

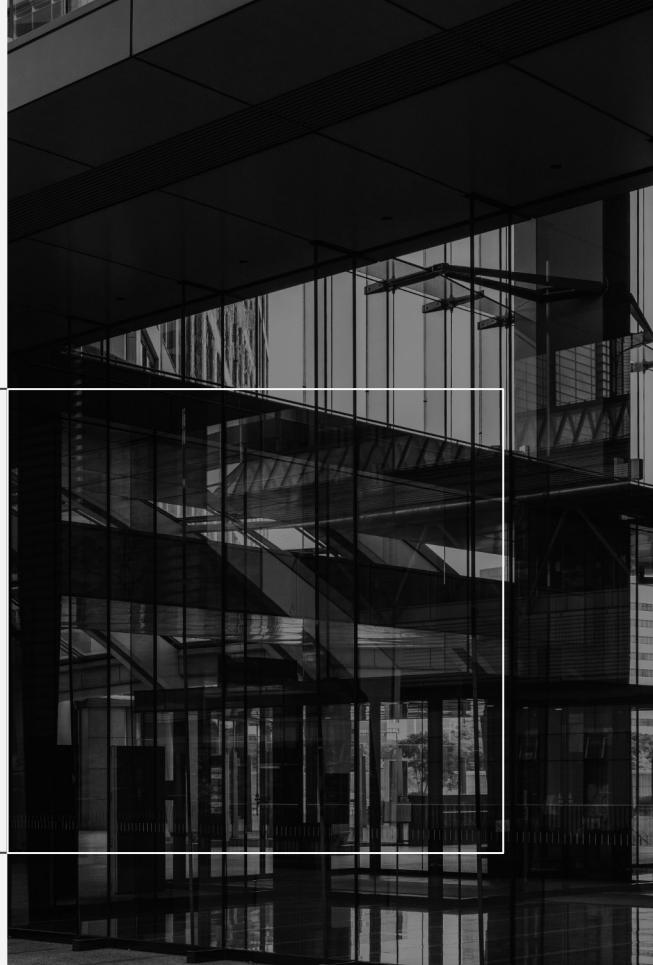
Adult - C1-C2

The Wall Street Journal

Episodes 1-20

About the Episode-Series

Each episode builds practical, high-level vocabulary and reading comprehension around a genuinely newsworthy story, then pushes learners into critical thinking and discussion about the real economic and geopolitical forces shaping the world today.





Who it's for:

*Adult learners at a C1–C2 level who want to
sharpen their English through substantive,
real-world content:*

business, economics, and international affairs.

01

Why 'Toy Story' Still Works After 30 Years

[Click to see the video](#)

Vocabulary

A. Choose the correct words in the box to match their meaning.

1. a series of connected films or products sold under one brand name ____
2. an artist who creates the moving images in a film ____
3. a sequence of drawings that plans out a film's scenes before production ____
4. a warm feeling of friendship and trust among people who work together ____
5. the highest or final point reached after a long effort ____
6. widely recognized and admired as a lasting symbol ____
7. a sudden, striking moment of understanding or insight ____
8. using older, non-digital methods such as drawing by hand ____
9. a film that continues the story of an earlier one ____
10. sincerely and deeply felt ____

sequel storyboard heartfelt culmination franchise
analog animator epiphany iconic camaraderie

Vocabulary

B. Read the summary and fill in the blanks using the words in the box

sequel

storyboard

heartfelt

culmination

franchise

analog

animator

epiphany

iconic

camaraderie

Episode Summary

Andrew Stanton has helped make Toy Story a hugely successful film (1) _____. Hired as Pixar's second (2) _____ in 1990, he remembers drawing every (3) _____ by hand when the whole process was still (4) _____. What he treasures most is the (5) _____ that came from being locked in a room with his team for months. For Stanton, Toy Story 5 feels like the (6) _____ of decades of work on films whose endings have become (7) _____ to audiences. A key (8) _____ arrived when the team realized they could let the characters grow older between each (9) _____. Above all, he hopes every film keeps its (10) _____ honesty about childhood.

Comprehension Questions

C. Choose the correct answers.

01

What was Andrew Stanton's original job when he joined Pixar in 1990?

- A. The studio's second animator
- B. The studio's lead director
- C. The studio's marketing head

How long did the team take to make Toy Story 5?

- A. About six years
- B. About three and a half years
- C. About ten years

03

According to Stanton, which film first made audiences cry?

- A. Toy Story
- B. A Bug's Life
- C. Finding Nemo

02

What simple advice did Steve Jobs give the struggling team?

- A. "Just make a great movie"
- B. "Cut the budget in half"
- C. "Make more sequels"

04

Comprehension Exercise

D. Write T if the statement is true. If false, replace the underlined word with the correct one.

01

Andrew Stanton was hired as Pixar's second animator. ____

02

Stanton says he was in his fifties when he worked on the first Toy Story. ____

03

The big realization between Toy Story 2 and 3 was that the characters could age. ____

04

Toy Story 5 is built around a tablet device. ____

05

Stanton says he was mainly called in to write for the character Buzz. ____

Discussion Questions

E. Answer the questions.

Do you have a favorite childhood film or toy?
Why has it stayed with you?

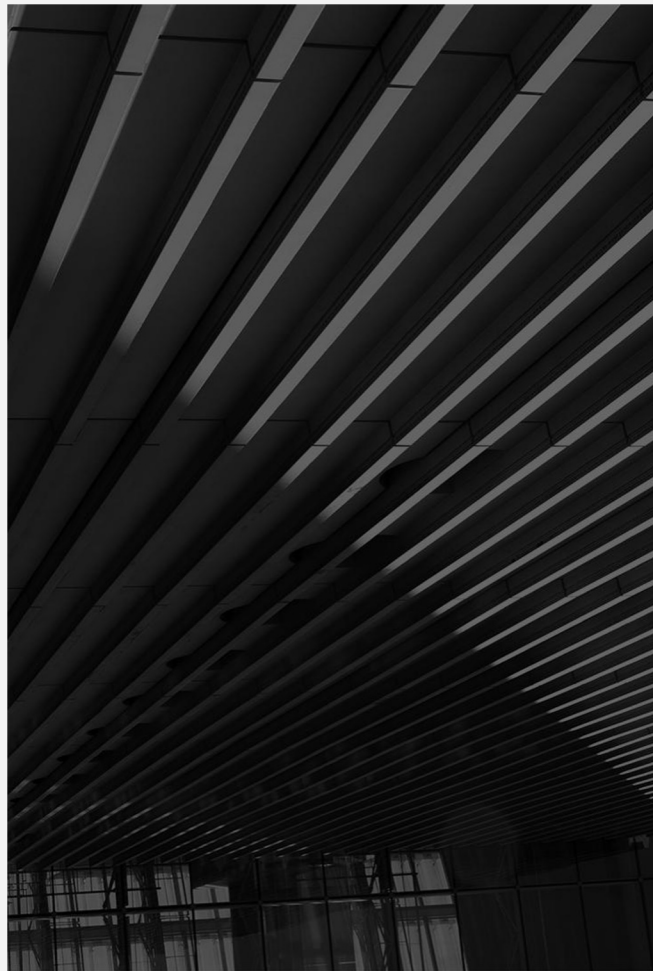
01

Stanton says a good sequel should feel "worthy of continuing." What makes a sequel worth making?

02

The team worked "analog," drawing everything by hand. Can slower, older methods produce better creative work? Why or why not?

03



Discussion Questions

E. Answer the questions.

Stanton put a lot of himself into Woody. If you invented a character, what parts of yourself would you give them?

04

Toy Story lets its characters grow up over time. Why do you think audiences connect with stories about growing up?

05

Steve Jobs told the team to "just make a great movie."
Is that advice helpful or too simple? Explain.

06

