this delicate balancing act is disrupted, Chris's bank account is emptied, and he and his son face ruin. How does this happen?**

- Chris's last two pieces of medical equipment are lost or stolen, and he has no way to earn money.
- The IRS collects the Gardner's taxes from the previous year -- directly from Chris's bank account.
- Linda, living in New York now, needs money for rent and makes a withdrawal from their joint account.
- Unbeknownst to Chris, his bank has started charging fees for low-balance accounts, and these quickly empty the account.

**8. After Chris's bank account is emptied, a second eviction isn't far behind. Father and son come home one night to find their motel room lock changed and their belongings boxed and bagged in the corridor. Where do they go for shelter on their first night of homelessness?**

- The sidewalk in front of a nearby office building, where the grates provide heat
- A park bench by a fountain
- The men's room of a subway station
- The motel corridor (which does, after all, have a roof)

**9. The Gardners' homelessness makes it quite a lot harder for Chris to face the challenges of his internship -- and not just because the nature of his job reminds him constantly that he is a "have not" among "haves." He has found only one shelter that will take both him and his son -- the one run by Glide Memorial Church -- but the nature of the shelter imposes new obstacles. Why?**

- The shelter is located in a loud neighborhood, and lack of sleep begins to take a toll on Chris's performance.
- The shelter is first-come, first-served, so he must race there every afternoon to get beds.
- The shelter requires regular drug testing, which Chris finds humiliating and inconvenient.
- The shelter administrators have trouble believing that a man with such a prestigious internship really requires their services, and Chris must go to great lengths to persuade them.

**10. During the last few weeks of the internship, Chris finally has a stroke of good luck: he manages to repair and sell his last remaining piece of medical equipment, and he and his son stay in a long-term motel. Words cannot express how much this improves their situation -- but Chris can't help worrying about what will happen if he doesn't land that coveted Dean Witter job at the end of the internship. Does he get the job?**

- Yes
- No