



STAR WARS: ATTACK OF THE CLONES

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1) Do you like movies? What movies do you prefer? 2) What is a "science fiction" movie? 3) Do you like "science fiction movies"? 4) Do you know "Star Wars"? 5) Have a look at the photo below. Describe it.

D AUDIO DOCUMENT

>> VOCABULARY

Here is the script of the recording. Without any help, fill in the gaps with these important words:

250 – army – Attack of the Clones – clones – directed – fifth – fighter – imaginary – independence – Movie – release – Republic – Star Wars – story – training – war

_____ fans are enjoying the new _____ movie, "_____". It has earned more than _____ million dollars since its _____ five weeks ago.

The movie is the _____ in a series written and _____ by George Lucas. They tell a continuing _____ about a young man named Anakin Skywalker in an _____ galaxy of planets. Shirley Griffith has more.

In "Attack of the Clones", a group of separatists wants _____ from a government called The _____. The Republic has prepared an _____ of biologically engineered men called _____. A civil _____ begins between the separatists' army of mechanical men and the Republic's clones.

At the same time, Anakin Skywalker is _____ to become a special _____ called a Jedi knight.

>> SCRIPT

Interesting grammatical topics are in *blue* and they are explained below:

Movie fans are enjoying the new Star Wars movie, "Attack of the Clones." **It has earned (1)** more than **250 million (2)** dollars since its release five weeks ago.

The movie is **the fifth (3)** in **a series (4)** written and directed by George Lucas. They tell a continuing story about a young man named Anakin Skywalker in an imaginary galaxy of planets. Shirley Griffith has more.

In "Attack of the Clones," a group of separatists wants **independence from (5)** a government called The Republic. The Republic has prepared an army of biologically engineered men called clones. A civil war **begins (6)** between the **separatists' (7)** army of mechanical men and the Republic's clones.

At the same time, Anakin Skywalker **is training (8)** to become a special fighter called a Jedi knight.

>> GRAMMAR IN CONTEXT

(1) present perfect (HAVE + past participle) for an action which began in the past and is still in progress. "It has earned more than 250 million dollars since its release." When did it start? 5 weeks ago. Is it finished? No, it isn't. This movie will earn more money.

(2) Be careful: "million", NOT "millions". MILLION is invariable.

(3) the fifth > a rank. The first, the second, the third, the fourth, the fifth...

(4) Be careful: "a series", NOT "a serie".

(5) independence from: we use FROM to show the separation. OF is wrong.

(6) The present simple can be used to tell the story of a movie. You can also use the preterite.

(7) Possessive. We only use an apostrophe because "separatists" is in the plural and the word ends with an "-s". It means: "The army of separatists."

(8) Reinforced by "At the same time", the present (BE + -ING) puts the emphasis on Anakin's hard training and the simultaneity of these actions.

II) WRITTEN DOCUMENT

>> TEXT

Some **(1)** critics **(2)** have said that much of the writing in "Attack of the Clones" is **so bad that (3)** it is funny. They also said **(4)** the story's political mysteries are confusing and often just stupid. But most critics agree that the movie is fun to watch.

George Lucas **used (5)** computers to create worlds of huge buildings, water or deserts. He designed battles in space and on land. Huge armies and dangerous creatures fight fierce battles using unusual space vehicles and weapons.

Almost all (6) the critics agreed that watching the last battle between the Jedi master Yoda and the mysterious Count Dooku **is worth (7)** the price of the ticket. And many critics said that the release of any "Star Wars" movie is one of the major cultural events of the year.

Most critics agree that in the "Star Wars" series, George Lucas has created **one of the most important stories of the late twentieth century (8)**. Its cultural importance guarantees that people will continue to watch the movies as long as George Lucas continues to produce them. The sixth and final "Star Wars" movie **is expected to be released (9)** in 2005.

>> GRAMMAR IN CONTEXT

(1) SOME critics: not all the critics, some of them

- (2) Warning: "a critic" (a man or a woman) is different from "a criticism" (saying if something is good or bad)
- (4) Yes, it is a subordinate clause, but THAT has been left out to have a light sentence.
- (5) The past simple (preterite) is used for a past action (dated and definite).
- (6) "Almost all" = not all the critics but the greater part of them.
- (7) A very interesting phrase. Other examples: "It was a very long journey. Was it worth it?". "Two hours' solid work is worth a day's discussion".
- (8) Superlative. When comparing two things one uses the comparative; however, for comparisons in larger groups, you must use the superlative. The superlative designates extremes: the best, the first, the worst, the last, etc.
- (9) "is expected to be released": People think that it will be released in 2005, but it's far from certain.
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>> READING COMPREHENSION

1. All the critics like this movie.
 - a) TRUE
 - b) FALSE
2. Political stories are the most interesting themes of the story.
 - a) TRUE
 - b) FALSE
3. Most critics think that this movie is interesting.
 - a) TRUE
 - b) FALSE
4. Who is the director of this movie?
 - a) Steven Spielberg
 - b) George Lucas
 - c) Tom Cruise
5. What did George Lucas use to create landscapes?
 - a) Paintings
 - b) Drawings
 - c) Computers
6. What is probably the best scene (according to critics)?
 - a) The love affair between Anakin and Padme
 - b) The space battles
 - c) The final battle between Yoda and Dooku
7. Count Dooku is a Jedi.
 - a) TRUE
 - b) FALSE
8. This episode is the final episode.
 - a) TRUE
 - b) FALSE
9. When will the next movie be released?
 - a) In 2003
 - b) In 2005
 - c) In 2007

10. The final episode will be released in 2010.

- a) TRUE
 - b) FALSE
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III) VOCABULARY

A) A critic (n)	1) An instrument of attack or defense in combat, as a gun, missile, or sword.
B) to confuse (v)	2) To yield as return or profit.
C) huge (adj)	3) To cause to be unable to think with clarity or act with intelligence or understanding; throw off. To cause to feel embarrassment.
D) space (n)	4) One who fights, such as a soldier.
E) a weapon (n)	5) One who specializes especially professionally in the evaluation and appreciation of literary or artistic works: a film critic; a dance critic.
F) a battle (n)	6) The expanse in which the solar system, stars, and galaxies exist; the universe.
G) a movie (n)	7) To receive pleasure or satisfaction from.
H) to enjoy (v)	8) An encounter between opposing forces.
I) to earn (v)	9) Very very big.
J) a fighter (n)	10) The synonym of "a film".

IV) ANSWERS

Reading Comprehension: 1. (b) 2. (b) 3. (a) 4. (b) 5. (c) 6. (c) 7. (b) 8. (b) 9. (b) 10. (b) (These answers are explained on the site)

Vocabulary: E1 – I2 – B3 – J4 – A5 – D6 – H7 – F8 – C9 – G10