

Practice

1. Match the nouns with the adjectives.

1 a breathtaking	a view
2 a blatant	b fighting
3 a prolific	c documentaries on
4 a gripping	animal experiments
5 misleading	d judge
6 a piercing	e lie
7 sporadic	f novelist
8 a sweeping	g reader
9 a staunch	h security
10 a watertight	i Republican
11 harrowing	j information
12 a lenient	k generalisation
13 a meteoric	l rise
14 an avid	m alibi
15 lax	n film
	o scream

2. Group the adjectives in the box into categories by putting them next to the appropriate heading.

flawless – arduous – dreadful – dreary – impeccable –
disbevelled – middle-of-the-road – dull – tedious – strenuous –
astute – mainstream – gruelling – mundane – shrewd – wily –
run-of-the-mill – lousy – atrocious – unblemished – crafty –
scruffy – bedraggled – conventional

Boring:

Difficult:

Untidy:

Bad:

Clever:

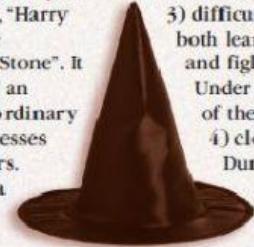
Ordinary:

Perfect:

3. Read the following review and replace the adjectives in bold with more sophisticated ones from exercise 2.

SPELLBINDING HARRY

For an entertaining evening, I highly recommend the film version of the first J.K. Rowling book, "Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone". It is the story of an otherwise **1) ordinary** boy who possesses magical powers. Orphaned as a baby when his parents were killed by an evil wizard, Harry is brought up by his **2) bad** and **unpleasant** relatives, the Dursleys. Everything changes, however, when an untidy stranger turns up on his doorstep. His name is Hagrid and he happens to be the keeper



of keys at Hogwarts School for magicians. So begins Harry's education at the school and the **3) difficult** task of both learning magic and fighting evil. Under the tutelage of the kindly but **4) clever** Professor Dumbledore and with the help of his two faithful friends, Ron and Hermione, Harry achieves his goal. Daniel Radcliffe (as Harry) and his co-stars give **5) perfect** performances in this refreshing new film in which there's never a **6) boring** moment.

4. Decide whether the following adjective-noun combinations are possible or not. If you think that the combination is possible, tick the box that follows it. If not, correct it replacing the noun with an appropriate one. Then use the correct combinations in sentences.

1 a gruelling shirt	<input type="checkbox"/>
2 a staunch enemy	<input type="checkbox"/>
3 a flawless performance	<input type="checkbox"/>
4 a scruffy pair of jeans	<input type="checkbox"/>
5 a crafty plan	<input type="checkbox"/>
6 a shrewd businessman	<input type="checkbox"/>
7 strenuous exercise	<input type="checkbox"/>
8 a tedious room	<input type="checkbox"/>
9 an atrocious driver	<input type="checkbox"/>
10 an astute look	<input type="checkbox"/>
11 an arduous journey	<input type="checkbox"/>
12 impeccable taste	<input type="checkbox"/>
13 mainstream politics	<input type="checkbox"/>
14 a mundane job	<input type="checkbox"/>
15 a dreary journey	<input type="checkbox"/>