Vocabulary and speaking: movies and TV

Watching TV, 1958
Pic: Evert F. Baumgardner

Speaking
Discuss the questions with your partner(s).
1. What was the last movie or TV series that you saw?
2. What was it about and what did you think of it?
3. How did you watch it - on TV or in some other way?
4. Which ways of watching movies and TV do you prefer?
5. The following comment was recently posted online: ‘Phones have become computers, computers have become TVs, and TVs have become ornaments.’ What do you think this means and do you agree?

Vocabulary 1
Match the pictures above with the movie genres (types).
Picture 1: costume or period drama
Picture 2: war film / movie
Picture 3: cartoon
Picture 4: thriller
Picture 5: romantic film / movie
Picture 6: horror film / movie
Picture 7: fantasy film / movie
Picture 8: science-fiction film / movie

Speaking
1. What other genres are there?
2. Which kinds do you like watching most?
Functional language: movies and TV

Question formation
Match the beginnings and endings of the questions about movies and TV series.

| What’s | it come out? |
| Who  | is it set? |
| What genre | ‘s in it? |
| Where | in the end? |
| When did | it about? |
| What happens | is it? |

Speaking: question practice
You are going to practise asking and answering the questions.

- Work in groups of three or four.
- One person should think of a movie or TV series. (Use your own ideas or use the supplementary set of movie cards.)
- Don’t tell the other members of the group the name - they have to guess.
- They should use the questions in the exercise above.
- They can ask extra questions - they must be yes/no questions.

Talking about movies and TV series
Tell the other members of your group about a movie or TV series that you have seen. (The movie or series doesn’t have to be in English.)

Use the Language Reference box opposite and the prompts below to help decide what to say.

When you have finished talking, the others can ask follow-up questions.

1. It’s called...
2. It’s a... movie (genre)
3. It’s about...
4. The main character is...
5. _________ (actor) plays _________ (role)
6. It’s set...
7. It came out...
8. It’s based on...
9. Basically, what happens is...
10. The best bit is... / was...
11. The ending is...
12. What I like about it is...
13. One thing that I didn’t like / wasn’t so good is...
14. I’d really / I wouldn’t really recommend it.

Language reference: talking about movies

It’s about...
a boy who has magic powers / a family who get shipwrecked / this* spaceship that is looking for new planets
The main character is...
a detective / a chemistry teacher / a brilliant scientist
It stars...
George Clooney / Samuel L Jackson / Jennifer Lawrence
(Leonardo diCaprio) plays (a guy called Jack)
It was directed by...
Stephen Spielberg / Pedro Almodovar / Federico Fellini
It’s set / takes place... in / at / during...
the American Civil War / modern-day London / China
in the Ming dynasty
It came out...
this year / about five years ago / ages ago
It’s based on...
a true story / a book / an old legend

Basically, what happens is...

The best bit is...
the car chase / when she finds out that he has been lying
The ending is...
really sad / completely unexpected / a bit disappointing
What / The thing I like about it is...
the dialogue / the way the main character never gives up
One thing that I didn’t like / isn’t so good is...
the ending / that the plot is too complicated / that it’s a bit predictable

I’d definitely recommend it.
You really must see it.
I wouldn’t really recommend it.

Note:
We often use present tenses to say what happens in stories.
We normally use past tenses to give details about when, where and how movies were made.

*In conversation, we sometimes use this / these instead of a(n) / some to refer to characters and other elements of stories: this guy / this city / this planet / this alien / these gangsters
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>cartoon</td>
<td>noun, kind of movie or TV programme where the people and scenes are drawings, not real</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>comedy</td>
<td>noun, movie, play or TV programme that aims to make the audience laugh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>costume drama</td>
<td>noun, movie or TV drama set in the past and including clothes, buildings etc. in the style of that time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>episode</td>
<td>noun, single TV programme that forms part of a series or serial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fantasy</td>
<td>noun, story or movie set in an imaginary world and often involving magic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>genre</td>
<td>noun, kind of book, movie or TV series - thriller, comedy, romance etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>plot</td>
<td>noun, the story (main events) in a novel or movie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>review</td>
<td>noun, article, video or TV programme that gives information and an opinion about a movie, book, restaurant etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>romance</td>
<td>noun, story about love between two people</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>romantic comedy</td>
<td>noun, movie about a romantic relationship that is also funny</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>satire</td>
<td>noun, book, play, movie etc. that criticises a person, group of people or some aspect of society by making you laugh at it.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>scene</td>
<td>noun, part of a movie or TV programme that happens in one place; view of a place etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>science fiction</td>
<td>noun, type of written story, movie or TV drama that involves future technology and / or imaginary worlds in the future</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>serial</td>
<td>noun, TV drama or printed story that is divided into parts that follow one after another in order</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>series</td>
<td>noun, set of TV programmes about the same subject</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>spoiler</td>
<td>noun, information in a book or film review that reveals the ending or other important information and might spoil the experience for a viewer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>thriller</td>
<td>noun, exciting story, movie or TV drama, often about crime or spies</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Movies and TV: answers

Page 1

Speaking
1. Students give their own answers.
2. Students give their own answers.
3. Students give their own answers.
4. Answers could include at the cinema, on TV, on your PC, tablet or mobile phone.
5. Phones are so sophisticated that we use them for many tasks for which we previously used computers; nowadays many people watch movies and TV shows on their computers; TVs are becoming obsolete.

Vocabulary 1
Picture 1
romantic film / movie

Picture 2
thriller

Picture 3
horror film / movie

Picture 4
science-fiction film / movie

Picture 5
war film / movie

Picture 6
costume or period drama

Picture 7
cartoon

Picture 8
fantasy film / movie

Speaking
1. Other genres include action, biopic, comedy, docudrama, martial arts, romantic comedy, and satire.
2. Students give their own answers.

Vocabulary 2
1. A series is a set of movies or TV programmes on the same subject; a serial is a story that continues over a number of episodes.
2. An episode is one programme in a series or serial; a scene is part of a movie or TV programme that happens in one place.
3. Dialogue is the words the actors speak in a movie; the plot is the story - what happens.
4. An actor plays (acts) the role (or part) of a person in a movie or drama. A role is often fictional but not always.
5. The director of a movie supervises the actors and filming of the movie; the producer is responsible for finance and other non-creative aspects.
6. A story is set in a place and time. This may be different from the place and time a movie is made. The movie Titanic was made in 1997 but was set in 1912.

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Question formation
What's it about?
Who's in it?
What genre is it?
Where is it set?
When did it come out?
What happens in the end?
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