ADVANCED LEVEL (C1) AND ABOVE
◊ **Read the script and note new vocabulary**
◊ **Write three sentences using new vocabulary**
◊ **Prepare for the discussion questions**

Starting Off

It used to be that what you saw on a movie set would pretty much be what you saw in the final movie, but CGI has changed the "reality" of what we see in films entirely.

1 Read the **Video Script** below. The words in **bold** are defined in the **Vocabulary** section. Look up any new words in a dictionary.

2 Go to the **Your Turn** section at the end of this document. Practice using new words and expressions from the video script to prepare for your next class.

3 Look at the **Discussion Questions** and prepare your responses for the next class.

Discussion Questions:

◊ Do you enjoy going to see big summer movie blockbusters?

◊ What's your favorite Hollywood blockbuster of all time?

◊ How has the development of computer generated images (CGI) influenced the summer blockbusters of today? In your opinion, have these changes had a generally positive or negative effect on big summer films?

Video Script:

Narrator: In the olden days what you'd see on a **movie set** would look pretty much the same as what you'd see in the final film, but with modern technology giving us a capability of CGI, all you need is a **green screen** and a couple of **props**. And because of this, movie sets **nowadays** look completely different to what you see in the final movie. So here are some movie clips, without the visual effects, for you to see what they really look like.

Life of Pi: In this movie we see that Pi Patel spends most of his time in a boat at sea. Oh yeah, and there's a tiger there too. Except they're not at sea and there's no tiger there. Nearly the entire movie was filmed in front of a blue screen and the tiger was completely CGI. However, for the **close-up shots**, where PI has to physically interact with the tiger, they didn't use a tiger either! They used a blue teddy bear with badly **scribbled** on eyes.

Captain America: Civil War: This film used **tons** of green screens for locations that you would have thought you could **get away** without having to use it like the fight scene between team Iron Man and team Captain America that **takes place** in an airport. I mean is an airport really something that has to be done with CGI? Apparently so. But the scene where Captain America stops the helicopter from **taking off** with his **bare hands** makes more sense as that was done at ground level rather than on a dangerous rooftop.

The Wolf of Wallstreet: You'd think that being based on a true story there wouldn't really be any need for **fancy** fantasy scenery, but this film was full of it. It was used for foreign locations the characters visited to **enhance** the beach houses that they partied at and, of course, for more obvious things like having a lion walk through the office.

Video Script continued on next page...

Vocabulary:

- **in the olden days** - in the past
- **(movie) set** - for a play, film, or television show is the furniture and scenery that is on the stage when the play is being performed or in the studio where filming takes place
- **green screen** - a green-coloured screen against which actors or other moving objects can be filmed and to which separate moving images can be added
- **Props** - the objects or pieces of furniture that are used in a play or film
- **nowadays** - today; in the current era
- **close-up shots** - a photograph or a picture in a film that shows a lot of detail because it is taken very near to the subject
- **tons** - slang for "a lot"
- **scribble** - write or draw (something) carelessly or hurriedly
- **get away with** - doing something wrong or risky, in a manner in which you do not suffer any punishment or other adverse consequences because of it
- **takes place** - happens; transpires
- **taking off** - (of an airplane or helicopter) - leave the ground and start flying
- **(with one's) bare hands** - do something without using any weapons or tools
- **fancy** - is special, unusual, or elaborate, for example because it has a lot of decoration
- **enhance** - improve the value, quality or attractiveness of something

Vocabulary continued on next page...

WATCH & LEARN: ARTS & LIFESTYLE:
ART & LITERATURE: FILMS
CGI MAGIC IN BLOCKBUSTERS (3:24 min)
VIDEO Script & Vocabulary (page 2 of 2/v1001)

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Video Script continued...

Gravity: This wasn't actually entirely filmed in front of green screens, but in front of TV screens in order to get the right lighting on the actors faces, but, yes, the majority of the **scenery** is computer-generated and so are some of the props and some of the controls you think they're interacting with aren't even there. I'm not sure if this is **clever** or just lazy.

Godzilla!: Of course **Godzilla** was completely CGI because using a guy in a suit doesn't really **cut the mustard** these days. But **aside from** the obvious CGI, there is some CGI that might actually surprise you. For example when the armies on the coast are trying to attack the monsters there's nothing there! Just green screens and a fence and some soldiers.

Jurassic World: Of course this movie **heavily relies on** CGI as dinosaurs are extinct and **dressing** an actor **up** in a dino suit looks...well, we all know what that looks like. So, as a result, many of the scenes look entirely different to what's seen in the movie. In many scenes where a dinosaur would appear, actors had to imagine there was something there. And in other scenes involving raptors, for example, they had actors with these funny helmets and motion sensors on them for a **point of reference**. And, as if creating pretty much all the dinosaurs with CGI wasn't enough CGI, even the scenery was enhanced with CGI made to look even more amazing.

Batman vs. Superman in Dawn of Justice: Most of the Gotham city scenery was done with CGI and, being a fictional city, this **was to be expected**. But what's surprising is that they used CGI for Batman's powered armor in order for the actors to be able to move around more freely and for a **huge chunk** of the fight it wasn't even Ben Affleck fighting it was just a stuntman. Huh.

What did you think of these scenes? Did they look completely different? Let us know in the comments below. For your daily celeb **fix**, subscribe.

Vocabulary continued...

- **scenery** - the painted backcloths, stage structures, etc, used to represent a location in a theatre or studio
- **clever** - quick to understand, learn, and devise or apply ideas; intelligent
- **cut the mustard** - come up to expectations; reach the required standard
- **aside from** - apart from; besides
- **heavily relies on** - depend of
- **dressing up** - dress in a special costume for fun or as part of an entertainment
- **point of reference** - the intentional use of one thing to indicate something else
- **is to be expected** - used for saying that something is completely normal
- **huge chunk** - a substantial portion of something
- **fix** - consume a dose of something such as a narcotic drug

Your Turn! Using new vocabulary is the best way to learn and remember it.

1 Choose three words or expressions from the video that are new to you and write a sentence using each one in the box below.

2 Try to use them in a context that is familiar to you to help you retain them

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2 _____

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3 _____

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