READING

1 Discuss how you think people can get their first role in a film.

2 Read the text quickly. Did you think of the three ways that Kameron suggests?

SO YOU WANT TO BE **IN A FILM?**

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HERE'S HOW ANYONE CAN DO IT …



My best friend and I have just appeared in a film! It sounds unbelievable, but the truth is: it was easy. We were 'extras', and anyone can be an extra. Extras act in films or TV shows, but they aren't the main actors. They might be people who are chatting in a restaurant, walking down a street or playing sports. Sometimes, with smaller films, people are happy to work for free as extras. Although you don't get paid, you get to hang out with cool people, learn about film making and support a local director. Also, film companies provide great lunches!

BY KAMERON BADGERS

There are three ways to get hired as an extra:

1 **JOIN A CASTING WEBSITE** I found a national website which producers and directors look through to find extras. It was free to join. I just had to send a photo and fill in a questionnaire about my skills and abilities, for example sports I'm good at, musical instruments I can play, and whether I have a motorcycle licence. A director is the person who is in charge of filming. A producer is responsible for the team that makes the film. Producers are interested in anyone, from babies to grandparents. Hopefully, you'll get something cool like a part in a reality show or a period drama!

2 **CONTACT YOUR LOCAL FILM BOARD** Film boards help local companies with things like money and the contacts they need to make a film. They'll also send you information about directors who are filming in your area.

3 **TAKE ACTING CLASSES** Drama schools are often the first place where producers look.

FINALLY, A FEW WORDS OF WARNING!

- Be prepared for long waits: you'll spend more time doing nothing than appearing in a scene.
- Forget advertisements that say they'll make you famous. They probably won't!
- Remember: this isn't your 'big chance' to become a star. Extras are there to do a job, not because they hope to 'show what they can do'.

3 Complete the sentences with the correct form of the highlighted words from the text.

1 The teacher gave her a _____ about being late.
2 Do you want to _____ in a video that I'm making?
3 The football team is going to _____ a new coach.
4 I'd like to talk to the person who's _____ here.
5 My brother played the _____ of a rock singer in a short film.
6 It's hard preparing for exams, but my teachers _____ me in various ways.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

4 **Read the text again and answer the questions.**

1 How did Kameron appear in a film?
2 What do extras do?
3 Why do volunteers like helping smaller film productions?
4 What's the difference between a producer and a director?
5 How can film boards help people who want to start acting?
6 Why should you take acting classes?
7 Why might it be boring to be an extra?

TALKING POINTS

Would you like to be an extra or even an actor? Why? / Why not?

What films or shows would you like to appear in?

READING

1 **Tick (✓) the sentences you think are true.**

1 Reality shows are great fun to watch. ☐
2 Reality shows are the opposite of real. ☐
3 Reality shows can help you to learn about people. ☐
4 Reality shows have a negative influence on society. ☐

2 **Read the article. Answer these questions.**

1 Which of the following happens because you work long hours?
   a You are always waiting to be told what to do next.
   b You don't have a very good social life.
   c Your working day is not organised.
2 Why do you have to accept that you won't earn much at first?
   a because other people will be happy to do the job for little money
   b because you will soon start to earn a lot more
   c because you need to get experience doing the job
3 Why is a career in reality TV difficult for some people?
   a because they dislike the people in the show
   b because they don't want people on the show to be happy
   c because they don't like seeing people who are upset



If your dream is to work in reality television as part of the crew, then there are some things you need to know before you set out on a career in that direction.

The Hours

Say goodbye to a social life! The working hours in reality TV are often extremely long. You might find yourself working 12- to 18-hour days (sometimes longer). Also, your working day changes all the time, you never know what could happen or when. You are always waiting for someone to tell you what to do next. So when you're working on a reality TV show, you probably won't get together with friends very often.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

4 What type of person do you have to be to work in reality TV?
   a unfriendly
   b relaxed
   c confident
5 What do you have to do to have a successful career in reality TV?
   a accept the true facts of a situation
   b work well as part of a team
   c have lots of experience in television

3 Match the highlighted words in the text to their meanings.

1 natural skill or ability _____
2 to do something successfully _____
3 a group of people who work together _____
4 time to enjoy with your friends _____
5 prepared and happy to do something _____

4 Complete the sentences with the correct form of the words from Exercise 3.

1 I hang out with my friends every day. My _____ is great!
2 I am always _____ to help you as much as I can.
3 The production _____ on this new film are great fun to work with!
4 That actor has so much _____. He is amazing!
5 He stayed calm and relaxed, and _____ the situation very well.

The Money

Until you have shown the producers that you have talent, salaries are often extremely low. But if you're not willing to work for low pay, there are hundreds of people behind you who will. So, you have to be realistic about what to expect when you're starting out. One day, you might earn a lot of money, but in the beginning, you can expect your bank account to be almost empty.

The Subject Matter

Some people are not able to work in reality TV because they feel sorry for the people on the show. As a crew member of a reality show, you might have to watch people in difficult situations. Although it's human nature to want to help these people, it's also your job to help film these moments for a national or global audience. So you have to be certain about your ability to deal with problems well.

The Reputation

Unfortunately, reality TV has a bad reputation. It's not always a pleasant occupation. And because your job is to film people who are sometimes sad or angry, people might think you are an anti-social person. You will have to manage this on your own. If you can do this, then your reality TV career might be a great success.



LIVEWORKSHEETS