

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?

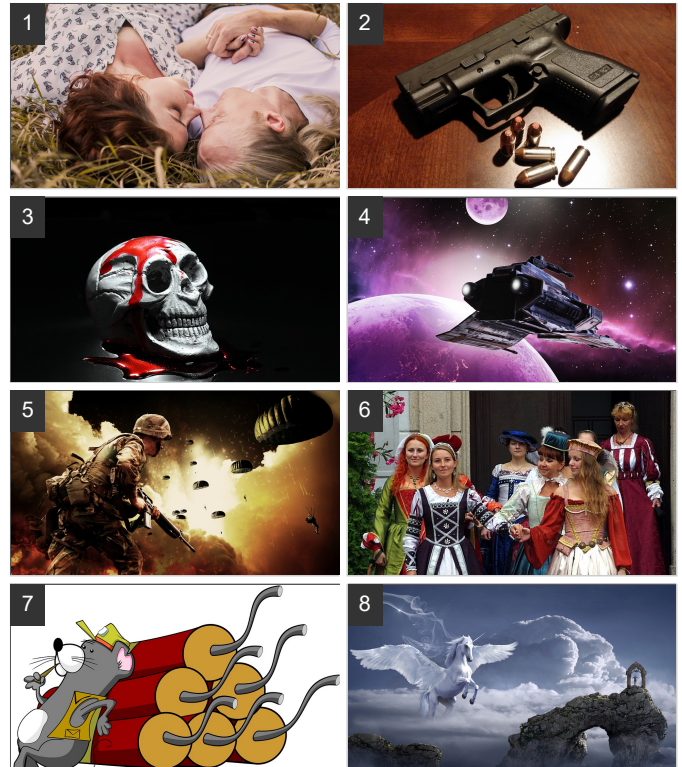
Vocabulary 1

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?



Vocabulary 2

Discuss the differences between the pairs of words and phrases below.

- 1 series / serial
- 2 episode / scene
- 3 dialogue / plot
- 4 actor / role
- 5 director / producer
- 6 to be made / to be set

Language reference: likes and dislikes

Asking for preferences

What kind of movies do you like?

Strong likes

I really like...

I'm really into...

It was really good / absolutely brilliant.

Partial likes

I quite like...

It wasn't bad.

Dislikes

I'm not really into / keen on...

I don't really like...

I really don't like...

It wasn't very good.

It was really bad / absolutely terrible.

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*

Word list: movies and TV

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

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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Movies and TV



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