

3B History in the making

1 READING & VOCABULARY conflict and warfare

a Look at the stills from three films. Have you seen any of them? If yes, are there any scenes you particularly remember?

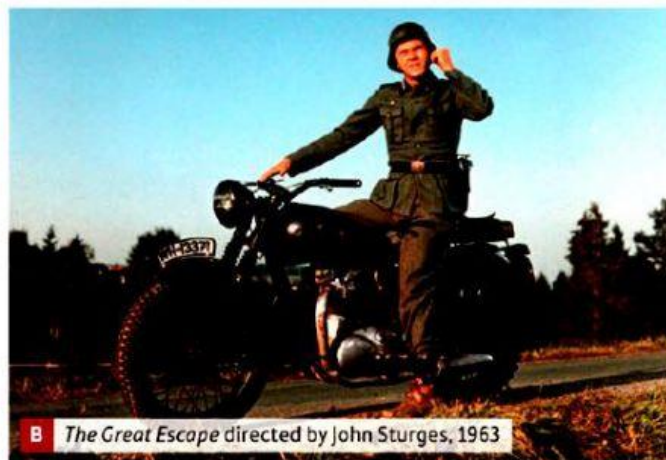
The scenes you'll never forget

Three film critics choose their most memorable moments



A *Gladiator* directed by Ridley Scott, 2000

Gladiator, which won five Oscars, tells the story of a Roman general, Maximus Decimus Meridius, a favourite of the Emperor, Marcus Aurelius. The Emperor wants Maximus (Russell Crowe at his best) to **succeed him**, but Commodus, the Emperor's weak and treacherous son (wonderfully played by Joaquin Phoenix), has other plans. Commodus kills his father and becomes Emperor himself, and arranges for Maximus and his wife and child to be **executed**. Maximus escapes, but cannot save his family. He is captured and sold as a gladiator, and eventually makes his way to the Colosseum in Rome, where he becomes a hero by engineering a spectacular victory **against overwhelming odds**. In this gripping scene Emperor Commodus descends to the arena to congratulate him – not knowing his true identity. Maximus removes his **helmet** and confronts the Emperor in one of the most stirring speeches in modern cinema: 'My name is Maximus Decimus Meridius, **commander** of the armies of the north, general of the Felix Legions, loyal servant to the true Emperor, Marcus Aurelius, father to a murdered son, husband to a murdered wife, and I will have my vengeance in this life or the next.' And somehow, we just know he's going to get it!



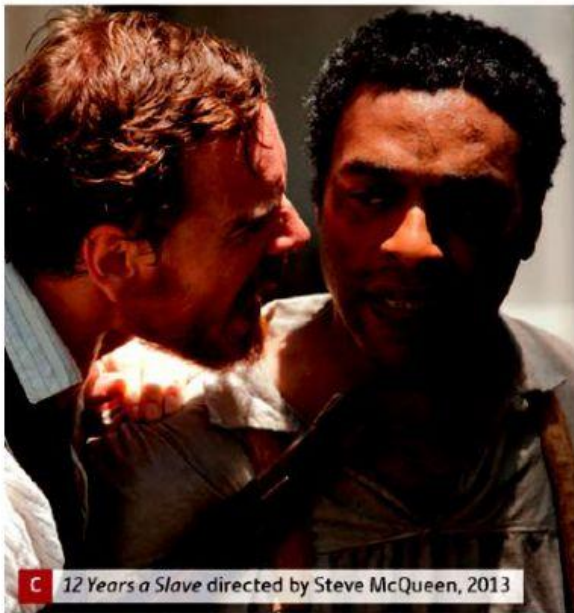
B *The Great Escape* directed by John Sturges, 1963

The Great Escape is set in a **prisoner-of-war camp** in Germany during the Second World War. The camp is supposedly 'escape-proof', but the British and American prisoners (played by an all-star cast) are determined to get out. They dig three tunnels and forge identity documents in preparation for a large-scale escape attempt. 76 prisoners manage to crawl through a tunnel and get away. Most are quickly **recaptured**, but in this legendary scene, Captain Virgil Hilts (played by Steve McQueen) steals a motorbike and a German uniform and tries to get over the Swiss border. Coming to a roadblock, he breaks through and gets away, despite being **shot** at, but is immediately pursued by German **troops**. He rides across open countryside in a desperate bid to reach safety, and eventually gets to the border. But two high fences separate him from Switzerland and freedom. He jumps the first, but becomes hopelessly trapped in the second, and is forced to **surrender**. *The Great Escape* is always shown in the UK at Christmas, and however many times you've seen it before, you still hope he might just make it over the second fence.

b Read some film critics' descriptions of three memorable scenes. What information does each extract give? Tick (✓) the boxes as you read each one.

- | | | | |
|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 prizes the film won | A ☐ | B ☐ | C ☐ |
| 2 the book the film is based on | A ☐ | B ☐ | C ☐ |
| 3 where and when the film is set | A ☐ | B ☐ | C ☐ |
| 4 who the main characters are and who they are played by | A ☐ | B ☐ | C ☐ |

- | | | | |
|---|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 5 what the film is about | A ☐ | B ☐ | C ☐ |
| 6 one of the most memorable scenes | A ☐ | B ☐ | C ☐ |
| 7 how the director's decisions affect the scene | A ☐ | B ☐ | C ☐ |
| 8 how it makes you feel | A ☐ | B ☐ | C ☐ |



C 12 Years a Slave directed by Steve McQueen, 2013

12 Years a Slave, which won the Oscar for Best Picture in 2014, is based on the memoir by Solomon Northup in which he describes how, despite being free-born, he was **kidnapped** in Washington D.C. in 1841 and sold as a slave. Northup worked on plantations in Louisiana for 12 years before his release. The book was written in 1853, eight years before the American **Civil War** began. It was this war that led to the abolition of slavery in the USA. One of the most famous scenes is the hanging scene. It comes after Solomon (Chiwetel Ejiofor) gets pushed too far by his slave master and attacks him. He is punished by being **hanged** from a tree in such a way that the rope around his neck is always choking him, but his toes can touch the ground just enough to keep him from being strangled. As it goes on, and director Steve McQueen refuses to let you look away, you start to realize that all the other slaves have gone back to their normal lives. Work starts up again, children go back to playing, and you realize how common excruciating experiences like this must have been for slaves, and how thoroughly they must have been separated from their own sense of humanity.

2 PRONUNCIATION stress in word families



Fine-tuning your pronunciation: changing stress in word families

It is useful to learn words in 'families', e.g. *capture* (noun) – *a captive* (person), *revolutionary* (adjective) – *to revolt* (verb), etc. However, you should check whether the stressed syllable changes within the 'family'.

- a Complete the chart. Write in CAPITAL letters the stressed syllable in all the multi-syllable words.

noun	person	adjective	verb
cap ture	cap tive / cap tor	cap tive	_____
co mmand	_____	com mand ing	co mmand
ex e cu tion	_____	_____	_____
_____	his to ri an	his to ric / _____	_____
loo ting	loo ter	_____	_____
_____	_____	re bel lious	_____
_____	_____	re vo lu tion ary	re volt
siege	_____	be sieged	_____
sur vi val	_____	sur vi ving	_____
_____	_____	vic to ri ous	_____

- b **213**) Listen and check.
- c Practise saying the sentences.
- The rebels were captured and executed.
 - All the captives survived the siege.
 - It was a historic victory.
 - In the end, the revolutionaries were victorious.
 - The troops rebelled against their commander.
 - Historians disagree on the causes of the rebellion.
- c Which of the three descriptions created the most vivid image of the scene in your mind?

activation Are there any current news stories related to conflict or warfare? What are they about?

Conflict and warfare

1 WEAPONS

- a Match the words and pictures.

 arrow /'æərəʊ/	 machine gun /mə'ʃi:n ɡən/
 bow /bəʊ/	 missile /'mɪsaɪl/
 bullet /'bʊlɪt/	 shield /ʃi:ld/
 cannon /'kænən/	 spear /spiə/
 helmet /'helmt/	 sword /sɔ:d/



VOCABULARY BANK

2 PEOPLE & EVENTS

a Match the people and definitions.

ally /'ælaɪ/ casualties /'kæʒuəltiz/ civilians /sə'vɪliənz/
commander /kə'mændə/ forces /fɔːsɪz/ refugees /ref'juːdʒɪz/
snipers /'snaɪpəz/ survivors /sə'vaɪvəz/ troops /truːps/
the wounded /'wuːndɪd/

- 1 casualties: people who have been killed or injured in a war
- 2 _____: people who are forced to leave their country or home because there is a war, or for political or religious reasons
- 3 _____: a group of people who have been trained to protect others, usually with weapons, e.g. armed ~, security ~, peace-keeping ~.
- 4 _____: soldiers in large groups
- 5 _____: an officer in charge of a group of soldiers
- 6 _____: people who have been injured by weapons
- 7 _____: people who are not members of the armed forces
- 8 _____: people who shoot at others from a hidden position
- 9 _____: people who have managed to stay alive in a war
- 10 _____: in time of war, a country that has agreed to help and support another country

b Match the events and definitions.

ceasefire /'siːsfaɪə/ civil war /'sɪvəl wɔː/ coup /kuː/
rebellion /rɪ'beljən/ revolution /ˌrevə'ljuːʃn/ siege /sɪdʒ/ treaty /'triːti/

- 1 rebellion: an attempt by some of the people in a country to change their government, using violence
- 2 _____: a sudden change of government that is illegal and often violent
- 3 _____: an attempt by a large number of people in a country to change their government
- 4 _____: when two armies agree to stop fighting temporarily
- 5 _____: a war between groups of people in the same country
- 6 _____: when an army tries to take a city or building by surrounding it and stopping the food supply
- 7 _____: a formal agreement between two or more countries.

a Circle the right discourse marker.

- A What a good film! I really enjoyed it. Didn't you?
B Actually / Incidentally I didn't like it very much.
A Why not?
B ¹Basically / After all, I thought the plot was completely unbelievable.
A I wouldn't call it unbelievable. ²In other words / In any case it wasn't supposed to be a true story.
B I know, but it was set in a specific historical period. ³Otherwise / Obviously you can't expect the dialogue to be totally authentic.
⁴I mean / on the other hand, nobody knows exactly how people spoke in Roman times, but ⁵besides / at least the details should be right. There were cannons in the battle scene and they weren't invented till a thousand years later! ⁶All in all / That is to say, I thought it was a pretty awful film.
A We'll have to agree to disagree then. ⁷By the way / As a matter of fact, do you know what time the last bus leaves? I don't want to miss it. ⁸Otherwise / In any case I'll have to get a taxi home.
B 11.40. Don't worry, we've got plenty of time. ⁹In fact / Besides I think we've even got time to have something to eat. There's a good Italian restaurant just round the corner.
A Good idea. ¹⁰As I was saying / Talking of Italian food, I made a wonderful mushroom risotto last night...

3 VERBS

a Complete the sentences with the verbs in the list in the correct form.

blow up break out capture declare defeat
execute loot overthrow release retreat
shell surrender

- 1 The rebels overthrew the government.
(= removed them from power using force)
- 2 Fighting _____ between the rebels and the army. (= started)
- 3 The army _____ the rebel positions.
(= fired missiles)
- 4 The rebels _____. (= moved back, away from the army)
- 5 Some of the rebels _____. (= admitted they had lost and wanted to stop fighting)
- 6 The rebels _____ the airport runway.
(= made it explode)
- 7 The government _____ war on the rebels.
(= announced their intention to go to war with them)
- 8 Some rebels _____ the city. (= stole things from shops and buildings)
- 9 The army _____ over 300 rebels. (= took them prisoner)
- 10 They finally _____ the rebels. (= beat them)
- 11 The army _____ most of the rebel prisoners. (= let them go)
- 12 They _____ the rebel leader. (= killed him as a punishment)

b Complete with a discourse marker. Sometimes more than one answer may be possible.

- The film was a box office disaster. *That is to say*, it cost more to produce than it made in receipts.
- 1 Jason is an excellent teacher, although _____.
I think female teachers are usually better with five-year-olds.
 - 2 A Did you buy the shoes in the end?
B No, they were too expensive. And _____.
I decided that I didn't really like them that much.
 - 3 I really think you ought to apply for the post of Head of Department. _____ you've got nothing to lose.
 - 4 A I've just read a brilliant book that Simon lent me.
B _____ Simon, did you know he's moving to New York?
 - 5 A How was your day?
B Fine. I finished work earlier than usual. _____,
did you remember to get a birthday present for your mum?
 - 6 _____ salary, you will be paid on the last day of each month, with a bonus in December.
 - 7 It was a very overcast day, but _____ it didn't rain.
 - 8 A Do your wife's parents live near you, then?
B _____, they live in the flat below us. It's not ideal, but it does have some advantages.