Brad Pitt
by Nancy Taylor

SUMMARY
Brad Pitt is one of the most successful Hollywood actors of recent years.
He was born in Oklahoma in 1963. Like many other young, would-be actors, he dropped out of education and drove to Hollywood, hoping to be discovered. There, he supported himself through acting classes by working in a variety of low-paid jobs.

After early television jobs, Brad got his first film role in 'Too young to die'. In Europe he became famous in a sexy television commercial for Levi jeans. Brad quickly became one of Hollywood's most sought-after talents. He has played a wide range of characters, in films such as 'Twelve Monkeys', 'True Romance', 'The Devil's Own', 'Kalifornia' and 'Legends of the Fall'. He has sometimes rejected the most glamorous Hollywood roles for parts in smaller budget films.

Although he is essentially a very private man, during his career he has had high profile love affairs with Juliette Lewis and Gwyneth Paltrow. Recently he seems to have found true love with Jennifer Aniston, star of the television show 'Friends', to whom he is now married.

1963 Born in Oklahoma on December 18th
1982 Goes to the University of Missouri
1985 Leaves university without finishing his course and drives to Hollywood.

1987 Gets a role in the TV soap opera 'Dallas'
1988 Stars in 'Too Young to Die' and meets Juliette Lewis, with whom he lives for three years
1990 Appears in 'Thelma and Louise' and becomes famous
1993–1995 Stars in 'A River Runs Through It', 'True Romance' and 'Legends of a Fall'. Brad is now a 'superstar'
1995 Stars in 'Seven' and meets Gwyneth Paltrow, who becomes his next girlfriend
1998 Stars in 'Meet Joe Black'. Meets Jennifer Aniston, the star of 'Friends', who he eventually marries
Penguin Readers Factsheets

Teacher’s notes

Communicative activities

The following teacher-led activities cover the same sections of text as the exercises at the back of the Reader, and supplement those exercises. For supplementary exercises covering shorter sections of the book, see the photocopiable Student’s Activities pages of this Factsheet. These are primarily for use with class readers but, with the exception of discussion and pair/group work questions, can also be used by students working alone in a self-access centre.

ACTIVITIES BEFORE READING THE BOOK

1 Ask students to finish the questions in the following questionnaire correctly. Then ask them to interview a partner.
   (a) What .......... of films ........ you like watching?
   (b) your / favourite / who / are / actress / actor / and ?
   (c) What .......... the name of .......... last film ........ you ..........?
   (d) often / to / cinema / the / go / you / do / how ?
   (e) Do you .......... that actors .......... too much money?

2 Ask students to work in small groups to complete the following table. Ask them to guess things like age and nationality and to use adjectives in the first column.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What I know about Brad Pitt</th>
<th>Brad Pitt’s films</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3 Ask students to look at the Introduction and pictures. Ask them individually to write three questions. Ask them to swap their questions with another student. They should then try to answer them. Finally ask them to check the answers to their questions and discuss them.

ACTIVITIES AFTER READING A SECTION

Chapters 1–3

Ask students to work in pairs to complete the summary text by asking each other questions based on the prompts in the gaps.

Student A

Brad was born in ............... on December 18, 1963. His full name is ............... (what?). At high school Brad sang in a band with three other boys. All the girls loved Brad because ............... (why?). Brad left school and went to Hollywood when he was ............... (how old?). He did different jobs there to pay for his acting classes and his apartment. His first important role was in the television show ............... (which?). He spent five weeks in the show.

Student B

Brad was born in Oklahoma on ............... (when?). His full name is William Bradley Pitt. At high school he ............... (what?) with three other boys. All the girls loved Brad because of his friendly smile, beautiful body and wonderful blue eyes. Brad left college and went to ............... (where?) when he was twenty-two years old. He did different jobs there to ............... (why?). His first important role was in the television program ‘Dallas’. He was in the show for ............... (how long?).

Chapters 4–8

Ask students to write descriptions of Brad Pitt in all of the photographs in these chapters (there are seven). They should include information about his hair, clothes what he is doing, and his facial expression. Ask them to also add one description which does not fit any of the photographs. Ask students to swap their descriptions with a partner and try to identify which picture goes with which description.

Chapters 9–11

Ask students to work in small groups and discuss the following questions.

(a) People magazine called Brad ‘The Sexiest Man in the World’, do you agree?
(b) Who do you think is ‘The Sexiest Woman’?
(c) Have you seen any of these Brad Pitt films: ‘Thelma and Louise’, ‘Seven’, ‘12 Monkeys’, ‘Legends of the Fall’, ‘Seven Years in Tibet’, ‘Sleepers’, ‘Meet Joe Black’ and ‘Fight Club’.
(d) Did you like the ones that you saw? Why or why not? Tell the others about the films you saw.

ACTIVITIES AFTER READING THE BOOK

1 Ask students to write letters to each other recommending a film that they have seen and giving details of the plot and actors.
2 Ask students to prepare and give a talk to the rest of the group about their favourite actor or actress. If possible, they could use the Internet to research their chosen actor.
3 Ask students to write some questions they would like to ask Brad Pitt, then ask them to work in pairs to role play a journalist interviewing Brad Pitt.

Glossary

It will be useful for your students to know the following words. They are practised in the ‘Before You Read’ sections at the back of the book. (Definitions are based on those in the Longman Active Study Dictionary.)

advertisement (n) something used for advertising things, such as a notice on a wall or in a newspaper, or a short film shown on television
award (n) a prize or money, given by an organization for a special reason
body (n) all the different parts of a person
depressing (adj) making you feel very sad
director (n) someone who decides what the actors and camera people should do in a film
favorite (adj) (favourite BrEng) something you like more than others of the same kind
fun (n) enjoyment or pleasure
good-looking (adj) handsome or beautiful
program (n) (programme BrEng) a show which is broadcast on television
real (adj) not imaginary
role (n) the part taken by somebody in a play or film
romance (n) a story about love or the enjoyment of something new and exciting
serious (adj) very bad and worrying
sexist (adj) the most exciting in a sexual way
superstar (n) a very famous singer or actor
teenager (n) a young person between thirteen and nineteen years old
Photocopiable

Students can do these exercises alone or with one or more other students. Pair/group-only exercises are marked.

Activities before reading the book

1 Fill in the table with what you learn about Brad Pitt from the Introduction and the picture on pages iv and v.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>likes</th>
<th>dislikes</th>
<th>personality</th>
<th>appearance</th>
<th>other</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

2 Are the following sentences about the Introduction true or false?

(a) People who meet Brad do not like him.
(b) Brad is very rich.
(c) Brad played the role of a crazy man in two movies.
(d) Dustin Hoffman thinks Brad looks like a vegetable.
(e) Brad does not enjoy talking about himself.
(f) Brad always wanted to be an actor when he was a child.

Activities while reading the book

Chapters 1–3

Answer these questions about the first three chapters.

(a) What important thing did Brad learn while he was playing tennis?
(b) What was Brad’s father’s name?
(c) What did he like at school?
(d) What did Brad do after high school?
(e) What made Brad think carefully about his future while he was at University?
(f) What did Brad decide to do in 1986?

2 Here are the answers to some questions. What are the questions?

(a) How ..........................................................?
   He drove there.
(b) What ..........................................................?
   He stood outside and jumped up and down.
(c) Who ..........................................................
   With seven other people.
(d) What ..........................................................
   He said one word.
(e) How ..........................................................
   For five weeks.
(f) What ..........................................................
   A good-looking but not very intelligent teenager.

Chapters 4–6

1 Say why these people were mentioned in chapters 4–6.

(a) Mike Tyson
(b) Juliette Lewis
(c) Ridley Scott
(d) Shalane McCall
(e) Robert Redford
(f) Robert De Niro

2 Read this summary of the story of ‘Thelma and Louise’ and put one of the verbs below in each gap.

There are two women in the film. Their names are Thelma and Louise. Thelma is unhappy with her husband. One day the two women ................... to go on a fishing trip. They ................... some problems on the first night and one of the women ................... a man. They ................... away from the police and meet JD (Brad Pitt) while they are ................... . Thelma falls in love with JD immediately. She ................... the night with JD. The next day he ................... all their money and leaves quietly. That night ................... Thelma $6,600.

steals decide spends costs run driving

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3 What can you say about the roles that Brad played in these movies?
   (a) ‘Too Young to Die’
   (b) ‘Johnny Suede’
   (c) ‘A River Runs Through It’

Chapters 7–8
1 Answer these questions.
   (a) In which movie did Brad play a ‘crazy killer’?
   (b) Who did Brad live with in early 1993?
   (c) Which two movies made Brad a superstar?
   (d) Who were the other actors in these two movies?
   (e) What lie did the newspapers tell about Brad?
   (f) Why didn’t Brad enjoy making the second of these important movies?

2 Put these events in Brad’s life in order, starting with the first.
   (a) Brad started the film ‘True Romance’.
   (b) Brad made ‘Interview with a Vampire’
   (c) Brad played Early Grayce.
   (d) Brad ended his romance with Juliette Lewis.
   (e) Brad made ‘Legends of the Fall’.
   (f) Christmas, 1994

Chapter 9
1 Are these sentences true or false?
   (a) Brad wanted to be in ‘Apollo 13’.
   (b) Brad and Gwyneth didn’t like each other at first.
   (c) Brad likes dogs.
   (d) The success of ‘Seven’ was a big surprise.
   (e) Brad was sick in hospital before he made ‘Twelve Monkeys’.
   (f) Brad was very busy after ‘Twelve Monkeys’.

2 Why are these names important in Chapter 9?
   (a) Ron Howard
   (b) Gwyneth Paltrow
   (c) Terry Gilliam
   (d) Bruce Willis
   (e) Jeffrey Goines
   (f) Morgan Freeman

Chapters 10–11
1 Why were these places important for Brad in 1995?
   (a) Tibet
   (b) London
   (c) Missouri
   (d) The Caribbean

2 Answer these questions.
   (a) Why was Brad angry with journalists?
   (b) How old was Brad in 1995?
   (c) Why didn’t Gwyneth want to marry Brad?
   (d) How long did Brad and Gwyneth stay together?
   (e) How much did Brad earn for his role in ‘Meet Joe Black’?
   (f) Who is Brad’s new girlfriend?
   (g) Why is she famous?
   (h) Where did Brad take her?

Activities after reading the book
1 Answer these questions alone or in pairs.
   (a) Which was Brad’s most important film?
   (b) Who was the most important woman in Brad’s life?
   (c) Who or what was the biggest influence on his early life?

2 Write one or two paragraphs about why you would or would not like to be Brad Pitt.
William Bradley "Brad" Pitt (born December 18, 1963) is an Academy Award-winning American actor and movie producer. William Bradley Pitt was born in Shawnee, Oklahoma, to Jane Etta (née Hillhouse), a school counsellor, and William Alvin Pitt, who ran a trucking company. The family soon moved to Springfield, Missouri, where he lived together with his younger siblings, Doug (born 1966) and Julie Neal (born 1969). He was born into a conservative household. He was raised as Southern Baptist. Pitt has Brad Pitt. From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia. This article is about the American actor. For the Australian boxer, see Brad Pitt (boxer). Brad Pitt. William Bradley Pitt (born December 18, 1963) is an American actor and film producer. He has received multiple awards and nominations including an Academy Award as producer under his own company, Plan B Entertainment. Pitt first gained recognition as a cowboy hitchhiker in the road movie Thelma & Louise (1991). Actor and producer Brad Pitt made his big-screen debut in the 1989 horror film Cutting Class and his role in 1994’s Legends of the Fall helped secured his place as a Hollywood staple. A two-time winner of People magazine’s “Sexiest Man Alive” title, Pitt also proved willing to take on grittier roles for features like Seven (1995) and Fight Club (1999). Pitt was born William Bradley Pitt on December 18, 1963, in Shawnee, Oklahoma, the eldest of three children in a devoutly Southern Baptist family, and grew up in Springfield, Missouri. Brad Pitt is 'heartbroken' after Angelina Jolie's 'abuse' claim in divorce court. Showbiz. PICKING SIDES. Angelina Jolie's son Maddox, 19, 'testified against Brad' in custody battle. Showbiz. JOLIE TWIST. Angelina to 'offer proof of domestic violence testimony' as Brad divorce looms. Showbiz. BLOODY BRAD. Brad Pitt looks bloody and bruised after crash scene on set of new film. Showbiz. NOT-SO ALIKE. Can YOU guess who these celebrity doppel-clangers are supposed to look like? Fabulous. NEW BACHELORETTE. Brad Pitt, Producer: Ad Astra. An actor and producer known as much for his versatility as he is for his handsome face, Golden Globe-winner Brad Pitt's most widely recognized role may be Tyler Durden in Fight Club (1999). However, his portrayals of Billy Beane in Moneyball (2011), and Rusty Ryan in the remake of Ocean's Eleven - korkeat panokset (2001) and its sequels, also loom... Angelina Jolie Reveals the “Truth” About How Brad Pitt Divorce Impacted Her Career Goals 21 April 2021 | E! Online. See all related articles Â».