2.1 FACT OR FICTION?

G present perfect and past simple
P weak forms: *have*
V types of story; prepositions

SPEAKING

A Work in groups and discuss. Can you think of a film you have seen that has taught you about a person/event in history?

B Work in pairs and do the quiz. Decide if the information is fact, fiction or partly true. Then check your answers on page 158.

C Discuss. Do you think it is all right for film-makers to change the facts of a story? Why?/Why not?

HOLLYWOOD versus history

Can you tell your facts from fiction?

1. In the film *The Last Samurai*, Tom Cruise plays a US army captain who joins the samurai warriors in Japan in 1876. Was Captain Nathan Algren a real figure from history?
2. In *Shakespeare in Love*, William Shakespeare is inspired to write *Romeo and Juliet* by his real-life relationship with a young actress. Did this happen in real life?
3. In the film *Braveheart*, Mel Gibson plays the character William Wallace, leading an army of men with painted faces, and wearing kilts* as he battles to free Scotland from the English. How much truth is there in the story?
4. In the 1995 adventure, *Apollo 13*, we hear the pilot saying the famous words 'Houston, we have a problem.' But were these his exact words?

* kilt – a type of skirt traditionally worn by Scottish men

Answers:

LIVEWORKSHEETS

HOLLYWOOD versus history

Fact or fiction:

1 **Fiction:** the film *The Last Samurai* does tell the story of the samurai rebellion, but the character Nathan Algren did not exist.

2 **Fiction:** in truth, we know very little about William Shakespeare's personal life, or what provided his inspiration.

3 **Partly true:** the film *Braveheart* does tell the story of how William Wallace fought to free Scotland, but kilts were not worn in Scotland until 300 years later. And there are many other historical inaccuracies.

4 **Partly true:** the film *Apollo 13* was praised for its accuracy. Much of the dialogue was taken directly from recordings. However, the pilot's exact words were, 'OK, Houston, we've had a problem here'.

VOCABULARY

TYPES OF STORY

2 A **Look at the types of film stories in the box below. Match the types of story with the descriptions a)–i).**

a biopic	a docudrama	a disaster movie
a romantic comedy	a period drama	
a fantasy film	a science fiction film	
a psychological thriller	an action/adventure film	
a mystery	a crime film	

a) Heroes chase and fight each other.
b) The main character has mental problems.
c) A story about the science of the future.
d) Things that happen in the life of a real person.
e) The good guy (the detective) finds the bad guy (the criminal).
f) People dressed up in old-fashioned costumes.
g) Funny things happen. Two people fall in love.
h) Terrible things happen, but people survive.
i) A documentary made more interesting with some parts acted.
j) Strange things happen in an imaginary world.
k) Somebody gets murdered and a clever detective tries to find out who did it.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

B Read the opinion below. What type of films does the writer enjoy? Why?

"I love watching romantic comedies. I enjoy sitting down and watching a couple find each other and fall in love. It's really easy watching. I find it relaxing because I don't have to think. It's funny how my taste in films has changed. When I was younger I enjoyed action films, like *Terminator 2*. But now I guess my interests are different."

C Work in pairs and answer the questions.

1 Which types of film do you enjoy watching? Have your tastes changed over the years?
2 Can you name films which match each type of story? Have both of you seen them? Are your opinions about them the same or different?

LISTENING

A 2.1 Listen to the first part of a radio programme about films and answer the questions.

1 What type of film does the programme talk about?
2 Why are these films so popular?

B Work in pairs and discuss. Look at the photos of actors who have played the roles of famous people in films. How do you think they prepared for the roles?

C 2.2 Listen to the second part of the radio programme. Are the sentences true (T) or false (F)?

1 Helen Mirren won an Oscar for her role as the Queen.
2 Will Smith met Muhammad Ali but they didn't get on.
3 Josh Brolin talked to himself in a Texan accent all day.
4 Audrey Tautou watched films of Coco Chanel.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

A 2.3 **Listen to the whole programme and complete the information.**

1 Hollywood has always used _____ _____ in its films.
2 Hollywood began making films in the _____s.
3 Some of the best films in recent years have been based on _____ _____.
4 From these films we've learnt about the _____ lives of some of the biggest music legends.
5 Many of these actors have won _____ for their roles.
6 Helen Mirren met the Queen for _____ .
7 Josh Brolin phoned hotels in Texas, to listen to their _____ .
8 Tautou wanted to look like Coco Chanel, so that we would recognise her _____ .

B **Check your answers in the audio script**

Unit 2 Recording 3

P1 = Presenter 1 P2 = Presenter 2 R = Rosie (a film historian)

P1: Hi and welcome to The Film Show, where today we're looking at the Hollywood biopic and why it's become so popular. Now, Hollywood has always used true stories in its films. In fact, they began making successful films in the 1920s, and since then there have been thousands of films based on true stories.
P2: That's right, but in recent years, there've been more and more biopics. Directors have turned to the lives of famous people as a source of material. So, why is it that some of the best films in recent years have been based on real events, or inspired by real people?
P1: Today, we're talking to Rosie Truman, an actor and a film historian. Rosie, why do you think Hollywood is doing so many biopics?

R: Well, one reason is that audiences really enjoy films about people that they already know something about, but they want to know more. So, from these films we've learnt something. We've learnt about the difficult lives of some of the biggest music legends, like Ray Charles and Johnny Cash. And we've learnt about the lives of politicians, like George Bush, or sporting heroes, like Muhammad Ali. It's a way in which Hollywood can actually teach us about history in an entertaining way. And it's interesting.
P2: Yes, I think that's right.
P2: But what about the actors, Rosie? I mean, many of the actors have won Oscars for their roles in these films. What's it like for them?

R: Well, I think actors just love these roles. It's very exciting to be asked to play a character who everyone already knows. Look at Helen Mirren. She won an Oscar for her role playing the Queen, and it's probably one of her greatest successes.
P1: Oh, absolutely! So, how do they do it? How does an actor prepare for a role like this? Do they meet the person that they're going to play?

LIVEWORKSHEETS

R: Well, yes, obviously, if that person is still alive, then that's a great way for the actor to study the character, to see how they move and how they talk. In fact, I know that Helen Mirren met the Queen for tea, you know, very English. And that really helped her to understand her character. And Will Smith, who played Muhammad Ali … well, when they met, they got on really well, and … and they became friends.
P2: But what about playing a character that everyone knows, like George Bush, for example?
R: Yes, it's funny actually, when you're playing a character that people recognise, you have to work really hard at getting the voice right. Josh Brolin played George Bush. And when he was preparing for the film, he talked to himself all day in a Texan accent. He even phoned hotels in Texas, just so he could listen to their accent.
P1: Really? That's funny. What about actors who can't meet the character in person? What do they do?
R: Well, there are other ways to prepare. Audrey Tautou, for example. She played Coco Chanel. So she couldn't meet her in person, but she watched hours and hours of film footage. She watched her in interviews, and she looked at the photographs. Tautou wanted to look like Coco Chanel when she was on screen, so that we would recognise the image.
P2: That's right. And it was a beautiful film.
R: It was, and you know one of the things …

GRAMMAR

PRESENT PERFECT AND PAST SIMPLE

B **Complete the rules with present perfect or past simple.**

RULES

1 Use the _____ to talk about experiences or things that happened before now. The time is not specified or important.
2 Use the _____ to talk about recent events, or an action which started in the past and continues now.
3 Use the _____ to talk about a specific event in the past (we know when the event happened).
4 Use the _____ to talk about an action which started and finished at a specific time in the past.

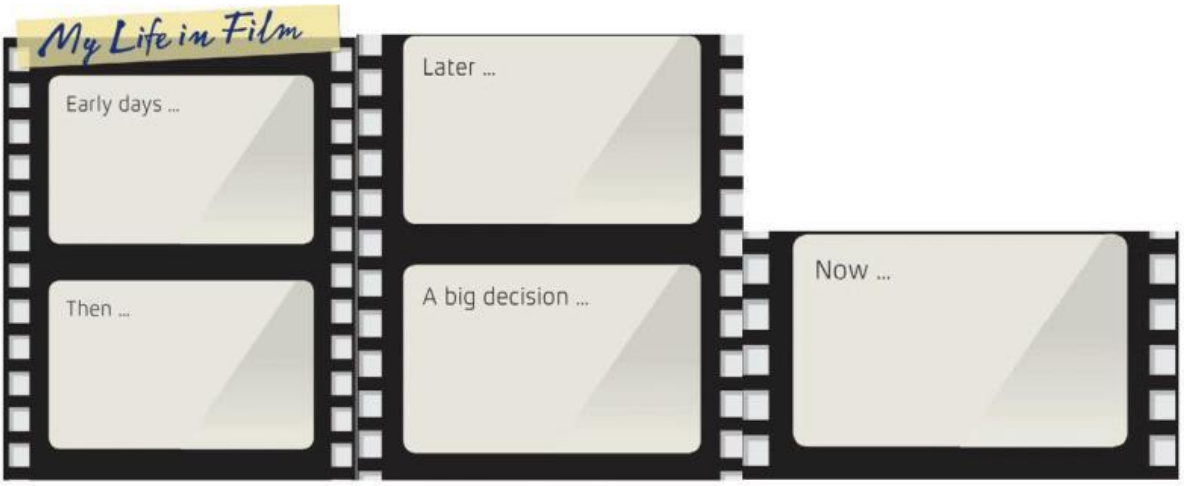
A **Read the text. What changed Chris Gardner's life?**

Chris Gardner is a successful businessman and a millionaire. But things [1]_____ always _____ (not be) easy. He [2]_____ (not meet) his father until he was twenty-eight years old. This experience made him sure about one thing: he was determined to be a good father to his own children. As a young man, Gardner [3]_____ (experience) hard times. His wife [4]_____ (leave) him, he [5]_____ (lose) his job, and at one stage he and his two-year-old son [6]_____ (sleep) in train stations and airports. He [7]_____ (come) a long way since then. His life changed when he [8]_____ (meet) a man driving a red Ferrari and asked him what job he did. The man was a stockbroker, so Gardner asked him out to lunch, and the Ferrari driver introduced Gardner to the world of finance. Since he became successful, he [9]_____ (spend) a lot of money helping homeless people, and he [10]_____ also (write) books about his experiences. His story was told in the film *The Pursuit of Happyness*, starring Will Smith.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

SPEAKING

A Imagine you are going to make a film about your life. Choose five events you would like to include. Write some notes in the film strip below.

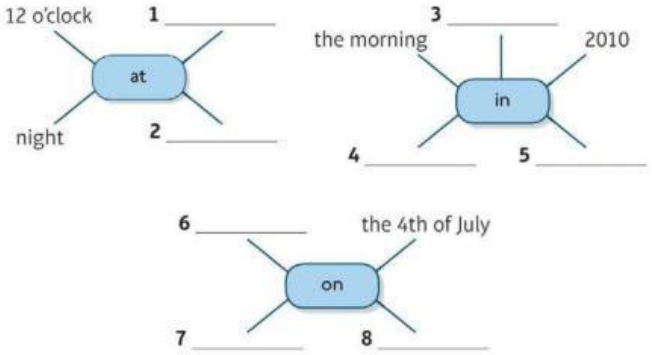


VOCABULARY PLUS

PREPOSITIONS

10 **PREPOSITION + EXPRESSIONS OF TIME** Complete the word webs with expressions in the box.

Saturday	the weekend	Monday morning	New Year's Day
July	the winter/the summer	the twenty-first century	lunchtime



speakout TIP

To help you remember which preposition of time to use, try to memorise this: ***on** Mon**day**; **in** win**ter**; **at** th**at** time.*

on = for specific days, *in* = for time periods, *at* = for specific times

LIVEWORKSHEETS

A FIXED EXPRESSIONS Match the fixed expressions in bold in sentences 1–10 with meanings a)–j).

1 I dropped it **by mistake**.
2 I saw the film **on my own**.
3 He's here **on business**.
4 We met **by chance**.
5 It was made **by hand**.
6 We got there **in the end**.
7 She said it **on purpose**.
8 We arrived **on time**.
9 I'll do that **in a moment**.
10 They're **in a hurry**.

a) finally
b) cannot wait
c) by a person, not a machine
d) it was not a mistake
e) alone, not with other people
f) not early, not late
g) in a very short time
h) accidentally
i) not on holiday, but for work
j) it was not planned

GRAMMAR

PRESENT PERFECT AND PAST SIMPLE

2 Underline the correct alternatives.

1 A: *I've never been/didn't go* to Hollywood.
B: Haven't you? I *went/'ve been* there last year.
2 A: How many films *have you acted/did you act* in so far?
B: *I've acted/acted* in seven films up to now.
3 A: He's only twenty-two years old, but he *travelled/has travelled* all around the world.
B: Which countries *did he visit/has he visited*?
4 A: She *has won/won* four Oscars for her performances.
B: That's right. She *has won/won* an award for Best Actress last month.
5 A: They *have lived/lived* in California for twenty years.
B: When *did they move/have they moved* to Texas?
6 A: *Have you been/Were you* here long?
B: Yes. I *arrived/have arrived* over an hour ago.
7 A: *We've been married/were married* for forty years now.
B: Do you remember the day *we've met/met*?
8 A: *Did you enjoy/Have you enjoyed* the film?
B: I *didn't have/haven't had* time to watch it yet.

Rewrite the second sentence so that it means the same as the first. Use the correct form of the words in capitals.

1 I met Ella ten years ago. KNOW
I *'ve known* Ella for ten years.
2 She went to Mumbai four weeks ago. BE
She _____ in Mumbai for four weeks.
3 They started the business in 2009. WORK
They _____ together since 2009.
4 We moved into the house six months ago. LIVE
We _____ this house for six months.
5 This is my third visit to London. GO
I _____ three times.

LIVEWORKSHEETS