

INTERVIEW WITH SIR IAN MCKELLEN

1 YOUR TASTES

What kind of music do you like?

I hardly ever listen to music at home – I prefer going to concerts. I enjoy classical music and pop, but my favourite kind of music is traditional American jazz.

What book are you reading at the moment?

I'm reading *The Hammersteins*, a biography of the American theatre family written by Oscar Andrew Hammerstein.

Who's your favourite historical character?

Perhaps William Shakespeare.

2

What time do you usually get up in the morning?

If I am working, I get up one hour before I have to leave the house. If I am not working, and I went to bed late the night before, I get up at about 10 in the morning.

How much time do you spend a day on the internet?

I can very easily spend three or four hours on the internet, answering emails, reading the news, etc. I think of the internet as a wonderful encyclopaedia of information.

How do you relax?

I enjoy a late night sudoku, but especially being with friends.

3

What's your favourite room in the house?

Perhaps the living room where I cook and eat, and from where I can see the River Thames in London.

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What's your favourite room in the house? Perhaps the living room where I cook and eat, and from where I can see the River Thames in London.

What do you always have on your desk? I always have too many letters, papers, and books which are waiting for me to read.

Do you have any pets? I love dogs, but I can't have one because I'm often away from home.

4. _____

What languages do you speak? I only speak English, but I can remember a little of the French I learned at school.

Can you play a musical instrument? No.

Is there something you would like to learn to do? Yes - many things. e.g. to sing well, to play the piano, and to speak foreign languages.

5. _____

What's your favourite place in London? I love the River Thames and the views from its many bridges.

Where are you going to go for your next holiday? I'm going to go to India for the first time in February

What's the most beautiful city you've ever visited? I can't choose between Edinburgh, Prague, and Venice.

6. _____

What was your first job? The first money learned as a professional actor was when I was a student at Cambridge University in 1959. I played small parts in audio recordings of Shakespeare's plays.

When did you first read The Lord of the Rings? I read it first when I was preparing to play Gandalf in the movie trilogy.

What was the best and worst thing about filming The Lord of the Rings? The best thing about filming was discovering the countryside and people of New Zealand. But the worst thing was living away from home for a year or more

1. Choose the correct headings for 6 paragraphs.

List of headings

- i. YOUR WORKING EXPERIENCES
- ii. YOUR HOME.
- iii. YOUR LIFESTYLE
- iv. YOUR ABILITIES
- v. YOUR RELATIONSHIP
- vi. YOUR TASTE
- vii. YOUR PLACES
- viii. YOUR FORTUNE.

2. Mark the sentences T(true), F(false), and NG (not given)

1. He became an actor when he was a student.
2. He admired many famous authors.
3. He lives outside London.

4. He used to go to local bars.
5. He gets up early every day.
6. He's never been to India.
7. He spends a long time on the internet every day.
8. He read The Lord of the Rings when he was young.
9. His desk isn't very tidy.
10. He doesn't like animals.
11. He relaxes by playing games.
12. He doesn't have any ambitions.