

# Tom Hanks – Glossary

**army officer** noun [count]  
someone with a position of power and authority in the armed forces

**astronaut** noun [count]  
someone who travels and works in space

**award** noun [count]  
a prize or other reward that is given to someone who has achieved something  
*She won the Player of the Year award.*

**battle** noun [count/uncount]  
a fight between two armies in a war

**present** adjective  
at an event, or in a place  
*Among those present at the ceremony were the ambassador and his wife.*

**carbon emissions** noun [plural]  
carbon dioxide and carbon monoxide in the atmosphere, produced by vehicles and industrial processes

**commander** noun [count]  
an officer who is in charge of a military group or operation

**crucial** adjective  
something that is extremely important because it has a major effect on the result of something

**disability** noun [count]  
a condition in which someone is not able to use a part of their body or brain properly, for example because of an injury  
*children with learning disabilities*

**election** noun [count]  
an occasion when people vote for someone to represent them, especially in a government

**encourage** verb  
to suggest that someone does something that you believe would be good  
*We encourage student participation in our classes.*

**environmental** adjective  
relating to the natural world and the effect that human activity has on it  
*The Minister discussed environmental issues.*

**explosion** noun  
an occasion when something bursts with a lot of force and a loud noise, often causing damage  
*a gas/nuclear explosion*

**influence** verb  
to affect the way that someone thinks or behaves, or to affect the way that something happens

**kind-hearted** adjective  
kind and generous

**land** verb  
if an aircraft lands, it comes down to the ground

**mission** noun [count]  
an important piece of work that a person or group of people has to do for a government or large organization, especially one that involves travel  
*a cultural/fact-finding/rescue mission*

**play** verb  
to have a particular part in a play or film  
*She played Blanche in A Streetcar Named Desire.*

**plot** noun [count]  
a series of related events that make up the main story in a book, film etc.

**poll** noun [count]  
an occasion when a lot of people are asked what they feel about something  
*They're worried about the government's present low standing in the polls.*

**role** noun [count]  
the character played by a particular actor in a film, play etc  
*He won an Oscar for his role.*

**scene** noun [count]  
a part of a play, book, film etc in which events happen in the same place or period of time  
*a love scene*

**shocking** adjective  
something that makes you feel extremely surprised or upset

**slight** adjective  
small in size, amount, or degree  
*a slight increase in temperature*