



[http://www.LessonsOnMovies.com/the\\_usual\\_suspects.html](http://www.LessonsOnMovies.com/the_usual_suspects.html)

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# THE LISTENING / READING SCRIPT

From: [http://www.LessonsOnMovies.com/the\\_usual\\_suspects.html](http://www.LessonsOnMovies.com/the_usual_suspects.html)

*The Usual Suspects* is a 1995 American neo-noir film written by Christopher McQuarrie and directed by Bryan Singer. It stars Gabriel Byrne and Kevin Spacey. The film follows the interrogation of Roger "Verbal" Kint, a small-time con man who is one of only two survivors of a massacre and fire on a ship docked at the Port of Los Angeles. He tells an interrogator a complicated story about events that led him and four other criminals to the boat, and of a mysterious mob boss known as Keyser Söze who commissioned their work. Using flashbacks and narration, Kint's story becomes increasingly complex. The film began as a title taken from a column in *Spy* magazine called "The Usual Suspects."

*The Usual Suspects* was well received by most critics, and it has an 89% rating at the Rotten Tomatoes.com movie review site. The movie was harshly criticised by some. Critic Roger Ebert gave the film one and a half stars out of four, considering it confusing and uninteresting. He also included it in his "most hated films" list. Hal Hinson of the Washington Post wrote, "Ultimately, *The Usual Suspects* may be too clever for its own good. The twist at the end is a corker, but crucial questions remain unanswered." Britain's *The Independent* also praised the film's ending: "The film's coup de grace is as elegant as it is unexpected. The whole movie plays back in your mind in perfect clarity."

Source: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\\_Usual\\_Suspects](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Usual_Suspects)





# TRAILER AND POSTER

From: [http://www.LessonsOnMovies.com/the\\_usual\\_suspects.html](http://www.LessonsOnMovies.com/the_usual_suspects.html)

## POSTER

**1. SIX WORDS:** Look at the poster and write down six words (more if you like) that you think of as you look at it. Share the words with your partner(s). Why did you choose them?

You can find posters for this movie at [www.wikipedia.com](http://www.wikipedia.com) or [www.imbd.com](http://www.imbd.com) - just type the name of the movie in the search field.

**2. STORY:** Talk about what you think the story of the movie is – the start, beginning, end, etc. Change partners and share stories.

**3. CREDITS:** Look at the credits on the poster (the actors, director, producer...) and talk about them with your partner(s).

**4. MUST-SEE:** Talk with your partner(s) about whether the poster and movie title are good and make you want to see the movie.

**5. STARRING YOU:** Imagine you are one of the stars of the movie. Talk about your role with your movie star partner(s).

## TRAILER

**1. RETELL:** Watch the trailer and retell what you saw to your partner(s).

You can watch a trailer at <http://www.youtube.com>

**2. CHUNKS:** Watch 10-to-15 second chunks of the trailer and retell what you saw to your partner(s).

**3. QUIZ:** Watch the trailer and write down some quiz questions for your partner(s). Watch a second time to find the answers to the questions.

**4. VOCABULARY:** Make a note of words in the trailer that you see or hear. Talk about them with your partner(s).

**5. GOOD / BAD:** Watch the trailer and write down why you think the film might be good or bad. Share your ideas with your partner(s).





# MATCHING

From: [http://www.LessonsOnMovies.com/the\\_usual\\_suspects.html](http://www.LessonsOnMovies.com/the_usual_suspects.html)

## SYNONYM MATCH

- |                  |                   |
|------------------|-------------------|
| 1. interrogation | a. sharpness      |
| 2. con man       | b. complex        |
| 3. massacre      | c. fraudster      |
| 4. complicated   | d. final blow     |
| 5. commissioned  | e. questioning    |
| 6. rating        | f. key            |
| 7. confusing     | g. classification |
| 8. crucial       | h. authorized     |
| 9. coup de grace | i. slaughter      |
| 10. clarity      | j. puzzling       |

## PHRASE MATCH

- |                                |                         |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. a 1995 American neo-        | a. remain unanswered    |
| 2. a small-                    | b. increasingly complex |
| 3. a mysterious mob boss known | c. its own good         |
| 4. Kint's story becomes        | d. by most critics      |
| 5. a title taken from a column | e. criticised by some   |
| 6. well-received               | f. in Spy magazine      |
| 7. The movie was harshly       | g. noir film            |
| 8. too clever for              | h. clarity              |
| 9. crucial questions           | i. time con man         |
| 10. in perfect                 | j. as Keyser Söze       |





## LISTENING / READING GAP FILL

From: [http://www.LessonsOnMovies.com/the\\_usual\\_suspects.html](http://www.LessonsOnMovies.com/the_usual_suspects.html)

*The Usual Suspects* is a 1995 American (1) \_\_\_\_\_ by Christopher McQuarrie and directed by Bryan Singer. It stars Gabriel Byrne and Kevin Spacey. The film follows the interrogation of Roger "Verbal" Kint, (2) \_\_\_\_\_ who is one of only two survivors of a massacre and fire on a ship docked at the Port of Los Angeles. He (3) \_\_\_\_\_ a complicated story about events that led him and four other criminals to the boat, and of a (4) \_\_\_\_\_ known as Keyser Söze (5) \_\_\_\_\_ work. Using flashbacks and narration, Kint's story becomes increasingly complex. The film began (6) \_\_\_\_\_ from a column in *Spy* magazine called "The Usual Suspects."

*The Usual Suspects* (7) \_\_\_\_\_ most critics, and it has an 89% rating at the Rotten Tomatoes.com movie review site. The movie was (8) \_\_\_\_\_ by some. Critic Roger Ebert gave the film one and a (9) \_\_\_\_\_ four, considering it confusing and uninteresting. He also included it in his "most hated films" list. Hal Hinson of the *Washington Post* wrote, "Ultimately, *The Usual Suspects* (10) \_\_\_\_\_ its own good. The twist at the end is a corker, but crucial questions (11) \_\_\_\_\_." Britain's *The Independent* also praised the film's ending: "The film's coup de grace is as elegant as it is unexpected. The whole movie plays back in your mind (12) \_\_\_\_\_."





# CORRECT THE SPELLING

From: [http://www.LessonsOnMovies.com/the\\_usual\\_suspects.html](http://www.LessonsOnMovies.com/the_usual_suspects.html)

## Paragraph 1

1. the roitngreiatno of Roger "Verbal" Kint
2. one of only two survivors of a seasamcr
3. a ship dkdeco at the Port of Los Angeles
4. a ioyssemtur mob boss
5. Using flashbacks and ortnnaair
6. taken from a omclun in Spy magazine

## Paragraph 2

7. well crveedei by most critics
8. an 89% ngtria
9. The movie was sahylhr criticised by some
10. too lvecre for its own good
11. The Independent also praised the film's nngdei
12. in perfect tcrayli





## PUNCTUATE & PUT CAPITALS IN THE TEXT

From: [http://www.LessonsOnMovies.com/the\\_usual\\_suspects.html](http://www.LessonsOnMovies.com/the_usual_suspects.html)

*the usual suspects* is a 1995 american neo-noir film written by christopher mcquarrie and directed by bryan singer it stars gabriel byrne and kevin spacey the film follows the interrogation of roger "verbal" kint a small-time con man who is one of only two survivors of a massacre and fire on a ship docked at the port of los angeles he tells an interrogator a complicated story about events that led him and four other criminals to the boat and of a mysterious mob boss known as keyser söße who commissioned their work using flashbacks and narration kint's story becomes increasingly complex the film began as a title taken from a column in spy magazine called "the usual suspects"

*the usual suspects* was well received by most critics and it has an 89% rating at the rotten tomatoescom movie review site the movie was harshly criticised by some critic roger ebert gave the film one and a half stars out of four considering it confusing and uninteresting he also included it in his "most hated films" list hal hinson of the washington post wrote "ultimately *the usual suspects* may be too clever for its own good the twist at the end is a corker but crucial questions remain unanswered" britain's the independent also praised the film's ending "the film's coup de grace is as elegant as it is unexpected the whole movie plays back in your mind in perfect clarity"





# INSERT THE VOWELS (a,e,i,o,u)

From: [http://www.LessonsOnMovies.com/the\\_usual\\_suspects.html](http://www.LessonsOnMovies.com/the_usual_suspects.html)

Th\_ \_s\_ \_l S\_sp\_cts \_s\_ \_ 1995 \_m\_r\_c\_n n\_\_-n\_\_r f\_lm  
 wr\_tt\_n by Chr\_st\_ph\_r McQ\_\_rr\_\_ \_nd d\_r\_ct\_d by  
 Bry\_n S\_ng\_r. \_t st\_rs G\_br\_\_l Byrn\_ \_nd K\_v\_n  
 Sp\_c\_y. Th\_ f\_lm f\_ll\_ws th\_ \_nt\_rr\_g\_t\_\_n \_f R\_g\_r  
 "V\_rb\_l" K\_nt, \_ sm\_ll-t\_m\_ c\_n m\_n wh\_ \_s \_n\_ \_f  
 \_nly tw\_ s\_rv\_v\_rs \_f \_m\_ss\_cr\_ \_nd f\_r\_ \_n\_ sh\_p  
 d\_ck\_d \_t th\_ P\_rt \_f L\_s \_ng\_l\_s. H\_ t\_lls \_n  
 \_nt\_rr\_g\_t\_r \_c\_mpl\_c\_t\_d st\_ry \_b\_\_t \_v\_nts th\_t  
 l\_d h\_m \_nd f\_\_r th\_r cr\_m\_n ls t\_ th\_ b\_\_t, \_nd \_f \_  
 myst\_r\_\_s m\_b\_b\_ss kn\_wn \_s K\_ys\_r S\_öz\_ wh\_  
 c\_mm\_ss\_\_n\_d th\_\_r wr\_k. \_s\_ng fl\_shb\_cks \_nd  
 n\_rr\_t\_\_n, K\_nt's st\_ry b\_c\_m\_s \_ncr\_\_s\_ngly c\_mpl\_x.  
 Th\_ f\_lm b\_g\_n\_s \_t tl\_t\_k\_n fr\_m \_c\_l\_mn \_n Spy  
 m\_g\_z\_n\_ c\_ll\_d "Th\_ \_s\_ \_l S\_sp\_cts."

Th\_ \_s\_ \_l S\_sp\_cts w\_s w\_ll r\_c\_\_v\_d by m\_st cr\_t\_cs,  
 \_nd \_t h\_s \_n 89% r\_tng \_t th\_ R\_tt\_n T\_m\_t\_\_s.c\_m  
 m\_v\_\_r\_v\_\_w\_s\_t\_. Th\_ m\_v\_\_w\_s h\_rshly cr\_t\_c\_s\_d  
 by s\_m\_. Cr\_t\_c R\_g\_r \_b\_rt g\_v\_ th\_ f\_lm \_n\_ \_nd \_  
 h\_lf st\_rs \_\_t \_f f\_\_r, c\_ns\_d\_r\_ng \_t c\_nf\_s\_ng \_nd  
 \_n\_nt\_r\_st\_ng. H\_ \_ls \_ncl\_d\_d \_t \_n h\_s "m\_st h\_t\_d  
 f\_lms" l\_st. H\_l H\_ns\_n \_f th\_ W\_sh\_ngt\_n P\_st wr\_t\_,  
 "\_lt\_m\_t\_ly, Th\_ \_s\_ \_l S\_sp\_cts m\_y b\_ t\_\_cl\_v\_r f\_r  
 \_ts \_wn g\_\_d. Th\_ tw\_st \_t th\_ \_nd \_s \_c\_rk\_r, b\_t  
 cr\_c\_\_l q\_\_st\_\_ns r\_m\_\_n \_n\_nsw\_r\_d." Br\_t\_\_n's Th\_  
 \_nd\_p\_nd\_nt \_ls\_ pr\_\_s\_d th\_ f\_lm's \_nd\_ng: "Th\_  
 f\_lm's c\_\_p\_d\_ gr\_c\_ \_s \_s \_l\_g\_nt \_s \_t \_s  
 \_n\_xp\_ct\_d. Th\_ wh\_l\_ m\_v\_\_pl\_ys b\_ck \_n\_y\_\_r m\_nd  
 \_n\_p\_rf\_ct cl\_r\_ty."







## MARK THE SPACES

From: [http://www.LessonsOnMovies.com/the\\_usual\\_suspects.html](http://www.LessonsOnMovies.com/the_usual_suspects.html)

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## **DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)**

**STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

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## **DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)**

**STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_





# THE USUAL SUSPECTS SURVEY

From: [http://www.LessonsOnMovies.com/the\\_usual\\_suspects.html](http://www.LessonsOnMovies.com/the_usual_suspects.html)

Write five GOOD questions about The Usual Suspects in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper. When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.





## **HOMEWORK**

**1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION:** Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

**2. INTERNET INFO:** Search the Internet and find more information about "The Usual Suspects". Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

**3. MAGAZINE ARTICLE:** Write a magazine article about "The Usual Suspects". What are (did) critics and moviegoers saying (say) about it? How good were the actors' performances? What was good and bad about the movie? Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

**4. "THE USUAL SUSPECTS" POSTER:** Make a poster about "The Usual Suspects". Make sure you put tag lines, audience and critics' reviews, why people should see it, etc. Show it to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your posters.

**5. MY PREQUEL / SEQUEL:** Make your own prequel or sequel for "The Usual Suspects". Make sure there is a good mix of things to do. Find some good online activities. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback.

**6. CHARACTER STORY:** Choose one of the characters from the movie. Imagine you are that character. Write your story about what you did in the movie. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback.

**7. ONLINE SHARING:** Use your blog, wiki, Facebook page, Twitter stream, or any other social media tool to get opinions on "The Usual Suspects". Share your findings with the class.





# ANSWERS

## SYNONYM MATCH

- |                  |                   |
|------------------|-------------------|
| 1. interrogation | a. questioning    |
| 2. con man       | b. fraudster      |
| 3. massacre      | c. slaughter      |
| 4. complicated   | d. puzzling       |
| 5. commissioned  | e. authorized     |
| 6. rating        | f. classification |
| 7. confusing     | g. complex        |
| 8. crucial       | h. key            |
| 9. coup de grace | i. final blow     |
| 10. clarity      | j. sharpness      |

## OTHER ACTIVITIES

Please check for yourself by looking at the movie review on page 2.  
(It's good for your English ;-)

## CREATIVE COMMONS

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