Actor Amitabh Bachchan talks about his experiences

I have spent over 30 years in the Indian film industry and have worked with almost three generations of directors and actors. There was a time when life in the movies was very different. It was slower and everything seemed simpler. Now, there are so many things to be dealt with: the light needs to be right, the equipment needs to be returned, the actors have to be somewhere else. There also used to be a sense of magic about the movie industry and the stars were special. Now they are just one of a crowd.

However, in my experience, the new generation of film-makers take their work seriously and they are all very confident. Sometimes, when a young director is talking to me about a scene, I can see technical difficulties. For example, in the film Aks we needed wild dogs for a particular scene and I asked Rakesh Mehra how we would do that. He said it was not a problem. He found an address on the internet and we shot the scene in Romania. More often, Rakesh is anxious about getting the actors’ dates right or sorting out the financial side.

Most of today’s young directors have trained in the United States. They have learnt how to plan their productions in great detail and they are extremely well prepared. Before filming starts, they have already made decisions about the costumes, make-up, camera angles and so on. For an actor it means there’s someone taking care of everything. It makes the filming go smoothly. I have little doubt that the future of our film industry is in very good hands.
1. What is Amitabh Bachchan trying to do in this text?
   A  suggest how Indian actors could improve their technique
   B  compare Indian films with those made in the USA
   C  encourage people to watch more Indian films
   D  describe changes in the Indian film industry

2. What does Amitabh Bachchan say about the Indian film industry today?
   A  Every stage of filming takes a long time.
   B  The film stars are famous around the world.
   C  The people involved in filming have a lot to do.
   D  It is difficult for young actors to start their careers.

3. What happened when Amitabh Bachchan and Rakesh Mehra worked together on Aks?
   A  They disliked working with one another.
   B  They argued about the best actor to use.
   C  They disagreed about acceptable levels of cost.
   D  They worried about different things in making the film.

4. What is Amitabh Bachchan’s opinion of young directors?
   A  They have a professional attitude towards their work.
   B  They are careful not to annoy any of the actors.
   C  They like to discuss their decisions with others.
   D  They make sure that everyone is well trained.

5. How would Amitabh Bachchan describe the Indian film industry?
   A  The films we made when I was younger were so much better – more money is available today but the acting is worse.
   B  Indian film-makers know what they are doing – the industry is growing in strength and I think it will continue to do so.
   C  Our new generation of film-makers depends too much on technology – they don’t realise what makes a really good film.
   D  There are some great young actors today – they have to film scenes unprepared and this makes them very special.

   Part 2

Questions 6 - 10

- The people below all want to buy a book for the young person.
- The descriptions of eight books are given below.
- Decide which book would be the most suitable for the following people to buy.
- For questions 6-10, mark the correct letter (A-H) on your answer sheet.

6. Gina wants a book for her nephew who is interested in nature. He’s always asking questions about the world around him and Gina thinks he’s ready to start learning a few simple facts.
7. Bruno is looking for a book his daughter will enjoy reading and which will also help with a project she is doing at school. She has to describe an important event from the past.

8. Edita’s son loves animals and she would like to buy him a book with beautiful pictures and a strong message about the need to respect the environment.

9. Tony wants to buy a novel for his teenage sister. She likes stories that are true to life and that show people in difficult situations.

10. Lydia is looking for a book about animals for her granddaughter, who cannot read yet. She wants a book with several stories in it, and some attractive pictures.

**BOOKS FOR CHILDREN**

A  *I Wonder Why*
The wonders of science come alive for children in this delightful book. As well as enjoying the lovely pictures, they will also learn about how plants grow, see how different birds care for their young and discover some interesting information about insects.

B  *Basic Technology*
A love of knowledge begins early with this colourful reference book. Find out interesting facts and learn about important inventions in the last century. If you know a child who asks questions like ‘What makes a car go?’, then this is the book for you.

C  *Painting History*
This is a beautiful book showing famous paintings through history. Each painting is described in detail, including simple facts about the people shown in them and their lives. Children are invited to look more closely at the pictures and to try some of the techniques themselves.

D  *The Hunter*
In this exciting story, wonderfully illustrated by a famous wildlife artist, Jamina finds a baby elephant whose mother was killed by hunters. Looking for help, she travels back through the African bush and is able to enjoy the nature all around her. Her journey teaches her the importance of doing all we can to save and protect our world.

E  *Forest Tales*
This book is a collection of seven well-known animal stories from different cultures around the world. They are particularly suitable for reading aloud and would make good bedtime stories. Each story is about six pages long with bright and colourful pictures on every page.

F  *Journey to the Past*
Lying ill in bed, Lucien knows he is not like other boys. In this imaginative story he finds out just how different he is. He discovers that he has the power to transport his mind through space and time. This amazing novel will appeal to those who read to escape from the real world.

G  Time Travellers
This very interesting set of stories shows what life was really like for people at certain points in history – the building of the Eiffel Tower, the sinking of the Titanic, the first moon landing. Written as diaries, these stories are historically accurate.

H  Joanna’s Search
Joanna was brought up by her aunt and uncle and has never known her parents. At 14, she decides to try and find the answers to the questions that she has always asked herself – ‘Who am I?’, ‘Where do I come from?’ The novel tells the moving yet funny story of Joanna’s search for her identity.

Part 3

Questions 11-20

Read the text below and choose the correct word for each space.
For each question, mark the correct letter A, B, C or D on your answer sheet.

Great inventions are ideas that (0) ............. sometimes change the world. The invention of the radio has brought (11) ............ places closer together, and the car has made it possible to (12) ............. a long way. An invention might also be a better way of doing something – (13) ............. example, a tool to make a job easier or a new farming method. Many inventions, like musical instruments or sports equipment, have made life more comfortable or enjoyable. The range of inventions is enormous.

Not (14) ............ good idea leads to immediate (15) ............, however. (16) ............ the 15th century, Leonardo da Vinci wrote down his idea for chains (17) ............ were able to drive machines – but the technology to (18) ............ these chains did not (19) ............ then. This shows that invention may be unworkable (20) ............ a future development makes it possible.

11  A far   B absent   C other   D distant
12  A reach B travel C transport D arrive
13  A to B with C for D of
14  A every B any C all D each
15  A prize B success C win D victory
16  A Between B At C During D Since
17  A what B who C which D where
18  A produce B set C record D put
19  A last B exist C happen D continue
20  A if B while C until D when
Part 4

Questions 21 - 30

Choose the correct word A, B, C or D to complete the following sentences, afterwards mark the correct letter on your answer sheet.

21. I am taking some dance lessons with my boyfriend. Our dance .......... is really good!
   A learner
   B instructor
   C coach
   D professor

22. You know what they say: Practice ............ perfect!
   A creates
   B turns
   C makes
   D does

23. P1: I’m a really slow learner! P2: Don’t worry, I heard that this instructor is very ............
   A impatient
   B spacious
   C patient
   D strict

24. We only use pet- ............ cleaning products.
   A happy
   B beneficial
   C friendly
   D harmful

25. Make sure to wear ............ so that the solution doesn’t get on your hands.
   A goggles
   B socks
   C gloves
   D tights

26. There was a ‘no smoking’ sign ............ the wall.
   A at
   B on
   C in
   D by

27. Kate is waiting for you ............ the bus stop.
   A on
   B at
C in
D by

28. We missed the train and arrived ………… Bangkok two hours late.
   A by
   B in
   C on
   D at

29. There should be a lot of progress ………… the next century.
   A on
   B in
   C at
   D by

30. The shop closes ………… midnight! Hurry up!
   A on
   B at
   C in
   D by

Part 5

Questions 31 - 35

Choose the correct word A, B, C or D to complete the following sentences, afterwards mark the correct letter on your answer sheet.

31. Friends can help you to ………… a difficult time in your life.
    A get around
    B get up
    C get through
    D get by

32. The thief managed to ………… the police barricade.
    A break in
    B break up
    C break through
    D break on

33. Be sure to ………… a life jacket before getting into the boat.
    A put off
    B put on
    C put up
    D put down

34. I thought I would ………… for a cup of coffee. Is that okay?
A drop off
B drop in
C drop around
D drop out

35. Have you ever ……… such an unusual piece of art?
   A come forward
   B come across
   C come off
   D come out

Part 6

Read the text below and choose the correct item for each space.

YOU DON'T KNOW YOUR OWN STRENGTH!

I suppose you know you can (36)…… into superwoman or superman in an emergency. Mrs.Pam Weldon reported that her baby nearly slipped under the wheels of a car. Mrs Weldon (37)…… only 50 kilos, but she said she lifted the car (38)…… her baby. Dr Murray Watson, a zoologist, wrote that he jumped nearly three metres into the air to grab (39)…… branch of a tree when hyenas chased him in Kenya. Perhaps you wonder if you can perform such feats. The chances are that you can. Doctors say that we can find great reserves of strength when we (40)…… afraid. It's well-known that adrenalin can turn us into superwomen or supermen!

36. A turn
   B to turn
   C to be turning
   D turning
37. A is weighing
   B weighs
   C was weighing
   D had weighed
38. A have saved
   B saved
   C save
   D to save
39. A low
   B lower
   C the lowest
   D the most low
40. A are
   B were
   C be
   D are being

Part 7

Questions 41-50
Choose the correct grammar form to complete the sentences.

41. What time (…) to bed on Saturdays?
   A are you go
   B you going
   C do you go
   D are you gone
42. That can’t be right! I (…) it!
   A don’t believe it
   B am not believing it
   C not believe
   D not do believe
43. Look! The boys (…) back to the beach!
   A swim
   B were swimming
   C have been swimming
   D are swimming
44. Jim’s plane (…) at 12:00.
   A is leaving
   B leaves
   C has left
   D is going to
45. He (…) in London 10 years and then went to live in Birmingham.
   A has lived
   B lived
   C was living
   D had lived
46. I (…) a school uniform but now I don’t.
A used to wear  B used to wearing  C got used  D use to wear

47. People are very rarely (...) by tigers.
   A attacking  B been attacked  C attacked  D attack

48. Scott said he (...) to her earlier.
   A speaks  B spoke  C was spoken  D had spoken

49. If she (...) longer legs, she would be able to run faster.
   A has  B had  C has had  D will have

50. Look at those clouds! I think it (...) rain!
   A will rain  B is going to  C is raining  D has rained

Listening Test (B1)

Part 1     Questions 1-5

There are five questions in this part.
For each question there are three pictures and a short recording.
For each question, choose the correct answer A, B, or C.
You will hear each recording twice.

1. Which dish did Mark cook in the competition?

   A  
   B  
   C

2. Where is the girl’s book now?

   A  
   B  
   C

3. Who lives with Josh in his house?

   A  
   B  
   C
Part 2

Questions 6-10
You will hear an interview with a singer called Nick Parker who plays in a band called Krispy with his sister Mel.

For each Question, choose the correct answer A, B, or C.

6. When Nick and Mel were younger, A. they studied music at school.
   B. their father took them to live concerts.
   C. their mother encouraged them to play music.

7. When Nick and Mel started writing music together, they A. disagreed about the style they should have.
   B. didn’t want to be the same as other bands.
   C. were influenced by different kinds of music.
8. The band Krispy was started after
A. Nick began studying at music school.
B. two other musicians heard Nick and Mel playing.
C. Nick and Mel advertised for the band members.

9. In the bands first year together
A. concert audiences liked their music.
B. they signed a recording contract.
C. their national tour was very successful.

10. What does Nick say about life in the band today?
A. The older members look after him and Mel.
B. He’s pleased to have the chance to travel.
C. There’s no opportunity for them to relax together.