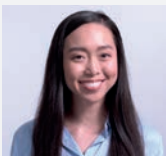


LESSON 4

READ ABOUT A FAMILY BUSINESS



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Ever hear of the Epper family? They're in hundreds of movies, but nobody knows their names.

1 BEFORE YOU READ

- A PAIRS** What makes a movie exciting? Name a movie with a lot of action—for example, car accidents or fights. What do you like or dislike about it?



- B VOCABULARY** ▶02-20 Listen. Then listen and repeat.

exploding: breaking into many pieces, often with a loud noise

generation: people who are all about the same age—for example, the brothers and sisters in a family

bones: parts of your body that are hard and white and give your body its shape

create: make something new

instead: in place of something or someone else

result in: make something happen; cause

2 READ

- A PREVIEW** Read the title and subtitles, and look at the photo. What do you think a *stunt* is?
- B** ▶02-21 Read and listen to an article about the Epper family. What do they do?

AN UNUSUAL FAMILY BUSINESS

Who was the driver of the exploding bus in the movie *Transformers*? His last name is Epper. Who crashed through the window in the TV show *Wonder Woman*? Her last name is Epper. When you see someone crash a car, run through fire, or jump from a train in a movie or on television, that person may not be a movie star. He or she is probably a stunt person. Stunt people do the dangerous work—the stunts—for movie stars.

The most dangerous job in the movies

More than twenty members of the Epper family are stunt people. For the Eppers, stunts are a family business that started in the 1930s. John Epper was the first stunt person in the family. He did stunts for famous Hollywood actors, including Gary Cooper and Ronald Reagan. His six children all followed him in the family business. They learned to ride horses when they were very young. His daughter Stephanie practiced horse stunts after school with her father. She jumped off the horse into his arms over and over, until the stunt was perfect. His daughter Jeannie had the longest career. She worked as a stunt person for more than 60 years. She jumped off roofs and horses, crashed cars, and had lots of fights. Sometimes she got hurt. All those stunts resulted in 56 broken bones!

What is in the future for the stunt business?

And now, a third and fourth generation of Eppers are working in the family business. Will there be a fifth generation? Perhaps, but the future of the stunt business is not clear. Today, many movie directors don't use people for the most dangerous stunts. Instead, they use computers to create scenes that are exciting but safe.



3 CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING

A READING SKILL Read the Reading Skill. Answer the questions.

1. What is the title of the article? What are the subtitles of each paragraph?

Title _____
 Subtitles _____

2. Which words are repeated in the article?
 a. school c. family
 b. business d. computer stunt

3. What is the topic of the article?

a. dangerous stunts b. unusual movie jobs c. a family of stunt people

READING SKILL Find the topic

The *topic* is what the article is about. When you know the topic before you begin, it is easier to understand the article. One way to find a topic is to look at the title and subtitles. You can also look for repeated words.

B Choose the correct answer.

1. The Eppers ____ .
 a. do stunts for actors b. are famous actors c. direct movies
2. ____ generations of Eppers have worked as stunt people.
 a. Three b. Four c. Five
3. Stephanie Eppers did stunts with ____ .
 a. cars b. fights c. horses
4. Movie directors sometimes use ____ instead of stunt people.
 a. the Eppers b. computers c. movie stars

C FOCUS ON LANGUAGE Read. What do the underlined words mean?

She jumped off the horse into his arms over and over, until the stunt was perfect.

- a. high up b. many times

D PAIRS What is the article about? Retell the most important ideas. Use your own words.

The article is about the Epper family ...

Find out about movie stunts. How much money do stunt people make?



4 MAKE IT PERSONAL

A Think of famous family members who work in the same area. What jobs do they have? What do you know about their personalities, appearances, and skills? Describe each person in the family.

Family: _____				
Family members				
Descriptions				

B PAIRS Tell your partner about your famous family.

A: Will Smith and Jada Pinkett Smith are both famous actors. Their kids are actors, too.

B: That's right! Will Smith started acting ...

I CAN READ ABOUT A FAMILY BUSINESS.