

e-lesson

Week starting: 7th March 2011

1. The Oscars

This week's lesson is about the film industry awards presented annually by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences – otherwise known as the Oscars. The 83rd Oscars ceremony took place in Los Angeles on 27th February.

Level

Pre-intermediate and above (equivalent to CEF level A2–B1 and above)

How to use the lesson

1. Ask your students what their favourite recent films have been, and why. Who are their favourite actors and actresses, and in which role(s) did they think they were particularly good? Ask your students to try to describe what the Oscars are in English. (This might be an ideal opportunity to introduce vocabulary such as *award*, *ceremony*, *trophy*, etc.) Which famous actors/actresses do they think have won the most Oscars during their careers? What other people can win Oscars, apart from actors?
2. Give each student in the class a copy of Worksheet A and give them five to ten minutes to read through it, encouraging them to look up new vocabulary. Tell the students it is important that they try to remember as much of the information as possible.
3. Tell the students they are going to prepare a quiz for each other. Then divide the class into two teams, A and B.
4. Cut Worksheet B in half and give each member of each team the corresponding half. Explain that each team has to work together in order to formulate the questions that produce the answers given, based on the text on Worksheet A. Note that it is possible for there to be slight variations on each question.
5. When both teams have finished preparing their questions, ask them to turn over Worksheet A and the glossary so that they can't see them.
6. The two teams now take it in turns to ask and answer the questions. Encourage team members to confer before answering, but make it clear that once they have given their answer they cannot change it. You should only accept answers given in correct English. Keep score on the board; the team with more correct answers at the end of the quiz wins.
7. Before the next exercise you need to cut Worksheet C into two halves. Divide the students into pairs, Student A and Student B, and hand out the halves of the worksheet so that Student A's grid has the words that Student B's grid is missing, and vice versa. The idea is for the students to *describe* the words they have in their grids so that their partners can guess what they are, and then fill them in. It is therefore vital that they don't show their grids to their partners. Tell the students to describe the words one by one, and to take it in turns to speak. You could let the students carry on describing the words for as long as it takes for their partners to identify them, or as a fun alternative you could impose a time limit for the description of each word. Before the students begin, point out that all the missing words feature in the text on Worksheet A.
8. Check answers in open class.

Answers:

Exercise 1

Team A

1. Where / in what city are/were the Oscars held?
2. How high/tall is an Oscar (trophy/statuette)?
3. How many Oscars for Best Actress has Jodie Foster won?
4. Who does Colin Firth play in *The King's Speech*?
5. Who decides who wins the Oscars?
6. How many Oscars did *Titanic* win?
7. What is Facebook?
8. What is (the person in the) Oscar statuette standing on?

Team B

1. What industry are the Oscars for?
2. Which film won the Oscar for Best Picture in 2011?
3. How many Oscars did *Ben Hur* win?
4. What kind of film is *True Grit*?
5. How many Oscars / Academy Awards are there (in total)?
6. Who does Natalie Portman play in *Black Swan*?
7. What is the British king's problem in *The King's Speech*?
8. How many Oscars for Best Actor has Tom Hanks won?

Exercise 2

1. animation
2. ceremony
3. screenwriter
4. director
5. speech
6. statuette
7. western
8. therapist
9. award
10. sword
11. glamorous
12. trophy

When the crossword has been completed correctly, *Anne Hathaway* will read from top to bottom. (Hathaway has starred in *The Devil Wears Prada*, *Alice in Wonderland* and *Love and Other Drugs*, among other films.)

2. Related websites

Send your students to these websites, or just take a look yourself.

http://news.bbc.co.uk/cbbcnews/hi/newsid_9400000/newsid_9409200/9409213.stm

An article on the 2011 Oscars on the BBC *Newsround* website, with a link to an Oscars quiz. Accessible to pre-intermediate level.

http://news.bbc.co.uk/cbbcnews/hi/newsid_1880000/newsid_1881900/1881938.stm

A *Newsround* 'Guide to the Oscars' (additional pages' links on the right). Accessible to pre-intermediate level.

<http://www.oscars.org/>

The official website of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

Challenging for pre-intermediate level.