Tom Hanks

Tom Hanks, born in California in 1956, is one of the world's most popular film stars, often coming near the top of polls in which the public are asked to choose their favourite actor.

He began his acting career in American television comedies before making the step up to cinema in the mid-1980s. Since then he has played lots of different roles and has won many awards, including two Oscars. His latest leading role is in *Angels and Demons*, the story of a plot to destroy the Vatican, which could become one of the most successful films of 2009.

Like some other Hollywood actors Hanks is interested in environmental and political issues: for example he encourages the use of electric cars (and drives one himself) as a way of cutting carbon emissions, and was one of Barack Obama's many celebrity supporters during the 2008 presidential election.

The following are just three of his well-known films:

Forrest Gump (1994)

Hanks won an Oscar for the title role, that of a kind-hearted man with a slight intellectual disability who influences American history by being present at various crucial moments – but without ever realising his own importance. One of the most famous lines from the film is 'Run, Forrest, run!', which Hanks says are still the words people most often shout at him when they see him in the street.

Apollo 13 (1995)

Hanks played the astronaut James Lovell in the true story of the 1970 NASA space mission. The objective of the mission is for American astronauts to land on the moon for the third time (the first time was in 1969), but after an explosion inside the spacecraft the aim becomes that of simply getting the astronauts back safely to Earth, which at first seems almost impossible.

Saving Private Ryan (1999)

Hanks played an American army officer, John H. Miller, during the Second World War. After the Americans have landed on the beaches of Normandy in France in June 1944, Miller and his men are given the unusual mission of finding an American soldier, Private Ryan, whose three brothers have all been killed – the American commanders want to send the soldier home so that his mother doesn't lose all four of her sons. Directed by Steven Spielberg, the film is perhaps best known for the shockingly realistic 25-minute battle scene at the very start.

Tom Hanks

Exercise 1

Team A

Below are the answers to some questions about the text on Worksheet A. Work with your team and write the questions. When you have finished, Team B will have to answer them as part of a quiz.

1. In California.

2. It is about a plot to destroy the Vatican.

3. He plays an American army officer in the Second World War.

4. It took place in 1970.

5. Because they don't want his mother to lose all four of her sons.

6. They took place in June 1944.

7. Because it's a way of cutting carbon emissions.

8. It was simply to get the astronauts back safely to Earth.

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Team B

Here are the answers to some questions about the text on Worksheet A. Work with your team and write the questions. When you have finished, Team A will have to answer them as part of a quiz.

1. He has won two Oscars.

2. They shout 'Run, Forrest, run!'

3. Steven Spielberg.

4. It is for American astronauts to land on the moon for the third time.

5. In 1969.

6. He supported him during the 2008 presidential election.

7. By being present at various crucial moments.

8. In the mid-1980s.

Tom Hanks

Exercise 2
The text from Worksheet A has been copied below, but contains some mistakes.
Twenty of the words in bold are incorrect, and five are correct. Decide which are
incorrect, and correct them.

Tom Hanks, born in California in 1956, is one of the world's most popular film stars,
often coming near the top of (1) **polls** in which the public are asked to choose their
favourite actor.
He began his acting (2) **carear** in American television (3) **comedias** before making
the step up to cinema in the (4) **middle**-1980s. Since then he (5) **played** lots of
different roles and has won many (6) **wards**, including two Oscars. His latest leading
role is in *Angels and Demons*, the story of a (7) **plot** to destroy the Vatican, which
could become one of the most successful films of 2009.
Like some other Hollywood actors Hanks is interested in (8) **environment** and
political issues: for example he encourages the use of electric cars (and drives one
himself) as a way of cutting carbon (9) **missions**, and was one of Barack Obama's
many celebrity supporters during the 2008 presidential election.
The following are just three of his well-known films:

Forrest Gump (1994)
Hanks won an Oscar for the title role, that of a kind-(10) **heart** man with a slight
intellectual (11) **misability** who influences American history by being (12) **the
present** at various (13) **crucal** moments – but without ever realising his own
(14) **importance**. One of the most famous (15) **lines** from the film is 'Run, Forrest,
run!', which Hanks says are still the words people most often shout at him when they
see him in the street.

Apollo 13 (1995)
Hanks played the astronaut James Lovell in the true story of the 1970 NASA space
mission. The objective of the mission is for American astronauts to (16) **landing** on
the moon for the third time (the first time was in 1969), but after an explosion inside
the (17) **spacecrab** the aim becomes that of simply getting the astronauts
(18) **forward** safely to Earth, which (19) **in** first seems almost impossible.

Saving Private Ryan (1999)
Hanks played an American army officer, John H. Miller, during the Second World
War. After the Americans have landed on the beaches of Normandy in France in June
1944, Miller and his men are (20) **gave** the unusual mission of finding an American
soldier, Private Ryan, (21) **who's** three brothers have all (22) **killed** – the American
commanders want to send the soldier (23) **to home** so that his mother doesn't lose all
four of her sons. Directed by Steven Spielberg, the film is perhaps best known for the
shockingly (24) **realistic** 25-minute battle (25) **seen** at the very start.