



Movies

Listening Questions 1

1. When was the original Star Wars movie released?
2. What are the names of the two sequels and when did they open in theaters?
3. Name three movies John Williams has composed music for?
4. What's the first Star Wars prequel called?
5. What famous TV show did J.J. Abrams co-create?

Listening Questions 2

1. How old is Top Gun turning this year?
2. Name two other movies that came out the same year as Top Gun?
3. Who co-starred with Tom Cruise in Top Gun?
4. Which of the two co-stars appeared in Batman Forever and what was his role?
5. What brand of sunglasses did Tom Cruise wear in Top Gun?

Transcript 1

This month two very famous movies will be celebrating anniversaries.

On May 25th, the first Star Wars movie turns 40. Some of the characters the film introduced us to were Luke Skywalker, Han Solo, Princess Leia, Darth Vader and R2-D2.

Star Wars, along with its two sequels *The Empire Strikes Back* (1980) and *The Return of the Jedi* (1983), went on to become smash hits all over the world. Sixteen years after *The Return of the Jedi* came out, *Episode 1 – The Phantom Menace*, the first of the so-called “prequels”, was released.

The Star Wars theme song is probably one of the best-known movie songs of all time. It was composed by John Williams who also did the music for *Jaws*, *Superman*, *E.T.*, and *Jurassic Park*, to name just a few.

Star Wars: The Force Awakens was directed by J.J. Abrams. Abrams has also been an important part of the last *Star Trek* films. On the small screen, he was the co-creator of the hugely successful TV show *LOST*.



Transcript 2

The other massively successful movie celebrating an anniversary this month is *Top Gun*, which opened in theaters in 1986.

Top Gun, a story about a group of U.S. Navy pilots, was one of the most popular movies of 1986. Some other big movies released that year include *Aliens*, *Crocodile Dundee*, and *Star Trek IV: The Voyage Home*.

The biggest star of the movie was Tom Cruise who has since appeared in many blockbuster movies such as *Rain Man* (1988), *Born on the Fourth of July* (1989), the *Mission Impossible* series (1996 – 2015), and *The Last Samurai* (2003). Co-starring along with Cruise were Val Kilmer and Anthony Edwards. Kilmer played Batman in the 1995 *Batman Forever* movie, while Edwards was one of the doctors in the very popular TV show *ER*.

And finally, if you saw *Top Gun* you probably remember that Tom Cruise famously wore a pair of Ray-Ban Aviators. Like many other products that appear in movies, sales of the stylish sunglasses apparently increased thanks to the movie.