

1 READING

- a Look at the photos of Sir Ian McKellen. Do you know the names of any movies he has been in? Have you seen any of them?
- b Sir Ian McKellen was interviewed especially for *American English File*. Read the interview and complete sections A–F with a heading from the list.

Your abilities

Your lifestyle

Your work experiences

Your places

Your home

Your tastes

- c Look at sentences 1–10 about Sir Ian McKellen. Some are true and some are false. In which section of the interview do you expect to find the information?

- 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's not interested in learning new things.

- d Read the interview again and mark the sentences **T** (true) or **F** (false). Say why the **F** ones are false.
- e Talk to a partner. What three things from the interview with Sir Ian McKellen did you find the most interesting?

2 GRAMMAR & SPEAKING review: question formation

- a In pairs, look at the groups of questions (1–6). Complete them with 's, are, can, do, did, or have.

1 Your lifestyle

What _____ you usually do in the morning?
 How _____ you relax?
 What _____ you do last weekend?

2 Your home

What _____ your favorite room in your home?
 _____ you neat or messy?
 _____ you do a lot of housework last week?

as Gandalf

An interview with
Sir Ian McKellen

A 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.

3 Your abilities

What languages _____ you speak?
 _____ you sing or play a musical instrument?
 Why _____ you learning English?

4 Your places

What _____ your favorite place to spend the weekend?
 Where _____ you go for your last vacation?
 Where _____ you going to go for your next vacation?

5 Your tastes

What _____ your favorite time of year?
 What book _____ you reading right now?
 What kind of TV shows _____ you like watching?

6 Your experiences

What movies _____ you seen recently?
 What _____ the most beautiful place you've ever been to?
 _____ you ever been to the US or Britain?

- b 12.13 Listen and check.

B

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 10:00 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.

C

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.

D

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.

E

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 am 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.

F

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.



as Magneto

c Work with a partner.

A interview B with group 1. Ask more questions where appropriate, and show interest in B's answers.

B answer the questions, giving as much information as you can. Then B interview A with group 2, etc.

A What do you usually do in the morning?

B I get up at about 7:00. I have breakfast and then I go to class at school.

A What time do your classes start?

B At 8:00.

3 VIDEO LISTENING

a Watch the documentary *Judi Dench – a life in acting*. Check (✓) the six movies you hear. Have you seen any of them?

Macbeth *A Room with a View* *Tea with Mussolini*
Henry V *GoldenEye* *Mrs. Brown* *Skyfall*
Shakespeare in Love



Judi Dench and Ian McKellen in *Macbeth*

b Watch again. Put the events in the correct order.

- ☐ She appeared in *A Room with a View*.
- ☐ She played Queen Elizabeth I.
- ☐ She worked with the Royal Shakespeare Company.
- ☐ 1 She was born in York.
- ☐ She appeared in her first James Bond movie.
- ☐ She acted in the York Mystery Plays.
- ☐ She played Queen Victoria in the movie *Mrs. Brown*.
- ☐ She was in a production of *Macbeth* with Ian McKellen.
- ☐ She won an Oscar.

c Are there any famous actors from your country who are the same generation as Judi Dench and Ian McKellen? Do you like them?

Go online to watch the video and review the lesson