

The Lazy Editor

WE LOVE THIS STORY. TOO BAD WE COULDN'T BE BOTHERED TO EDIT IT! WILL YOU FIX IT FOR US?



Special effects and professional stunt performers make action scenes seem realistic.

Would You Want This Job?

What it takes to pull off an amazing stunt on-screen
(**Hint:** strength, smarts, and lots of bumps and bruises)

DIRECTIONS: Read the article, which contains big mistakes. Then follow the prompts in the box on p. 31.

- 1 He has leapt off skyscrapers, tumbled down stairs, been lit on fire, and fought the deadliest villains on the planet. And you know what? For Greg Rementer, it's all in a day's work.
- 2 Rementer is a stunt performer. He is part of an elite group of men and women who bring you're favorite action scenes to life on film and television. Stunt performers are hired to stand in for actors when a scene poses extra risk or requires special



- skills. On the set of *Captain America: Civil War*, for example, Rementer stepped in for actor Sebastian Stan. Rementer had to jump 45 feet from one building onto another—*after* being thrown down a flight of stairs.
- 3 Stunts have always been part of movies. But in the early days of Hollywood, there was no such thing as a professional stunt performer. Actors generally did their own stunts: They dangled from the sides of buildings, jumped from speeding trains, and fell off galloping horses—often with little or no safety equipment. When actors didn't

©COLUMBIA PICTURES/COURTESY EVERETT COLLECTION (SPIDER-MAN); COURTESY GREG REMENTER. OPPOSITE PAGE: ©LUCASFILM 2015 (DAISY RIDLEY)

do their own stunts, filmmakers would simply hire the first person they could find crazy enough to give it a go. Accidents that resulted in serious injury or even death were not uncommon.

- 4 Today, most stunts are done by highly trained professionals. They know how to safely flip cars, fight, and fall from great heights (think ropes and giant air bags). Bobby Holland Hanton, who performed in *Avengers: Age of Ultron* and *Thor: The Dark World*, was a gymnast. Katie Eischen, who worked in *The Hunger Games: Catching Fire* and *Furious 7*, did track cheerleading, and volleyball. As for Rementer, he has been studying martial arts since elementary school.
- 5 The job of a stunt performer isn't to attempt death-defying stunts; it's to create a convincing effect on screen. Whether a fiery helicopter crash or an elaborate car chase, every stunt is painstakingly planned and rehearsed. Plenty of safety measures are put in place as well. Take the time Rementer portrayed a zombie engulfed in flames. Two safety experts stood by with extinguishers, blankets, and water. Then Rementer, wearing a

fireproof suit and mask, staggered through a field and was ignited by flame machines.



Stunt performers also work with actors. For example, Daisy Ridley (above) was trained to do fight scenes in *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*.

- 6 Rementer loves his job, but it's hardly glamorous. Days on set can be long and grueling; it's common to work 14-hour stretches in uncomfortable locations—on a freezing mountainside in a scorching-hot desert, even underwater. A stunt that lasts a few seconds can take hours to set up. Plus, stunt performers must train constantly to stay in shape.
- 7 Being a stunt performer today is much safer than it used to be.

Thanks to better equipment and rigorous rules in Hollywood. But injuries are still part of the job, and tragedies happen far too often. After all, if stunts were completely safe, stunt performers wouldn't be needed. "I've been fortunate," Rementer says, explaining that he hasn't had any serious accidents.

"I've had some broken ribs, broken toes, and a lot of bumps and bruises. But when you're doing things like riding wires into concrete walls, you're going to feel it. You just have to be ready to get up and go again." ●

FIND IT/FIX IT

DIRECTIONS: Can you find and fix all the errors in the article? Write the answers on your own paper.

- Paragraphs 1, 2, & 3: Spell-check won't catch these mistakes! Fix six commonly confused words.
- Paragraphs 4, 5, & 6: Uh-oh! Four commas have vanished. Will you add them back?
- Paragraph 7: What's up with the sentence fragments? Please correct the three mistakes.

FOR MORE PRACTICE, GO TO SCOPE ONLINE.

GET MORE ONLINE!