

The English questionnaire

1 READING

- a Read the information about Sir Ian McKellen. Have you seen any of his movies? Did you like them?

Sir Ian McKellen is one of Britain's greatest actors. He was born in Burnley in the north of England on May 25, 1939. He first became well known as an actor for his roles in Shakespeare's plays, e.g., *Hamlet* and *Macbeth*. In recent years, he has had many important movie roles including James Whale in *Gods and Monsters*, Gandalf in *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy, and Magneto in *X-Men*.



- b Sir Ian McKellen agreed to be interviewed especially for *American English File*. Read the interview and write a heading from the list below in each section.

YOUR ABILITIES

YOUR WORK EXPERIENCES

YOUR HOME

YOUR LIFESTYLE

YOUR PLACES

YOUR TASTES

- c Read the interview again. Then mark the sentences T (true) or F (false). Say why the F ones are false.

- 1 He became an actor when he was a student.
- 2 He lives outside London.
- 3 He gets up early every day.
- 4 He's never been to India.
- 5 He spends a long time on the Internet every day.
- 6 He read *The Lord of the Rings* when he was young.
- 7 His desk isn't very neat.
- 8 He doesn't like animals.
- 9 He relaxes by playing games.
- 10 He doesn't have any ambitions.



X-MEN [2000]

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 favorite kind of music is traditional American jazz.

What book are you reading right now?

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

Who's your favorite 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 encyclopedia of information.

How do you relax?

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

3

What's your favorite 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.



GODS AND MONSTERS [1998]

MACBETH [1979]

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 favorite place in London?

I love the River Thames and the views from its many bridges.

Where are you going to go for your next vacation? 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?

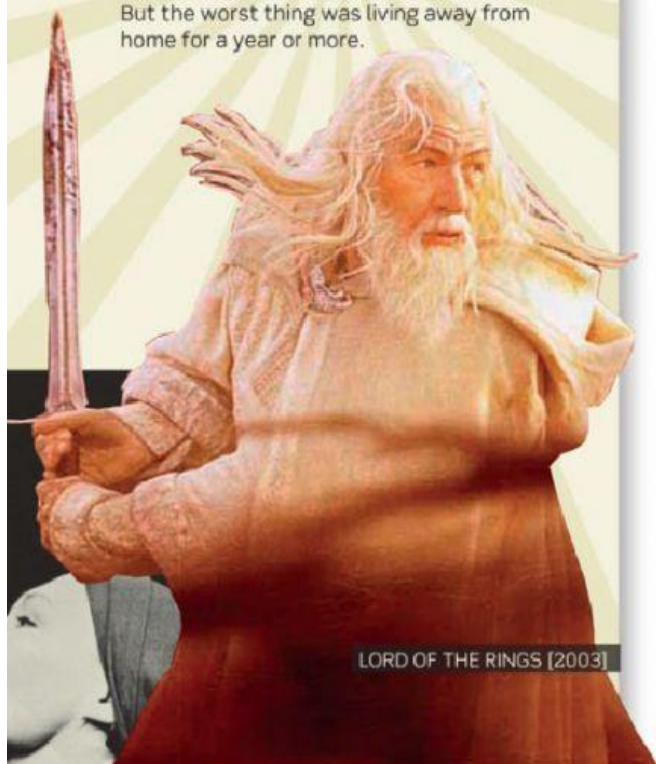
The first money I earned as a professional actor was when I was a student at Cambridge University in 1959. I played small parts in audio recordings of Shakespeare's plays.

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.



LORD OF THE RINGS [2003]

2 VOCABULARY review: word groups

a Put these words from the interview in the right column.

actor books desk go to bed living room small

Rooms	Things	Jobs
Furniture	Adjectives	Daily routine

b With a partner, add three more words to each column.

3 PRONUNCIATION review: sounds

a Look at some words from the interview. Which word has a different sound?

1  school choose cook too

2  first earn worst year

3  say wait can't favorite

4  friends many people ever

5  enjoy bridge dog languages

6  hour home perhaps hardly

7  thing three the think

8  information school traditional professional

b))) Listen and check. Practice saying the words.

4 GRAMMAR & SPEAKING

review: question formation

a Without looking back at the interview, try to remember the questions for these answers.

- Perhaps William Shakespeare.
- I'm going to go to India for the first time in February.
- I only speak English...
- I can't choose between Edinburgh, Prague, and Venice.
- I read it first when I was preparing to play Gandalf...

b Choose eight questions from the questionnaire to ask a partner.