


11

Winners

Reading

Before reading

- 1 Discuss these questions.
 - 1 Who is your favourite actor or actress?
 - 2 What is your favourite film?
 - 3 Have you ever watched 'The Oscars' (the film award ceremony)?
- 2  Read and listen.

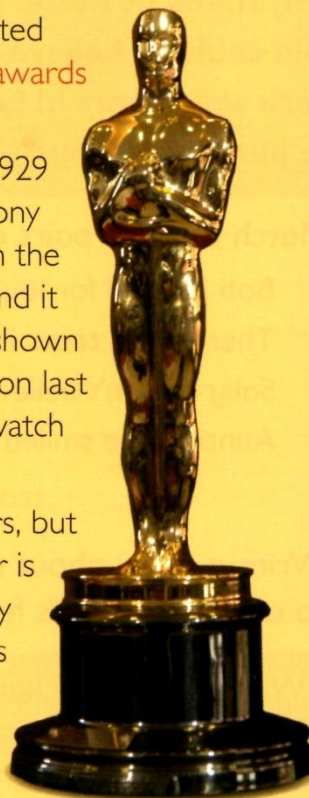


The Oscars

The Academy Awards – or 'Oscars' – are prizes for talented actors, writers and directors for their work in films. The awards are given every year at a special ceremony in Hollywood.

The first Academy Awards ceremony was on May 16th 1929 at the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel. Tickets to the ceremony cost five dollars and there were fewer than 250 people in the audience. The ceremony only lasted for fifteen minutes and it was not on television or radio. In 1953 the awards were shown on TV for the first time. Now, the ceremonies on television last for four hours, and millions of people around the world watch to see their favourite movie stars receive awards.

The audience is made up of hundreds of glamorous actors, but only a few will be winners. Every Academy Award winner is given a golden statue. The statues are called Oscars. They are made of metal and are in the shape of a knight who is standing on a round film can and holding a sword. Fifty new Oscar statues are made every year.



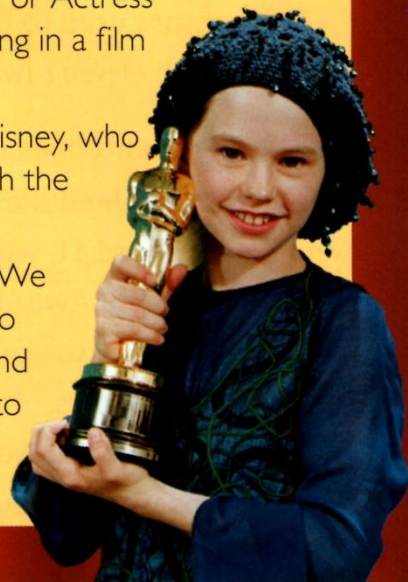
There are different stories about how the Oscar got its name. Some people say that the director of the Academy gave the statue its name in 1931 because she said that it looked like her cousin Oscar. However, actress Bette Davis said that she called her award Oscar as a **joke**, because her husband's name was Oscar. Nobody knows which story is correct, but in 1939, the Academy named the award the 'Oscar'.

Most Oscar winners have been **adults**, but a few have been children. In the past the Academy gave out 'baby' Oscars to child actors, which were **half** the size of the normal statues.

Now, child actors **compete** against adults for Best Actor or Actress awards. In 1993, Anna Paquin won an Oscar for her acting in a film called *The Piano*. She was eleven!

The person who has won the most Oscars was Walt Disney, who won twenty-six altogether for his films. And the film with the most Oscars was *Titanic*. In 1997, it won eleven Oscars.

Today, the Academy Awards ceremony is very popular. We look **forward** to the ceremony each year and we want to know who will win. We love to watch talented actors and directors when they win their prizes and say thank you to the audience. And everyone hopes their favourite film will get an Oscar!



Vocabulary

3 Use the words from the text to complete the sentences.

- 1 At the Olympics, winners are given medals in a special ceremony.
- 2 Children aren't allowed to drive – only _____ can drive a car.
- 3 Famous actors are sometimes called _____.
- 4 In the football World Cup, teams from different countries _____ against each other.
- 5 Brave soldiers in the past that rode horses were called _____s.
- 6 My sister's getting married soon, and I'm looking _____ to the wedding.
- 7 That cake is too big to eat so I'll only eat _____ of it.
- 8 My brother is never serious. He's always making _____ s.
- 9 That actress with the diamond necklace looks very _____.
- 10 The Oscars are _____ for actors and other people who make films.

Reading comprehension

4 Circle the correct words to make true sentences.

- 1 The Oscars are *ceremonies* / *prizes* given to people who work in films.
- 2 The prizes are given at a special ceremony in *New York* / *Hollywood*.
- 3 The first Oscars ceremony lasted for *five* / *fifteen* minutes.
- 4 Now *250* / *millions of* people watch the Oscars.
- 5 The winners are given a small *statue* / *sword*.
- 6 The statues were called Oscars in *1931* / *1939*.
- 7 Child actors used to get *adult* / *baby* Oscars.
- 8 *Titanic* won *eleven* / *twenty-six* Oscars.

5 Number the sentences in the correct order.

The Academy named the awards 'Oscars'.

Anna Paquin, aged 11, won an Oscar.

The first Academy Awards ceremony took place.

The Academy director said the statues looked like her cousin.

Titanic won 11 Oscars.

The Oscars ceremony was on TV for the first time.

The first films were produced.

1

6 Match the two parts of the sentences.

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| 1 The Academy Awards are also called | a on television or radio. |
| 2 The Academy Awards | b every year. |
| 3 The first Oscars ceremony wasn't | c Oscars. |
| 4 The first Oscars ceremony took place | d than any other film maker. |
| 5 Fifty new Oscars are made | e in a hotel in Hollywood. |
| 6 No one really knows | f the Oscars ceremony. |
| 7 Walt Disney won more Oscars | g how the Oscar got its name. |
| 8 Lots of people look forward to | h are prizes. |

7 Discuss these questions with a partner or with your class.

- 1 Do you think the Oscars ceremony is a good idea?
- 2 Can you think of other award ceremonies?
- 3 Do you think it's a good idea to give awards to people? Why or why not?

☆ The Winner ☆ ☆

My school has an art competition.
We're painting our favourite things.
My best friend is painting a rainbow,
And I'm painting butterflies' wings.

The winner is given a trophy.
They get a certificate, too.
Do you think that I'll be the winner?
Maybe my wish will come true.

Every year, when the winner is chosen,
There's a ceremony in the school hall.
The art teacher shows the best painting
And then hangs it up on the wall.

When the art teacher held up my painting,
I heard a big cheer from the crowd.
My friends were all laughing and clapping.
I felt very happy and proud.



When you write a poem, remember ...

- A poem is usually made of different **verses**. This one has four. Can you see them?
- We sometimes use **rhyming words** when we write a poem. For example 'things' and 'wings' in the first verse. Can you find more rhyming words in the other verses?

8 Complete the poem with the words in the box.

everyone go here mine prize win

Our school sports day is lots of fun,
With lots of games for ¹ everyone.

Every year, I close my eyes
And wish that I will win a ² _____.

I wait for my race to begin.
I'm nervous now, I hope I'll ³ _____.

And then I hear the whistle blow –
The race has started, off we ⁴ _____!

I run towards the finish line.
I want that medal to be ⁵ _____
I cross the line, my friends all cheer
"Hooray, hooray! The winner's ⁶ _____!"

9 Write a poem about a day when you felt happy. Divide your poem into different verses and use rhyming words.