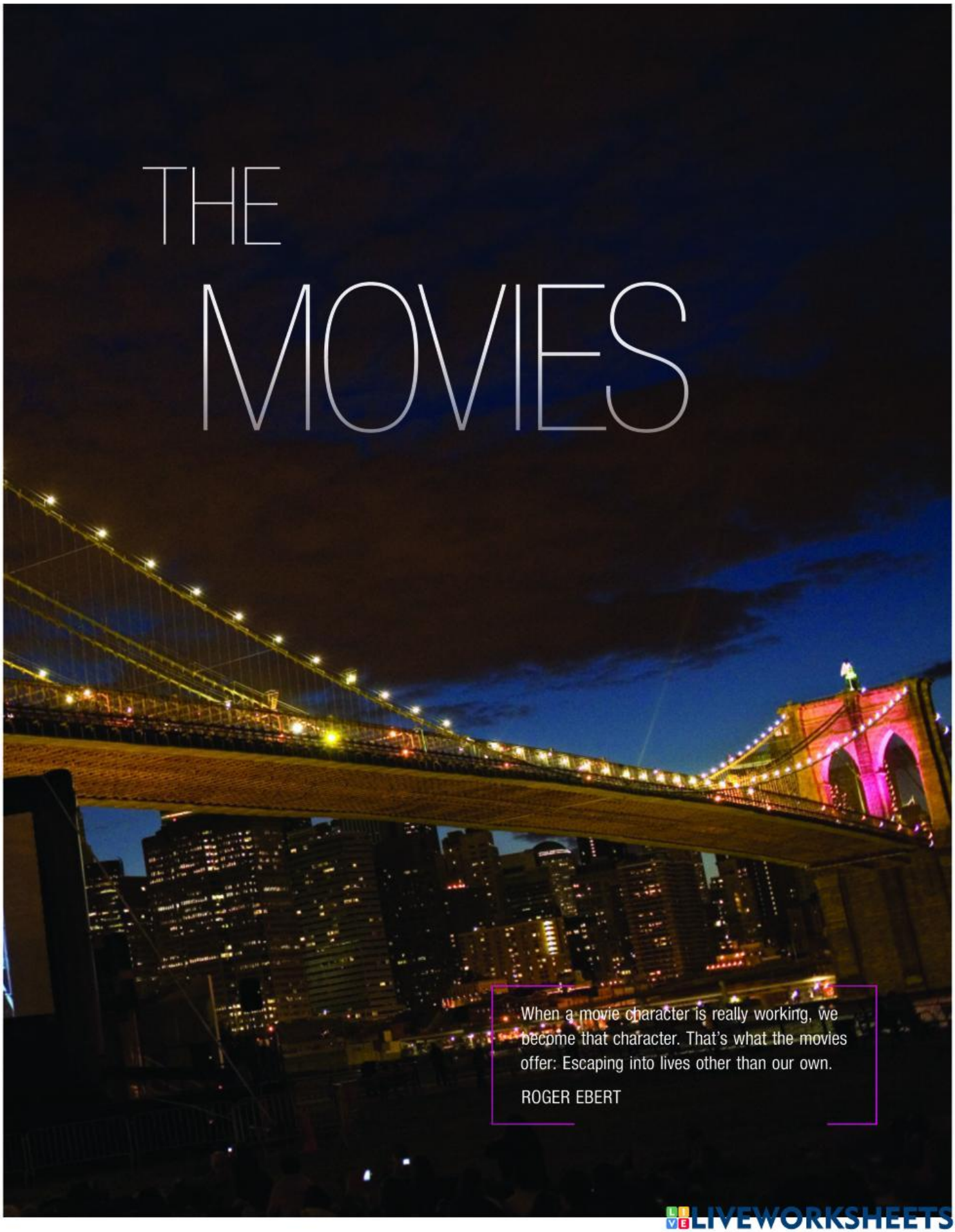


LIVEWORKSHEETS

BASED ON A TRUE STORY

Read the following article. Pay special attention to the words in bold. 3.1

Movie studios are always searching for stories that can become "blockbusters"—movies with massive audiences and high profits. While a lot of money **has been made** over the years with fictional stories, movies that **are based** on real-life events or people **are often seen** as another way to attract large audiences. Such movies **are frequently centered** on stories from the news or on historical events. Often these movies are about heartwarming[1], feel-good news stories or about dangerous, thrilling, and exciting events. Here are some examples.

- ***Hachi: A Dog's Tale*** **(2009)**

  Sometimes, a story is not well known until a movie **has been produced** and **seen** by audiences around the world. Often such a story **is chosen** for its general interest or human appeal. *Hachi* **was based** on a Japanese story about a dog that waited at the train station every evening for its owner to come home. After the owner's death, the dog continued to wait at the station for him for over nine years. The movie shows the depth of emotion between this dog and its owner. When *Hachi* **was released**, it **was criticized** by some reviewers for sentimentality[2], but it **was generally well received** by critics and the public alike.

- ***Sully: Miracle on the Hudson*** **(2016)**

  On the afternoon of January 15, 2009, audiences of U.S. news channels **were fascinated** by the amazing story of a passenger airplane that **was forced** to land on the Hudson River in New York City. The plane **had been hit** by birds soon after takeoff, and the engines had failed. All 155 people on board **were rescued** by boats. There were few injuries, and the pilot, Chesley Sullenberger, or "Sully" as he **was nicknamed**, became a national hero.

Of course, audiences for all movies want drama, thrills, and conflict, and those qualities **are sometimes provided** by filmmakers whether they actually happened or not! The truth **may be stretched**[3] and some characters or events even **changed** completely to make a "better" story. So please do not believe *everything* you see in movies that are "based on a true story."

---

1 heartwarming: describes something that makes people feel good or happy

2 sentimentality: quality of being overly sad or too emotional to

3 stretch the truth: to exaggerate a story



Movie poster showing passengers as they wait to be rescued on the wings of an airplane that safely landed in the Hudson River after a flock of birds knocked out both its engines (New York City, January 2009)

LIVEWORKSHEETS

COMPREHENSION Based on the reading, write T for *true* or F for *false*.

1. _____ Movies that are based on real life are not as popular as movies with fictional stories.
2. _____ The emotional story in *Hachi* was appreciated by everyone.
3. _____ The movie *Sully* was named after the pilot of the plane in the story.

THINK ABOUT IT Discuss the questions with a partner or in a small group.

1. Do you prefer movies based on real life or movies with fictional stories? Explain your reasons.
2. Which movie would you rather see, *Hachi* or *Sully*? Explain your reasons.

3.1 Active and Passive Voice—Introduction

EXAMPLES	EXPLANATION
subject verb object **Active:** Many people **saw** the movie. subject verb agent **Passive:** The movie **was seen** *by* many people.	Some sentences are in the active voice. The subject performs the action of the verb. Some sentences are in the passive voice. The subject receives the action of the verb. The passive voice is formed with *be* + the past participle. See Appendix C for a list of irregular past participles.
The plane was hit **by birds**. The movie has been seen **by the survivors**. The movie **is based** on a true story. The students **were given** free tickets.	Sometimes a passive sentence includes the agent, or the performer of the action. If so, *by* + agent is often added to the sentence. More often, the agent is omitted.
Active: He photographed **her**. **Passive: She** was photographed by **him**.	Notice the difference in pronouns in an active sentence and a passive sentence. After *by*, the object pronoun is used.
In 1929, tickets ***were* sold** for $10. (simple past) Today tickets ***are*** not **sold**. (simple present)	The tense of a passive sentence is shown in the form of the verb *be*.

Notes:

1. If two verbs in the passive voice are connected with *and*, we do not repeat the verb *be*.
   *Some popular older movies **have been watched and loved** for decades.*
2. An adverb can be placed between *be* and the main verb.
   *The movie was **widely** criticized for its historical inaccuracy.*
   *Successful movies are **often** adapted from novels.*

Notice these patterns with the passive voice in the past.

AFFIRMATIVE STATEMENT:	The movie **was filmed** in the United States.
NEGATIVE STATEMENT:	It **wasn't filmed** in Canada.
YES/NO QUESTION:	**Was** it **filmed** in Hollywood?
SHORT ANSWER:	No, it **wasn't**.
WH- QUESTION:	When **was** it **filmed**?
NEGATIVE *WH-* QUESTION:	Why **wasn't** it **filmed** in Hollywood?
SUBJECT QUESTION:	Which movie **was filmed** in Canada?

LIVEWORKSHEETS

3.2 Comparison of Active and Passive Voice

	ACTIVE	PASSIVE
Simple Present	Critics **review** movies.	New movies **are reviewed** after special early screenings.
Present Continuous	They **are filming** the movie in 3D.	The movie **is being filmed** in Hollywood.
Future	The writer **will base** the story on an event from the news. The writer **is going to base** the story on an event from the news.	The story **will be based** on an event from the news. The story **is going to be based** on an event from the news.
Simple Past	The director **made** a new movie.	The movie **was made** in Paris.
Past Continuous	Reporters **were interviewing** the stars.	The stars **were being interviewed** on the red carpet.
Present Perfect	Woody Allen **has made** many movies.	Most of his movies **have been made** in New York.
Modal	You **should see** the movie in the theater.	The movie **should be seen** on a large screen.

GRAMMAR IN USE

Using an agent with *by* is only one of the ways a passive sentence can be completed. Here are other common ways.

*The movie was made **in 2017**.* (When?)
*The forest scenes were shot **in New Zealand**.* (Where?)
*The scene was filmed **using a new 3D camera**.* (How?)
*The script was designed **to surprise the audience**.* (Why?)

EXERCISE 1 Listen to the sentences and fill in the blanks with the words you hear. Then decide if the verb is active (*A*) or passive (*P*). 3.2

1. The director ___wrote___ the screenplay. A
2. The screenplay ___was written___ by the director. P
3. The car company _____ a new model for the movie.
4. A new car _____ for the movie.
5. Starring roles _____ to unknown actors.
6. Who _____ the music for the movie?
7. Many American actors _____ in California.
8. _____ all American movies _____ in Hollywood?
9. The movie _____ in 3D.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

10. Her next movie _____ on a true story.

11. The actress usually _____ in comedies.

12. Many well-known movies _____ in New York.

13. _____ you ever _____ *Gone With the Wind*?

14. When _____ this film _____?

15. Some movies _____ on TV.

16. I _____ to the movies lately.

17. The actor _____ for his performance.

18. Which movie _____ in Paris?

EXERCISE 2 Fill in the blanks with the passive voice of the verb given and any other words you see. Use the simple past form of *be*.

A: People associate American movies with Hollywood. But in the beginning, the American film industry wasn't based (1. not/base) in Hollywood. It _____ (2. base) in New York.

B: When _____ (3. the first film/make) in Hollywood?

A: The first Hollywood film _____ (4. produce) in 1911. Did you know that early movie theaters _____ (5. call) "nickelodeons?"

B: Really? Why _____ (6. they/call) that?

A: Because they cost five cents, or one nickel.

B: I wonder how else nickelodeons were different from theaters today. _____ (7. snacks/sell) in nickelodeons?

A: At first, food _____ (8. not/sell) by the theaters. Then outside vendors _____ (9. permit) to come in and sell snacks. But when theater owners realized that they could make money for themselves by selling snacks, vendors _____ (10. not/allow) to come in anymore.

B: What _____ (11. sell)? Popcorn? I love eating popcorn at the movies.

A: Me, too. But popcorn came later.

continued

LIVEWORKSHEETS

B: Early films had no sound, right? How did the audience know what was happening?

A: Some of the dialogue _____ (12. show) on signs. And special music _____ (13. write) for a movie. A pianist or organist would play live music in the theater to create a mood. For example, dramatic music _____ (14. usually/play) for stormy weather or scary scenes, and romantic music _____ (15. use) for love scenes.

B: When _____ (16. sound/add) to films?

A: In 1927.

B: And when _____ (17. the first color movie/make)?

A: The first color movies _____ (18. actually/make) in the early 1900s, but many of these films _____ (19. lose).

B: Wow! You know a lot about movies. How do you know so much?

A: I'm majoring in film. We _____ (20. give) an assignment to write a paper about the early days of the movies.

EXERCISE 3 Fill in the blanks with the passive voice of the verb given. Use the simple present or present continuous, as indicated.

Imagine: You have checked movie listings online. The theater website says the movie you want to see will begin at 7:30 p.m. You arrive at 7:00. You relax into your seat, and now you're ready to see your movie, right? Not so fast! First, you are shown (1. simple present: show) a number of ads for cars, soft drinks, TV shows, and more. Then you _____ (2. simple present: tell) to turn off your cell phone. Now the lights _____ (3. present continuous: dim) and the theater is becoming dark. The movie's ready to begin, right? Wrong! Next come the movie trailers. Trailers _____ (4. simple present: make) to advertise new movies that are coming soon or that _____ (5. present continuous: show) in other parts of the same theater. A trailer _____ (6. simple present: limit) to two and a half minutes, so the movie will begin soon. Right? Wrong again. Sometimes as many as five or six trailers _____ (7. simple present: play). Again you _____ (8. simple present: ask) to turn off your cell phone. And no doubt, someone's phone will still ring. Finally, your movie begins and you _____ (9. simple present: transport) to another world.

LIVEWORKSHEETS