

Grammar: The passive

5 Compare these sentences. Which one is passive and which one is active?

- 1 We use the term 'Bollywood' to describe the Mumbai film industry.
- 2 The term 'Bollywood' is used to describe the Mumbai film industry.

6 Look at the examples in the table and complete the rules. Then find more examples of passives in the article.

The passive

We use the passive when we are more interested in the action than in the person who does it.

*About 40 per cent of a movie's budget **is spent** on marketing.*

*More than a thousand movies **were made** in India last year.*

*Bollywood movies **are loved** by fans all over the world.*

*Much of that money **was earned** abroad.*

Rules:

- 1 We form the passive with the verb _____ and the past participle.
- 2 To say who or what does something in a passive sentence, we use the preposition _____.

>> For more information on the passive, see page 171.

7 Complete this description of an Indian movie with the passive verbs in the box.

is based on is set was directed
were actually filmed is played was released

The Namesake tells the story of a family that moves from India to America and the changes that happen in their lives over 25 years. The movie 1 _____ by Mira Nair, who also directed *Monsoon Wedding*. It has many wonderful characters to connect with and scenes to make you laugh and cry. The main character 2 _____ by Kal Penn, an American actor whose parents were Indian immigrants.

The film 3 _____ a book by Jhumpa Lahiri, and she actually plays a small part in the movie. The story 4 _____ in Calcutta and New York, but some of the New York scenes 5 _____ in Calcutta to save money. The movie 6 _____ in 2006 and earned US\$13,566,248 in ticket sales.

Speaking: Guess that movie

8 Prepare to tell some other students about a movie you have seen. First write some sentences about it. Use these phrases.

The main character is played by ...

It was directed/produced by ...

It was shot in/based on/set in/filmed in ...

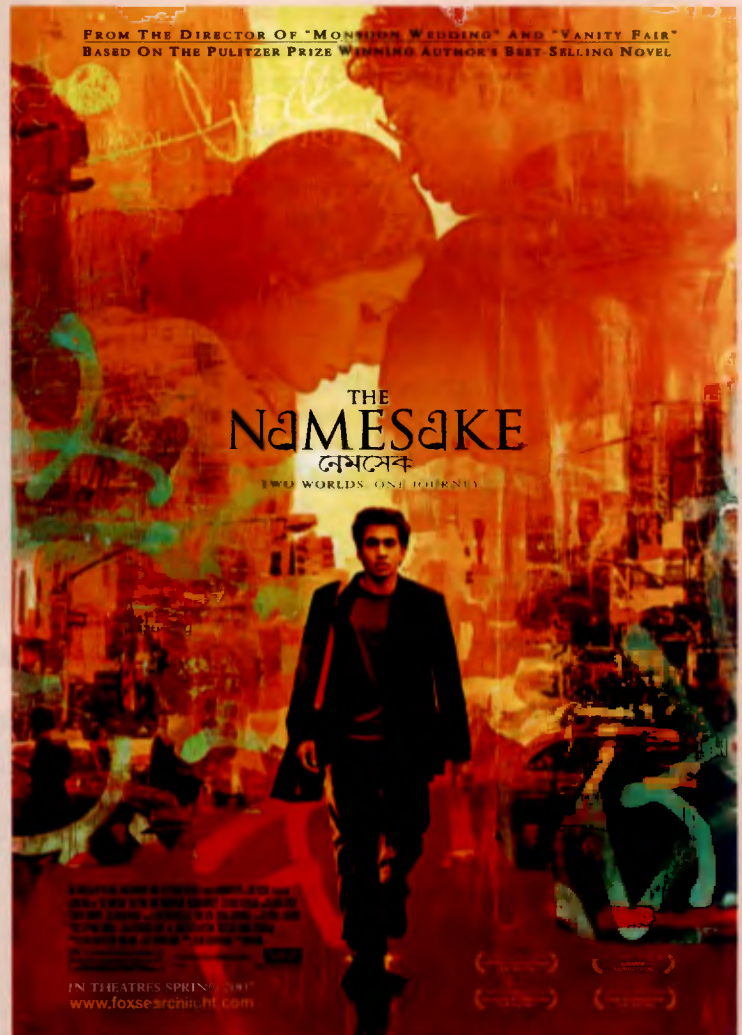
It tells the story of ...

It makes you laugh/cry ... because ...

9 Work in groups. Take turns to describe your movies. See if anyone can guess which movie you are describing.

10 Discuss these questions.

- 1 Many famous movies are based on books. Think of examples.
- 2 Is it better to read a book and then see a movie, or is it better the other way round? Why?
- 3 Do you think people are encouraged to read by movies? Why?/ Why not?



TALKING POINT

- Do you ever watch Bollywood movies? What do you (or would you) like and dislike about them?
- When you're watching foreign movies, do you prefer them to have subtitles or be dubbed? Why?