

By Gina Koehne

“It was like a movie.” You hear witnesses say that all the time on the news: a big factory explosion, a dramatic car chase, a giraffe escaped from the zoo. But really, how often is life that exciting?

Some of my friends believe every moment of every day should be thrilling. When they tell me this, I blame Hollywood for their crazy dreams. They think the hot guy from *Twilight* will ask them out or they’ll actually become a mega-famous singing-and-dancing student like in *Glee*.

Why can’t life in the movies be more like a typical day? I stub my toe right as Josh is walking by (chick-flick: *How to lose a guy in 10 clumsy ways*). In music class my violin sounds like a rusty seesaw (tear-jerker: *No strings attached*). And what about all those times I’m just hanging out, doing nothing? Sitting there picking my nails or searching under the bed for the iPod. Why don’t they make a movie like that? Lights, camera, dissatisfaction!

Maybe if we knew how to be properly bored and not always online or on show, we’d “appreciate the simple things” (Dad’s favourite corny saying). Then we might watch the next blockbuster not as something to imitate but as pure escapism. We might finally realise we’re all directors in our very own productions. And ... cut!

Read each question carefully and circle one answer.

1 Which spelling is correct?

- witnesses
- wittnesses
- witnessess
- witnesses

2 Which word is misspelled?

- factory
- explosion
- escaped
- dramattic

3 Which of the following is the base word of *exciting*?

- exit
- excitement
- excite
- ex

4 What is the plural of *violin*?

- violin's
- violinist
- violins
- violinists

5 What does the word *hot* mean in this sentence?

They think the hot guy from Twilight will ask them out.

- heated
- warmed up
- bright
- attractive

6 In this sentence, what does the adjective *typical* mean?

Why can't it be more like a typical day?

- normal
- special
- boring
- rainy

7 Which word is a homophone of *board*?

- bawd
- bored
- broad
- bought

8 Which word is a synonym for *movie*?

- television
- film
- program
- entertainment

9 Which sentence is written in the past tense?

- It was like a movie.
- I stub my toe.
- They think they'll actually become famous.
- Then we might watch the next blockbuster.

10 Which of these proposed movie titles is a pun on the *rusty seesaw* sounds of the writer's violin?

- Chick-flick
- How to lose a guy in 10 clumsy ways
- Lights, camera, dissatisfaction!
- No strings attached

11 Which of the following is a technical term used in filmmaking?

- witnesses
- cut
- mega-famous
- escapism

12 The word *iPod* is what kind of word?

- a noun
- a verb
- an adjective
- an adverb

13 Which word in this sentence is a contraction?

We might finally realise we're all directors in our very own productions.

- realise
- directors
- we're
- our

14 Which of the following phrases contains hyphenated words?

- Some of my friends
- mega-famous singing-and-dancing student
- music class
- Lights, camera, dissatisfaction!

15 What is the verb in this sentence?

But really, how often is life that exciting?

- is
- how
- exciting
- really

16 Which of the words in this sentence is a possessive pronoun?

My life is not as exciting as hers.

- my
- is
- as
- hers

17 Which of the following sentences shows the correct use of commas?

- It was like a big factory explosion, a dramatic car chase or, when a giraffe, escaped from the zoo.
- It was like a big factory explosion a dramatic car chase or when a giraffe escaped from the zoo.
- It was like a big factory explosion, a dramatic car chase or when a giraffe escaped from the zoo.
- It was like a big, factory explosion, a dramatic, car chase or when a giraffe escaped from the zoo.

18 Why are some of the words in this sentence enclosed by quotation marks?

Dad's favourite corny saying is "we need to appreciate the simple things".

- It is done to show that these are the words that Dad actually says.
- It is done to show that you need to use another voice when you read these words.
- It is done to make the sentence look interesting.
- It is done to add more information to the sentence.

19 What kind of expression is this?

Lights, camera, dissatisfaction!

- a command
- a statement
- an exclamation
- a question

20 Which sentence or sentence part contains ellipsis points?

- Lights, camera, dissatisfaction!
- "It was like a movie."
- And ... cut!
- chick-flick: *How to lose a guy in 10 clumsy ways*

Text type: Text Response

NAPLAN*-style questions: Language conventions

- 1** witnesses
- 2** dramatic
- 3** excite
- 4** violins
- 5** attractive
- 6** normal
- 7** bored
- 8** film
- 9** It was like a movie.
- 10** No strings attached
- 11** cut
- 12** a noun
- 13** we're
- 14** mega-famous singing-and-dancing student
- 15** is
- 16** hers
- 17** It was like a big factory explosion, a dramatic car chase
or when a giraffe escaped from the zoo.
- 18** It is done to show that these are the words that Dad
actually says.
- 19** an exclamation
- 20** And ... cut!