Hollywood turns to AI for storyboards

LEVEL B2

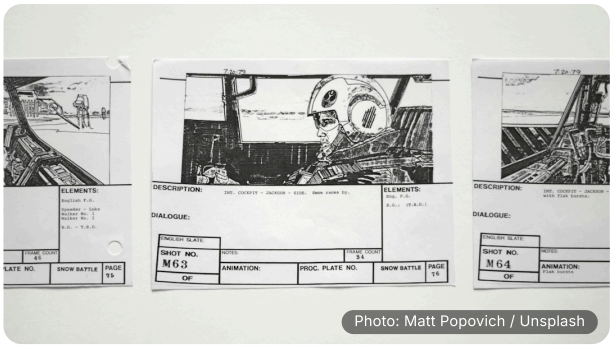


Photo: Matt Popovich / Unsplash

I. WARM-UP

1. What creative tools do you use, and why do you like them?
2. Where can technology make films better or worse?
3. Have you seen art made with AI? What did you think?

II. KEY VOCABULARY

storyboard
a series of drawings that shows how each shot in a film will look

adopt
to start using a new idea, method, or tool

prompt
words you type to tell AI what to create

replacement
when someone or something takes the place of another

collaborative
done together by several people working as a team

blueprint
a detailed plan that guides how something will be made

pre-production
the planning stage before filming begins

cinematography
the art of filming scenes, including camera work and lighting

III. READING

Hollywood film-makers are beginning to adopt artificial intelligence in early planning. The first job in the spotlight is the storyboard artist, who illustrates panels with notes to map each scene.

Storyboards are a blueprint for cast and crew, often made in pre-production by a director, an artist and visual teams like cinematography and editing. Several famous directors have tried AI tools. James Cameron sits on the board of a generative-AI company and is interested in how AI intersects with CGI.

Steven Soderbergh used Meta-powered technology to make animations for a documentary about John Lennon. Christopher Nolan called full AI replacement of humans 'nonsense' but says it can offer useful imaging tools.

In June, Martin Scorsese announced a partnership with an AI firm and used its text-to-image model to storyboard his next film. Artists warn that text prompts can produce fast illustrations, saving time but cutting teamwork.

British storyboard artist Alex Clark says the job is collaborative and shapes how a scene is told, not just how it looks; losing it could change how films are made.

Reading text adapted from reporting by **The Guardian***: "Even Martin Scorsese uses AI for...". Original article linked at theenglishwire.com.*

IV. COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. Which film role is described as being most at risk from AI?
2. Name two directors in the article who have experimented with AI tools.
3. What did Martin Scorsese announce in June regarding storyboarding?
4. Why are storyboards important during film-making?
5. What key point does Alex Clark make about the process of storyboarding?

V. DISCUSSION

1. When is AI helpful in creative work, and when is it harmful?
2. Should directors credit AI tools the same way they credit artists?
3. How might AI change entry-level jobs in film and design?
4. If a film used AI storyboards, would you notice a difference?

VI. GRAMMAR FOCUS

Future perfect

Use will have + past participle for an action finished before a future time. It is common with by and before: by Friday, by the time filming starts, before the shoot ends.

"By the time filming starts, the team **will have finished** *the boards."*

"Before pre-production ends, artists **will have tested** *AI prompts."*

VII. GRAMMAR EXERCISE

Complete each sentence with the future perfect (will have + past participle).

1. By the time filming starts, artists (map) ___ each key scene. _____
2. Teams (create) ___ boards before pre-production ends. _____
3. By the time editing begins, teams (decide) ___ camera angles. _____
4. Before storyboarding finishes, directors (review) ___ AI images. _____
5. Studios (save) ___ days by the end of pre-production. _____

Teacher's Notes

TEACHERS ONLY

These notes are designed to help you get the most out of this lesson. Please do not share this page with students.

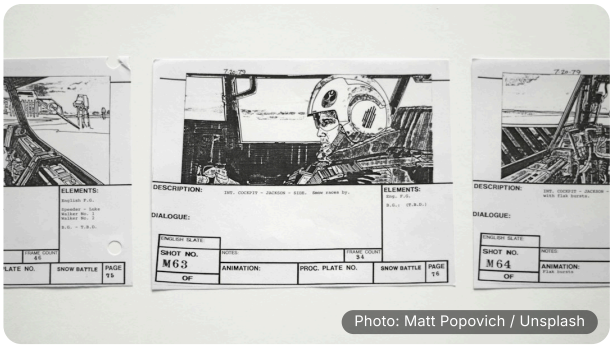


Photo: Matt Popovich / Unsplash

I. LESSON GUIDE

- Timing: 8–10 minutes warm-up, 10 minutes vocabulary, 12–15 minutes reading, 10 minutes comprehension, 8–10 minutes grammar, 12–15 minutes discussion.
- Pre-teach names and roles: storyboard artist, cinematography, pre-production; check students understand prompt and blueprint.
- Run a first skim read for gist (Who is using AI? What job is at risk?), then a second read for details before pair-checking the questions.
- For discussion, mix tech-positive and tech-sceptical students; if debate becomes personal about job fears, switch to examples from the text.

II. DISCUSSION FACILITATION TIPS

1. Elicit quick pros/cons on the board, then push for one concrete example for each side.
2. Take a show of hands, pair opposite views, and ask each pair to list fair credit rules.
3. Brainstorm typical junior tasks first; then predict which tasks automation will change.
4. In small groups, set 2–3 signs they would look for on screen; share best ideas to class.

III. EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

Writing: In pairs, write an 80-word crew note announcing limited use of AI storyboards and why.

Role-play: Director vs storyboard artist: negotiate how, when, and why AI tools will be used (5–7 mins).

IV. ANSWER KEY OVERVIEW

Comprehension questions: short factual answers from the text.

Grammar exercise: Future perfect

Discussion: open-ended. Accept any reasonable ideas supported by examples and reasoning.

Answer Key

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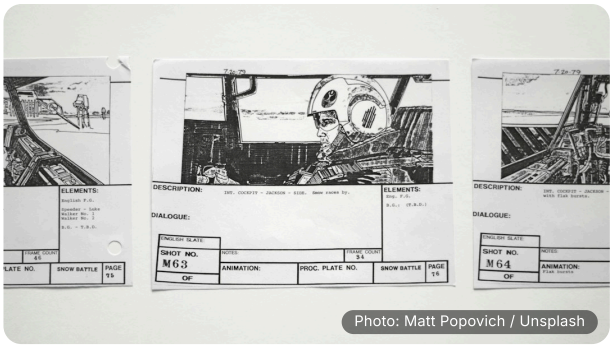


Photo: Matt Popovich / Unsplash

IV. COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. Which film role is described as being most at risk from AI?
   The storyboard artist.
2. Name two directors in the article who have experimented with AI tools.
   For example, James Cameron and Steven Soderbergh.
3. What did Martin Scorsese announce in June regarding storyboarding?
   A partnership with an AI firm, using its text-to-image model for his next film.
4. Why are storyboards important during film-making?
   They act as a blueprint that maps scenes and guides cast and crew.
5. What key point does Alex Clark make about the process of storyboarding?
   It is collaborative and shapes how a scene is told, not just how it looks.

V. DISCUSSION

Open answers. Accept any reasonable ideas supported by examples and reasoning.

VI. GRAMMAR FOCUS

Key point: Use will have + past participle for an action finished before a future time. It is common with by and before: by Friday, by the time filming starts, before the shoot ends. (Examples constructed.)

> *"By the time filming starts, the team* **will have finished** *the boards."*
>
> *"Before pre-production ends, artists* **will have tested** *AI prompts."*

VII. GRAMMAR EXERCISE

Complete each sentence with the future perfect (will have + past participle).

1. By the time filming starts, artists ___ each key scene. **will have mapped**
2. Teams ___ boards before pre-production ends. **will have created**
3. By the time editing begins, teams ___ camera angles. **will have decided**
4. Before storyboarding finishes, directors ___ AI images. **will have reviewed**
5. Studios ___ days by the end of pre-production. **will have saved**