

Lesson 4C – Film Fame

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The Oscars ★ ★ ★

A The Oscars award **ceremony** is one of the most famous ceremonies in the world, and is watched live on TV in over 200 countries. The first ceremony happened in Hollywood in 1929, and all of the **prizes** were for silent films. For the first ten years, the **results** were given to the newspapers before the ceremony. However, since 1941, the names of the **winners** have been a secret until the last moment.

B No one is exactly sure where the name 'Oscars' came from. One story is that in 1931, the director of the Academy thought that the golden award looked like her uncle Oscar – and the name stayed!

C The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences has over 6,000 members (actors, directors, producers, etc.). Each year, they vote for the winners in 25 categories. The most important categories are Best Film, Best Director, Best Actress and Best Actor.

D No one is very interested in what the men wear (they usually come in a dinner jacket or a suit), but the big fashion houses, like Chanel and Dior, try to persuade the most popular female stars to wear their dresses. The stars usually get the dresses for free, and they usually look great. But there are some bad choices too!

E The **speeches** that the winners make when they accept their Oscars are often rather boring, as they're usually just a list of people they want to thank (including their mum). The winners often get very emotional – it can sometimes be almost impossible to understand what they're saying!

2 **2.04** Read the text. Match headings 1–6 with paragraphs A–E. There is one heading that you do not need.

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 Gratitude and tears | 4 The most famous winner |
| 2 Dress to impress | 5 Deciding the winner |
| 3 Early days | 6 A mystery |

- | | |
|-----------|-----------|
| 1. | 4. |
| 2. | 5. |
| 3. | 6. |

4 **VOCABULARY** Match the singular form of the highlighted words in the text with the definitions below.

- | |
|---|
| 1 the decision or score at the end of a competition |
| 2 a very formal public event |
| 3 a formal talk that you give in public |
| 4 something that the winner of a competition receives |
| 5 somebody who comes first in a competition |

- | | |
|-----------|-----------|
| 1. | 4. |
| 2. | 5. |
| 3. | |

3 Read the text again. Answer the questions.

- In the 1930s, how did people know the result before the ceremony?
- Whose uncle looked like the prize that was awarded to the winners?
- Who votes for the winners?
- How much do the female stars usually spend on their outfits for the ceremony?
- Why are the acceptance speeches often boring?

- 1.**
- 2.**
- 3.**
- 4.**
- 5.**

5 **2.05** Listen to a journalist talking about the Razzie Awards. Answer the questions.

- What are the awards given for?
- Do most winners come to the awards ceremony?

6 **2.05** Listen again. Are the sentences true or false?

- The awards ceremony takes place before the Oscars.
- John Wilson started the Razzies because he hates all Hollywood films.
- Membership of the Golden Raspberry Award Foundation is free.
- No winners collected their Razzie Awards before 1988.
- Sandra Bullock won a Razzie and an Oscar for the same film.

- 1.**
- 2.**
- 3.**
- 4.**
- 5.**