Is it real or is it computer-made?

Nowadays, when we watch a film, we expect to see amazing special effects. But how much is real and how much is made by computers? Using computer- generated imaging, or CGI, directors can create fantastic creatures, houses, cities and landscapes. [1] And that includes crowds of people, so CGI is often used when a lot of people are needed in a big scene. [2] Without CGI, everybody appearing in that scene would have been paid. With CGI, fewer people are needed, and of course, this means the film is less expensive for the producer.

In 1991, *Terminator 2* contained the first computer graphic-generated main character in a film. Using CGI, he could change into different shapes. [3] And, if he was shot, his body could return to its original form. The first full-length completely CGI-animated film was Pixar's *Toy Story* in 1995. It was so successful it led to the creation of the first fully digital animation studios. But CGI hasn't only been used in films. The band Dire Straits used CGI in their video for *Money for Nothing*. The animation of the characters was very basic, so they all had rectangular bodies, arms and legs. [4] However, the video won Video of the Year at the 1986 MTV Video Music Awards.

Whether you like CGI effects or not, producers will keep on using them. That's as long as they make films cheaper to produce. And of course, as long as the public wants to watch films with scenery and creatures that are out of this world. Nowadays, with such incredible special effects, it's hard to tell what's real.

[5] So next time you watch a film, why not see if you can spot what's real and what's CGI?

Find these words and phrases in the sentences in Exercise 6. Match them to their uses. There are two extra uses you do not need to use.

1 But
2 Because of this
3 Also
4 Instead
5 In other words

A gives more information
B introduces a different way of doing something
C introduces a result
D explains the same point again
E makes a suggestion
F introduces a contrast G asks a question

Read the text again. Five sentences have been removed from the text. For each question, choose the correct answer. There are three extra sentences which you do not need to use.

A Instead, puppets and models were used for this scene.

B Because of this, the lead singer didn't like the idea at first.

C In other words, by using CGI, they can create anything on the screen!

D Whether you think it's good or bad, CGI is here to stay.

E He could also walk through solid objects.

F There were crowds of people, but not all the characters were real people.

G For example, one of the battles in *The Lord of the Rings*.

H That was the first time CGI was used in a film.