

FINAL, LEVEL 2

Lettorato inglese

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COGNOME _____

Nome _____

Numero matricola: _____

- A. Fill in the gaps with the appropriate tense and form of the verb given, using one of the following active tenses: Present simple, present continuous, past simple, past continuous, present perfect simple, present perfect continuous).

Thomas Jeffrey Hanks **was born** (be born) in [Concord, California](#) on July 9, 1956 to hospital worker Janet Marylyn and itinerant cook Amos Mefford Hanks. He **is** (be) an American actor and filmmaker.

Hanks **has collaborated** (collaborate) with film director [Steven Spielberg](#) on five films to date: [Saving Private Ryan](#) (1998), [Catch Me If You Can](#) (2002), [The Terminal](#) (2004), [Bridge of Spies](#) (2015), and [The Post](#) (2017), as well as the 2001 miniseries [Band of Brothers](#), which **launched** (launch) Hanks as a successful director, producer, and screenwriter. In 2010, Spielberg and Hanks **were** (be) **executive producers** on the HBO miniseries [The Pacific](#).

Hanks' films **have grossed** (gross) more than \$4.6 billion at U.S. and Canadian box offices and more than \$9.2 billion worldwide, making him the fourth highest-grossing actor in North America. They **have nominated** (nominate) Hanks for numerous awards during his career. In **1995**, Hanks **became** (become) one of only two actors who **won** (win) the [Academy Award for Best Actor](#) in consecutive years, with [Spencer Tracy](#) being the other. In 2004, he **received** (receive) the Stanley Kubrick Britannia Award for Excellence in Film from the [British Academy of Film and Television Arts](#) (BAFTA). In 2014, he **received** (receive) a [Kennedy Center Honor](#), and in 2016, he **received** (receive) a [Presidential Medal of Freedom](#) from [President Barack Obama](#), as well as the French [Legion of Honor](#).

His mother **was** (be) of [Portuguese](#) descent, while his father had [English](#) ancestry. His parents **divorced** (divorce) in 1960.

While Hanks' family religious history **was** (be) [Catholic](#) and [Mormon](#), he **has characterized** (characterize) his teenage self as being a "Bible-toting [evangelical](#)" for several years. In school, he **was** (be) unpopular with students and teachers alike, later telling [Rolling Stone](#) magazine, "I **was** (be) a geek, a spaz. I **was** (be) horribly, painfully, terribly shy. But I **didn't get** (not/get) into trouble. I **was** (be) always a real good kid and pretty responsible." In 1965, his father **married** (marry) Frances Wong, and they **had** (have) three children.

While he **was studying** (study) theater, Hanks met [Vincent Dowling](#), head of the [Great Lakes Theater Festival](#) in [Cleveland, Ohio](#). At Dowling's suggestion, Hanks **became** (become) an intern at the festival. His internship **stretched** (stretch) into a three-year experience that **covered** (cover) most aspects of theater production, including lighting, set design, and stage management. Hanks subsequently **dropped out** (drop out) of college to pursue his career in acting. During the same time, Hanks **won** (win) the Cleveland Critics Circle Award for Best Actor for his 1978 performance as [Proteus](#) in

Shakespeare's [*The Two Gentlemen of Verona*](#), one of the few times he **played** (play) a villain. *Time* magazine **named** (name) Hanks one of the "Top 10 College Dropouts."

In 1979, Hanks **moved** (move) to New York City, where he **made** (make) his film debut in the low-budget [*slasher film He Knows You're Alone*](#) (1980) and **landed** (land) a starring role in the television movie [*Mazes and Monsters*](#). The following year, Hanks **landed** (land) one of the lead roles, that of character Kip Wilson, on the [ABC](#) television pilot of [*Bosom Buddies*](#). He and [Peter Scolari](#) **played** (play) a pair of young advertising men forced to dress as women so they **could** (can) live in an inexpensive all-female hotel. *Bosom Buddies* **ran** (run) for two seasons, and, although the ratings **were** (be) never strong, television critics **gave** (give) the program high marks. "The first day I **saw** (see) him on the set," co-producer Ian Praiser **told** (tell) *Rolling Stone*, "I **thought** (think), 'Too bad he won't be in television for long.' I **knew** (know) he'd be a movie star in two years." However, although Praiser **knew** (know) it, he **was not able** (not/ able to) to convince Hanks.

Bosom Buddies and a guest appearance on a 1982 episode of [*Happy Days*](#) **prompted** (prompt) director [Ron Howard](#) to contact Hanks. Howard **was working** (work) on the film [*Splash*](#) (1984), a romantic comedy fantasy about a [mermaid](#) who **falls** (fall) in love with a human. Hanks **landed** (land) the lead role in *Splash*, which **went** (go) on to become a surprise box office hit.

Hanks **began** (begin) to extend himself from comedic roles to dramatic roles with [*Nothing in Common*](#) (1986). In an interview with *Rolling Stone* magazine, Hanks **commented** (comment) on his experience: "It **changed** (change) my desires about working in movies. Part of it **was** (be) the nature of the material, what we **were trying** (try) to say. But besides that, it **focused** (focus) on people's relationships. The story **was** (be) about a guy and his father, unlike, say, [*The Money Pit*](#), where the story **is** (be) really about a guy and his house."

After a few more flops and a moderate success with the comedy [*Dragnet*](#), Hanks' stature in the film industry **rose** (rise). The broad success of the fantasy comedy [*Big*](#) (1988) **established** (establish) Hanks as a major Hollywood talent, both as a box office draw and within the industry as an actor. For his performance in the film, Hanks **earned** (earn) his first nomination for the Academy Award for Best Actor. [*Punchline*](#) **followed** (follow) *later that year*, in which he and [Sally Field](#) **co-starred** (co-star) as struggling comedians.

Hanks then **suffered** (suffer) a run of box-office underperformers: [*The 'Burbs*](#) (1989), [*Joe Versus the Volcano*](#) (1990), and [*The Bonfire of the Vanities*](#) (1990). [*Turner & Hooch*](#) **was** (be) Hanks' only financially successful film of the period. Hanks **climbed** (climb) back to the top again with his portrayal of a washed-up baseball legend turned manager in [*A League of Their Own*](#) (1992). Hanks **has stated** (state) that his acting in earlier roles **was** (be) not great, but that he subsequently **improved** (improve). In an interview with [Vanity Fair](#), Hanks **noted** (note) his "modern era of moviemaking ... because enough self-discovery **has gone on** (to go on) ... My work **has become** (become) less pretentiously fake and over the top". This "modern era" **began** (begin) in 1993 for Hanks, first with [*Sleepless in Seattle*](#) and then with [*Philadelphia*](#). The former **was** (be) a blockbuster success about a widower who **finds** (find) true love over the radio airwaves. [Richard Schickel](#) of *TIME* **called** (call) his performance "charming," and most critics **agreed** (agree) that Hanks' portrayal **ensured** (ensure) him a place among the premier romantic-comedy stars of his generation.

In *Philadelphia*, he **played** (play) a [gay](#) lawyer with AIDS who **sues** (sue) his firm for discrimination. Hanks **lost** (lose) 35 pounds and **thinned** (thin) his hair in order to appear sickly for the role. In a review for [People](#), Leah Rozen **stated** (state), "Above all, credit for *Philadelphia's* success **belongs** (belong) to Hanks, who **makes** (make) sure that he **plays** (play) a character, not a saint. He **is** (be) flat-out terrific, giving a deeply felt, carefully nuanced performance that **deserves** (deserve) an Oscar." Hanks **won** (win) the 1993 [Academy Award](#) for Best Actor for his role in *Philadelphia*. During his acceptance speech, he **revealed** (reveal) that his high school drama teacher Rawley Farnsworth and former classmate John Gilkerson, two people with whom he was close, **were** (be) gay.

Hanks **followed** (follow) *Philadelphia* with the 1994 hit [*Forrest Gump*](#) which **grossed** (gross) a worldwide total of over \$600 million at the box office. Hanks **remarked** (remark): "When I **read** (read) the script for *Gump*, I **saw** (see) it as one of those kind of grand, hopeful movies that the audience can go to and feel ... some hope for their lot and their position in life ... I **got** (get) that from the movies a hundred million times when I **was** (be) a kid. I still **do** (do)." Hanks **won** (win) his second Best Actor Academy Award for his role in *Forrest Gump*, the second actor who **has accomplished** (accomplish) the feat of winning consecutive Best Actor Oscars.

Hanks' next role—astronaut and commander [Jim Lovell](#), in the 1995 film [Apollo 13](#)—[reunited](#) (reunite) him with Ron Howard. Critics generally [applauded](#) (applaud) the film and the performances of the entire cast, which [included](#) (include) actors [Kevin Bacon](#), [Bill Paxton](#), [Gary Sinise](#), [Ed Harris](#), and [Kathleen Quinlan](#). The movie also [earned](#) (earn) nine Academy Award nominations and [won](#) (win) two. Later that year, Hanks [starred](#) (star) in Disney/Pixar's CGI-animated hit film [Toy Story](#), as the voice of [Sheriff Woody](#). Hanks [made](#) (make) his directing debut with his 1996 film [That Thing You Do!](#)

[Saving Private Ryan](#) [earned](#) (earn) the praise and respect of the film community, critics, and the general public. In 2001, Hanks [helped](#) (help) direct and produce the Emmy-Award-winning HBO miniseries [Band of Brothers](#). The same year, Hanks and his wife [Rita Wilson](#) [produced](#) (produce) the hit movie [My Big Fat Greek Wedding](#). At the age of 45, Hanks [became](#) (become) the youngest-ever recipient of the [American Film Institute's](#) Life Achievement Award on June 12, 2002.

In 2004, he [appeared](#) (appear) in three films: The [Coen brothers'](#) [The Ladykillers](#), another Spielberg film, [The Terminal](#), and [The Polar Express](#), a family film from Zemeckis for which Hanks [played](#) (play) multiple [motion capture](#) roles. In a [USA Weekend](#) interview, Hanks [discussed](#) (discuss) how he [chooses](#) (choose) projects: "[Since] *A League of Their Own*, it can't be just another movie for me. It [has to](#) (have to) get me going somehow ... There [has to](#) (have to) be some all-encompassing desire or feeling about wanting to do that particular movie. I'd like to assume that I'm willing to go down any avenue in order to do it right".

Over the years Hanks [has worked](#) (work) on so many projects, it is impossible to name them all here. He [has won](#) (win) numerous and various awards, honors and prizes for his work, and [has worked](#) (work) as a director, producer and actor. He [is](#) (be) politically active and [has written](#) (write) books as well as [worked](#) (work) on documentaries on several subjects. In an interview with *The New Yorker*, Hanks [said](#) (say) he has always been fascinated by space. He [told](#) (tell) the magazine that he [built](#) (build) plastic models of rockets when he [was](#) (is) a child and [watched](#) (watch) live broadcasts of space missions back in the 1960s.

In October 2017, Hanks [signed](#) (sign) on to star as Finch, the last surviving man on Earth, in the science fiction drama [BIOS](#). Principal production [commenced](#) (commence) in February 2019. HBO [confirmed](#) (confirm) in January 2013 that it [was developing](#) (develop) a third World War II miniseries based on the book *Masters of the Air* by [Donald L. Miller](#) with Hanks and Spielberg to follow *Band of Brothers* and *The Pacific*. Few details [have emerged](#) (emerge) about the project since, but [NME reported](#) (report) in March 2017 that production [was progressing](#) (progress) under the working title [The Mighty Eighth](#).

Hanks [was married](#) (be married) to American actress Samantha Lewes in 1978. They [had](#) (have) one son together during their marriage. Hanks and Samantha Lewes [divorced](#) (divorce) in 1987. Hanks [married](#) (marry) actress Rita Wilson in 1988. They [have](#) (have) two sons.

Hanks [supports](#) (support) [same-sex marriage](#), environmental causes, and [alternative fuels](#). He [has donated](#) (donate) to many [Democratic](#) politicians, and during the [2008 United States presidential election](#) [uploaded](#) (upload) a video to his [MySpace](#) account endorsing [Barack Obama](#). He also [narrated](#) (narrate) a 2012 documentary, [The Road We've Traveled](#), created by [Obama for America](#). In 2016, Hanks [endorsed](#) (endorse) [Hillary Clinton](#) in the [2016 presidential election](#). Hanks [was](#) (be) outspoken about his opposition to the 2008 [Proposition 8](#), an amendment to the [California constitution](#) that [defined](#) (define) marriage as a union only between a man and a woman. Hanks and others [raised](#) (raise) over US\$44 million to campaign against the proposition.

Hanks [said](#) (say) he originally wanted to be an astronaut. Hanks [is](#) (be) a member of the [National Space Society](#). In 2006, the [Space Foundation](#) [awarded](#) (award) Hanks the Douglas S. Morrow Public Outreach Award, given annually to an individual or organization that [has made](#) (make) significant contributions to public awareness of space programs.