

## 1) THE STORY OF HITCHCOCK

Read and listen to *The Story of Hitchcock*

**H**itchcock is a comedy musical based around the films of legendary film director, Alfred Hitchcock.

The play is set in a film studio where film producer, Louis Beymeyer, is trying to produce a new film. It is very important that his next film is a hit as he has had a series of box office flops. He decides to cast movie stars, Casey Grunt and Grice Keeley, as his leading actors. His only problem is that he doesn't have a director. He meets Hitch, the runner, and decides to give him a chance to direct a film. He gives them a week to make a movie and tells them it must be a hit or the failing studio will close.

Hitch comes up with various ideas for films (based on real films made by Alfred Hitchcock) and they are acted out by Grice Keeley, Casey Grunt and Eddie the extra. Grice complains that there are not enough good roles for women.

**H**itch's first film plot is 'The Birds'. In this film a town is attacked by vicious birds. Grice complains that the birds mess up her hair. After acting out the story the actors reject this film.

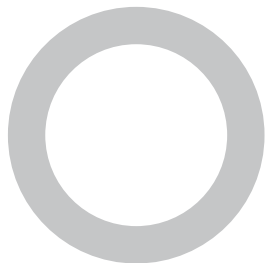
Hitch's second idea is 'Rope'. This film is about two college students committing a murder to prove how clever they are. It takes place at a party and the victim (played by Hitch) is hidden in a trunk in the room where the party takes place. The actors reject this idea, as they think it is too ridiculous.

The next film is called 'Rear Window'. In this film a photographer, who has broken his leg, watches his neighbours through his window. His neighbours include a ballet dancer, a concert pianist and a lonely lady. One day, he witnesses a murder in a nearby apartment. The actors reject this story because they think it is unbelievable.

The final film Hitch suggests is called 'Psycho'. This film is a thriller about a man who has a split personality. When a secretary visits his hotel, he stabs her while she is in the shower. He does this dressed as his own mother who had died some time before.

Finally, everybody is happy with their roles and they all agree that 'Psycho' will be the big hit that Louis Beymeyer is looking for.





# HITCHCOCK



## 1) THE STORY OF HITCHCOCK

### Teaching notes

**Time**

20–30 minutes

**Level**

Easy/Medium

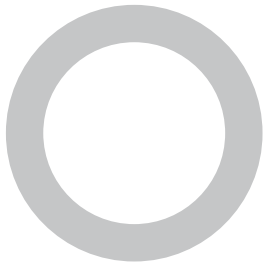
**Skills Focus**

Listening and reading (possibly speaking).

**Aim**

To familiarize the student with the story of *Hitchcock*. Also an opportunity for the students to learn any new vocabulary.





## 2) TRUE OR FALSE

Read and listen to 'The Story of Hitchcock' then decide if the sentences are true or false. If you think a sentence is false, write the correct version below.

1. The play takes place in a film studio. T F

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2. Louis Beymeyer has had a lot of hit films recently. T F

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3. Grice Grunt and Casey Keeley are unknown actors. T F

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4. At the beginning of the play, Hitch is a famous movie director. T F

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5. Grice doesn't think there are enough good roles for women. T F

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6. Eddie is a runner. T F

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7. The story of 'The Birds' takes place in a village. T F

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8. In 'Rear Window' the man with a broken leg is a concert pianist. T F

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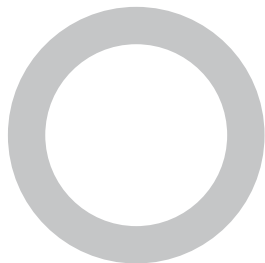
9. In 'Rope' the dead body is hidden in a trunk at a party. T F

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10. The actors think 'Psycho' will be a flop. T F

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## 2) TRUE OR FALSE

### Teaching notes

**Time**

20–30 minutes

**Level**

Easy

**Skills Focus**

Writing and reading (possibly speaking).

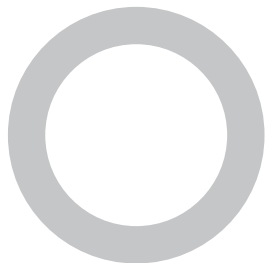
**Aim**

To test the students' comprehension of the synopsis of the play. It could be used as an opportunity for the students to work in pairs to discuss the correct answers.

**Answers**

1. True
2. False. Louis Beymeyer has had a lot of flops recently.
3. False. Grice Keeley and Casey Grunt are famous movie stars
4. False. At the beginning of the play, Hitch is a runner.
5. True.
6. False. Eddie is an extra.
7. False. The story of 'The Birds' takes place in a town.
8. False. In 'Rear Window' the man with a broken leg is a photographer.
9. True.
10. False. The actors think 'Psycho' will be a hit.



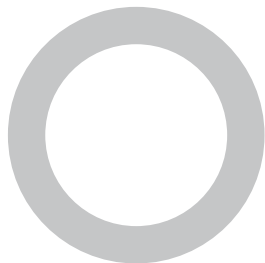


## 3) STORY ORDER

Read and listen to 'The Story of Hitchcock' then put the events of the story in the correct order.

- \_\_\_ 1. Louis Beymeyer tells them that they have a week to make a film.
- \_\_\_ 2. A secretary is killed in the shower.
- \_\_\_ 3. Louis Beymeyer decides to make a film.
- \_\_\_ 4. The actors think 'Psycho' will be a hit movie.
- \_\_\_ 5. Birds attack Grice and Keeley.
- \_\_\_ 6. Casey plays a photographer with a broken leg.
- \_\_\_ 7. Louis Beymeyer makes Hitch the director.
- \_\_\_ 8. Hitch plays the victim.





## 3) STORY ORDER

### Teaching notes

**Time**

20 minutes

**Level**

Easy

**Skills Focus**

Reading (possibly speaking).

**Aim**

Comprehension. To make students consider the sequence of events in the play in a logical order.

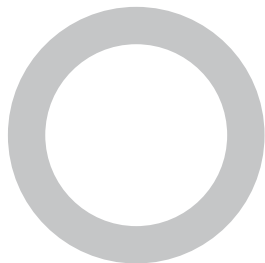
**Variation**

This activity could be made into a competition for small groups. Before the class begins, cut the sentences into ten strips, each containing one of the sentences from activity three. Give each small group a set of the ten sentences and tell them to put them in the correct order. The teacher should move around the classroom checking to see who gets the correct order first. This activity is great as a fun group activity.

**Answers**

1. **3**
2. **7**
3. **1**
4. **5**
5. **8**
6. **6**
7. **2**
8. **4**





# HITCHCOCK

## 4) PAIR WORK-ALFRED HITCHCOCK

### Part A

Alfred Joseph Hitchcock was born on **(1)** \_\_\_\_\_. He was raised a strict catholic and was educated at Saint Ignatius College, which was run by Jesuits.

Hitchcock entered the world of film as soon as he finished university. He started as a draftsman for a film studio in London in 1920, and quickly worked his way up to scriptwriter, then art director and assistant director. His directorial debut was 'The Pleasure Garden' in 1925.

Hitchcock was married in 1926 to **(3)** \_\_\_\_\_ a film editor. They had a daughter, Patricia Hitchcock.

It was with the film 'The Lodger', in 1927, that Hitchcock had his first hit, and was widely noticed as a director. In 1929, Hitchcock directed 'Blackmail', which was groundbreaking in its success as the first widely popular non-silent film.

Hitchcock's had many hits in Britain, such as 'The Man Who Knew Too Much' (1934), 'The 39 Steps' (1935) and 'The Lady Vanishes' (1938). These films brought international notice and, in 1939, Hitchcock moved across the Atlantic.

Hitchcock's American debut film, 'Rebecca' (1940), starred Laurence Olivier and Joan Fontaine and was a huge success. A number of hits followed, perhaps the most famous being 'Notorious' (1946), 'Rear Window' (1954), 'Vertigo' (1958), 'North by Northwest' (1959) and, of course, 'Psycho' ( **(5)** \_\_\_\_\_).

Other notable films over his 50-year career included 'Dial M for Murder' (1954), 'To Catch A Thief' (1955), 'Birds' (1963) and 'Torn Curtain' in 1965. His final film was 'Family Plot' in 1976.

Hitchcock liked to use the same actors regularly. This included Cary Grant, James Stewart, Vera Miles, and Grace Kelly. He nearly always appeared in his own films.

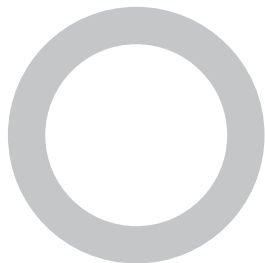
Despite being nominated on several occasions, Hitchcock never won **(7)** \_\_\_\_\_ for Best Director, although he did win 'Best Film' in 1940 for 'Rebecca'.

In 1979, Hitchcock was made a **(9)** \_\_\_\_\_ by the Queen.

On 29 April, 1980, Hitchcock died at the age of 80.

- 1. When \_\_\_\_\_ ?
- 3. Who \_\_\_\_\_ ?
- 5. When \_\_\_\_\_ ?
- 7. What \_\_\_\_\_ ?
- 9. What \_\_\_\_\_ ?





# HITCHCOCK

## 4) PAIR WORK – ALFRED HITCHCOCK

### Part B

Alfred Joseph Hitchcock was born on 13 August, 1899. He was raised a strict catholic and was educated at Saint Ignatius College, which was run by Jesuits.

Hitchcock entered the world of film as soon as he finished university. He started as a draftsman for a film studio in London in 1920, and quickly worked his way up to scriptwriter, then art director and assistant director. His directorial debut was **(2)** \_\_\_\_\_ in 1925.

Hitchcock was married in 1926 to Alma Reville, a film editor. They had a daughter, Patricia Hitchcock.

It was with the film 'The Lodger', in 1927, that Hitchcock had his first hit, and was widely noticed as a director. In 1929, Hitchcock directed 'Blackmail', which was groundbreaking in its success as the first widely popular non-silent film.

Hitchcock's had many hits in Britain, such as 'The Man Who Knew Too Much' (1934), 'The 39 Steps' (1935) and 'The Lady Vanishes' (1938). These films brought international notice and, in 1939, Hitchcock moved across the Atlantic.

Hitchcock's American debut film, **(4)** \_\_\_\_\_ (1940), starred Laurence Olivier and Joan Fontaine and was a huge success. A number of hits followed, perhaps the most famous being 'Notorious' (1946), 'Rear Window' (1954), 'Vertigo' (1958), 'North by Northwest' (1959) and, of course, 'Psycho' (1960).

Other notable films over his 50-year career included 'Dial M for Murder' (1954), 'To Catch A Thief' (1955), 'Birds'

(1963) and 'Torn Curtain' in 1965. His final film was **(6)** \_\_\_\_\_ in 1976.

Hitchcock liked to use the same actors regularly. This included Cary Grant, James Stewart, Vera Miles, and Grace Kelly. He nearly always appeared in his own films.

Despite being nominated on several occasions, Hitchcock never won an Oscar for Best Director, although he did win **(8)** \_\_\_\_\_ in 1940 for 'Rebecca'.

In 1979, Hitchcock was made a knight by the Queen.

**(10)** \_\_\_\_\_ Hitchcock died at the age of 80.

2. What \_\_\_\_\_ ?

4. What \_\_\_\_\_ ?

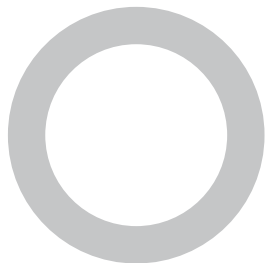
6. What \_\_\_\_\_ ?

8. What \_\_\_\_\_ ?

10. When \_\_\_\_\_ ?







# HITCHCOCK

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## 4) PAIR WORK – ALFRED HITCHCOCK

### Teaching notes

**Time**

30–40 minutes

**Level**

Medium

**Skills Focus**

Writing, speaking

**Aim**

To allow students to use a variety of question forms.

**Notes**

Separate the text into two parts. Give students part A or part B equally. Give the students ten minutes to work on the questions either individually or in groups. Then put students into pairs (one part A, one part B) and let them ask and answer the questions to complete the information.

**Variation**

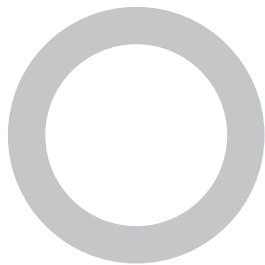
To make the activity more difficult take away the question words given in the answer. To make the activity easier, add extra words, e.g.

*When ----- Alfred Hitchcock born?*

**Answers**

1. When was Alfred Hitchcock born?
2. What was Alfred Hitchcock's directorial debut?
3. Who was Alfred Hitchcock married to?
4. What was Hitchcock's American debut?
5. When was 'Psycho' a hit?
6. What was Hitchcock's final film?
7. What did Hitchcock never win as best director?
8. What did 'Rebecca' win at the Oscars?
9. What was Hitchcock awarded by the Queen?
10. When did Hitchcock die?





# HITCHCOCK

## 5) THE QUESTION GAME

In groups, take turns to choose an answer and then create a question.

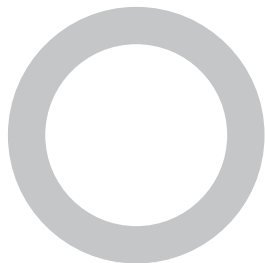
Points	Characters	Films	Film vocabulary
10	Hitchcock	<i>The Birds</i>	A Star
20	Casey Grunt	<i>Psycho</i>	A hit
30	Grice Keeley	<i>Rear Window</i>	Props
50	Eddy	<i>Rope</i>	On set

## 5) THE QUESTION GAME

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Points	Characters	Films	Film vocabulary
10	Hitchcock	<i>The Birds</i>	A Star
20	Casey Grunt	<i>Psycho</i>	A hit
30	Grice Keeley	<i>Rear Window</i>	Props
50	Eddy	<i>Rope</i>	On set





# HITCHCOCK

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## 5) THE QUESTION GAME

### Teaching notes

**Time**

50–60 minutes

**Level**

Difficult

**Skills Focus**

Speaking

**Aim**

To allow students to use a variety of question forms.

**Notes**

This is a fun activity based on the game Jeopardy. At the beginning of the class draw the grid with answers on the white/blackboard. Separate the class into groups of five or six and tell them to look at the answers. Give the groups 10–15 minutes to prepare questions for the answers. Each team then takes turns to choose an answer. The question they give must be factually and grammatically correct to win the points. There may be a variety of correct answers, e.g. the answer Hitchcock could produce

*Who is the director?*

or

*Who was a runner?*

or

*Who directed The Birds?*

**Possible answers**

Hitchcock: (see above)

Casey Grunt: Who is the leading actor?

Grice Keeley: Who is the leading actress?

Eddie: Who is the extra?

*The Birds*: In which film do birds attack people?

*Psycho*: Which film has a murder in the shower?

*Rear Window*: In which film does the male character have a broken leg?

*Rope*: In which film is a body hidden in a trunk?

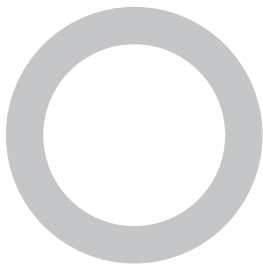
A Star: What is a successful actor/actress known as?

A Hit: What is a successful film known as?

Props: What are the objects used in a film called?

On Set: Where does the action in a film take place?





## 6) SONG 1: LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION!

Listen to the song and try to fill in the missing words.

### LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION!

Hollywood \_\_\_\_\_ studio contractors,  
glitter and glamour and sweat.

There is nothing like drinking a \_\_\_\_\_  
while you shout at your actors to act  
the \_\_\_\_\_ are quite hot  
I've forgotten the plot  
I think we might have to recast.

Lights, Camera, Action.

making the next big \_\_\_\_\_.

Money's quite the \_\_\_\_\_.

God, I \_\_\_\_\_ this one's it.

Lights, camera and action

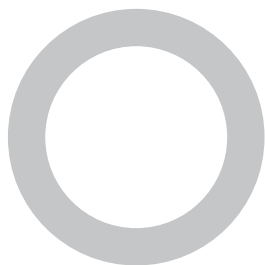
together we can \_\_\_\_\_ this one soar  
with lights, camera and action

let's win all of the \_\_\_\_\_ awards.

Now find the correct words from the song.

- Find 5 irregular verbs. \_\_\_\_\_
- Find the verb which means to 'speak very loudly'. \_\_\_\_\_
- Find the synonym for 'cash'. \_\_\_\_\_
- Find the homophone for 'won'. \_\_\_\_\_
- Find the antonym for 'lose'. \_\_\_\_\_





## 6) SONG 1: LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION!

### Teaching notes

#### Time

30–40 minutes

#### Level

Medium

#### Skills Focus

Listening, vocabulary

#### Aim

To increase vocabulary by becoming familiar with the words to the songs in the play. Also, to heighten the enjoyment of the students when they listen to the songs during the play.

#### Notes

Give the students a chance to look at the song lyrics and predict what they think the missing words will be before they listen to the music. They can do this either individually or in pairs. Then let them listen to the song at least twice to fill in the gaps. Check the answers together and when everyone has the correct answer the second part of the activity can be done individually, in pairs or as a group activity.

#### Answers

Hollywood **actors**, studio contractors, glitter and glamour and sweat.

There is nothing like drinking a **coffee** while you shout at your actors to act the **lights** are quite hot

I've forgotten the plot

I think we might have to recast.

Lights, Camera, Action.

making the next big **hit**.

Money's quite the **attraction**.

God, I **hope** this one's it.

lights camera and action

together we can **make** this one soar

with lights camera and action

let's win all of the **Oscar** awards.

#### Question answers

1. Find 3 irregular verbs and 2 modal verbs.

**drink, forget, win / might, can**

2. Find the verb which means to 'speak very loudly'.

**shout**

3. Find the synonym for 'cash'.

**money**

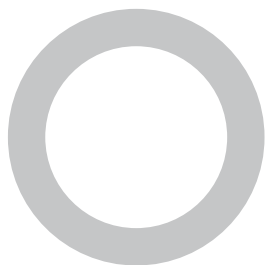
4. Find the homophone for 'won'.

**one**

5. Find the antonym for 'lose'.

**win**





# HITCHCOCK

## VOCABULARY

Look at and listen to this list of vocabulary that is used in the play. Try to learn the words, as they will help you to understand the play more easily.

act	dangerous	job	recover	tidy
affair	discover	kid	robber	trespass
argument	dizzy	kill	rooftops	trunk
arrest	dead	knife	rope	victim
attack	except	leading actor	ruin	wait
awards	extra	leading actress	runner (film)	wardrobe mistress
baddie	failure	lips	run out	waste time
believe	fall	look down	save	watch
bird	fall in love	mess about	scene	wheelchair
blonde	fee	motel	scream	wig
blood	fit	movie	script	wife
boat	flirt	murder	set (film)	Window
box office	flop	murderer	shock	
break in to	free	nap	shower	
broken leg	gather	neighbour	shut up	
calm	get away with	nude	sign	
camera angle	glitter	on set	soar	
camera shot	glamour	quit	sore	
chase	goodie	part (film)	split personality	
clean	good-looking	plot	spy	
clever	help	pretend	stab	
cop	hit (film)	pretty	strange	
crew	hire	prompt	strangle	
cry	honey (person)	props	surprise	
cut (film)	horror	psycho	sweat	
cute	impersonate	rear	thriller	

