



A Film Review



1. What film did you see? (original title)
2. Introduction: When?, Where?, Who with?...
3. Genre, director and script, nationality, runtime, release time, production company, type of audience (rating: G, PG, PG-13, R, NC-17)
4. Trilogy / sequel / saga / remake, true story, based on a book
5. Languages (O.V. / subtitles), dubbing, soundtrack
6. Where was it set? (real, imaginary locations)
7. What was it about? (synopsis)
8. Who was in the cast? (leading, supporting actors, stunts) What was the acting like?
9. Special Effects, makeup and hairstyling, costumes, sceneries,...
10. Awards, shooting, box office (blockbuster or bombed), critics and viewers rating
11. Give your opinion (strong and weak points) Would you recommend the film?
12. Extra: Show the trailer, soundtrack, film poster, snaps / shots from the film...

When writing a film review, we usually use the Present Simple or Present Simple Passive to write about the plot and we use adjectives for description.

The Hobbit: An unexpected Journey

This film is a 2012 (1) _____ fantasy adventure film (2) _____ by Peter Jackson and is the first part of a (3) _____. The adventure follows the journey of the (4) _____, Bilbo Baggins, in a mission to reclaim the lost Dwarf Kingdom of Erebor from the terrifying dragon Smaug. Bilbo joins a company of thirteen dwarves led by the legendary warrior, Thorin Oakenshield. The (5) _____ also includes James Nesbitt, Ken Scott, Cate Blanchett, Ian Holm and Elijah Wood.

The film has made over \$1 billion at the (6) _____, becoming the fourth (7) _____ film of all time. The film was (8) _____ for three Academy Awards – for Best (9) _____, Best Production Design and Best Makeup and Hairstyling. It was also nominated for three BAFTA (10) _____.



awards
box office
cast
directed
epic
highest-grossing
main character
nominated
trilogy
visual effects

Describing films

Match the sentences in A to the responses in B.
Pay attention to the words underlined.



A

1. The critics highly recommended the new film.
2. I feel like seeing a really action-packed film tonight.
3. He is an outstanding singer!
4. I think George Clooney gave a brilliant performance.
5. That film brings to life the characters from the book.
6. That concert was a complete waste of time.
7. What was the biggest box office hit of all time?
8. Is the new Star Trek film worth seeing?

B

- a. I think it was Avatar. It made billions of dollars.
- b. I agree. His voice is excellent!
- c. I don't think so –it's not very interesting.
- d. It was a waste of money too!
- e. What about Argo? It's meant to be very exciting.
- f. Yes. They seemed almost real.
- g. Really? I didn't think his acting was that great.
- h. I know. According to the reviews, it's excellent.



Adjectives that describe films

* disappointed * dull * entertaining *
* hilarious * moving * talented * weak *



1. The film was so _____ that the audience couldn't stop laughing.
2. The interview with the actor was _____, so everyone was bored.
3. His books aren't great literature but they're very _____ to read.
4. People often cry during the _____ scenes in a film.
5. He is supposed to be a great actor but I thought his acting was really _____.
6. She is a very _____ actress and might win an Academy Award one day.
7. I was _____ because the acting and the plot were terrible.

KEYS

At the movies

1 - Complete the table using the vocabulary next page.

An actor in a film who does not say anything but is part of a crowd.	
Someone who shows people to their seats at a theatre, cinema, wedding etc	
Short appearance in a film or play by a well-known actor	
The words that are written down for actors to say in a film, and the instructions that tell them what they should do	
An advertisement for a new film or television show	
All the people who perform in a play, film	
The recorded music from a film	
Foreign films, or films made by small film companies	
A full-length film that has a story and is acted by professional actors, and which is usually shown in a cinema	
Film that tells an exciting story about murder or crime	
Films about real events	
A famous and successful actor; the person who has the main part, or one of them, in a film, play, show etc	
A book or film that is very good or successful	
The most important part in a film	
The events that form the main story of a book, film, or play	
A story that is told using sound and moving pictures, shown at a cinema or on television	
Someone whose job is to control the preparation of a play, film, or broadcast, but who does not direct the actors	
The person who gives instructions to the actors and other people working on a film or play	
Someone who operates a camera for films or television	
A book, film, play etc that continues the story of an earlier one, usually written or made by the same person	
A very popular and successful film or play	
The money spent	
Translation of the dialogue of a foreign-language film shown at the bottom of the screen.	
The first, unedited print of a movie scene	
A part of Los Angeles in California where films are made, often used to refer to the film industry in general	
A film that is made cheaply and is of low quality	
A film that shows a lot of sexual activity	
A film you make, often of a family occasion, that is intended to be shown at home	
A critical article or report about a film	

A big cinema with many screens.	
Short scene filmed to find out if the actor is good in a particular part	
Gold statuette awarded annually in the United States by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences for outstanding achievements in films Official name Academy Award	
The list at the start of the film that tells you the name of the film, the actors and director; the words on the screen at the end that tell you who played who, and who was the cameraman, set designer, etc.	
<i>"And the Oscar goes to...."</i>	

Vocabulary bank:

extra	Film; movie
usher	producer
cameo	director
Screenplay; script	Cameraman / camerawoman
hit	Hollywood
budget	star
B-movie	Home movie; home video
Blue movie	blockbuster
plot	Starring role
thriller	trailer
Non-fiction films	cast
soundtrack	Feature film
Art house films	sequel
Screen test	multiplex
Credits (opening / closing credits)	Rush
Film review	Oscar
Traditional sentence said before handing out the "Oscar"	Subtitles

2 – Now complete the sentences using the vocabulary from the previous exercise

- a) His dream was to become a Hollywood _____.
- b) He started his acting career as an _____
- c) The entire _____ of 'Les Miserables' was spectacular.
- d) The _____ was a little confusing! I didn't quite understand the film!
- e) Have you *seen* any good _____ recently?
- f) Feature movies always run *over* _____
- g) One of Hollywood's major _____ is Brad Pitt.

Exam practice 3

The science behind the fiction

A Time travel is a concept that has interested science fiction writers for a long time. Perhaps the most well-known story – and the one which made the public more interested in the idea of time travel – is *The Time Machine* by H.G. Wells, which was first published in 1895. But the idea of time travel without the help of a machine appears in stories from a range of cultures, and dates back as far as 700 BC. For many authors, time travel provides an opportunity to criticize the present by making the story seem to be about a distant past or future.

B It is not just in literature that time travel is a popular idea. Many films and television programmes have used it as a way of attracting audiences. Some of these are extremely well-established on television. For example, the British programme *Dr Who* has been running for over 50 years. It is the most successful science-fiction series of all time and frequently uses time travel in its storylines. Films about time travel also tend to attract large audiences, in whichever decade they are released. Since 1980, films with a time travel theme have earned studios almost \$3 billion.

C The popularity of films about time travel seems to be growing, with more and more projects being developed. While many of the films based on Wells' writings are made on relatively small budgets, there are examples of blockbusters that use his ideas as well. Interestingly, a number of recent films have been influenced by the work of scientists, too. Christopher Nolan, who directed *Inception* and the *Dark Knight* trilogy, studied the works of physicist Kip Thorne for his latest project, *Interstellar*.

D Thorne first became known to Hollywood when the astronomer and writer Carl Sagan asked him to examine the time travel section in a book he was working on called *Contact*. In the story, which was later made into a successful film, Thorne suggested that characters could use 'wormholes' – paths that let people travel more quickly through time and space – to meet aliens from another planet. The plot of *Interstellar* contains similar ideas, with explorers using wormholes to travel through time and space and meeting aliens.

E As a scientific concept, time travel was often seen as slightly ridiculous. However, Thorne is a highly regarded academic who teaches at the California Institute of Technology. He believes that many of the big mysteries about the birth of the universe and what happens inside black holes will be explained by physics eventually. In fact, he recently told reporters that a full understanding of time travel could be less than 30 years away.

Reading

1 Read the text and mark the sentences *true* or *false*. Provide evidence from the text to justify your answers.

- 1 Time travel fiction usually focuses on future problems.
.....
- 2 Science fiction isn't a commercially successful genre.
.....
- 3 Kip Thorne worked in Hollywood before *Interstellar*.
.....

2 Choose the correct answers.

- 1 Many very old time travel stories feature ...
A time machines.
B a range of cultures.
C ways of time travelling without machines.
- 2 Kip Thorne's role on *Contact* was to ...
A write scripts.
B advise on scientific issues in the book.
C design special effects.
- 3 Kip Thorne believes that, in the future, physics will explain ...
A what creates black holes.
B how the universe will end.
C the origins of the universe.

Use of English

3 Explain the meanings of these expressions from the text.

- 1 address the issues (*paragraph A*)
.....
- 2 has been running (*paragraph B*)
.....
- 3 a highly regarded academic (*paragraph E*)
.....

4 Join the sentences using the relative pronouns in bold.

- 1 *The Time Machine* is a novel. It was written by H.G. Wells. (**that**)
.....
- 2 *Interstellar* is about a group of explorers. They meet some aliens. (**who**)
.....
- 3 The California Institute of Technology is a research institute. People study physics there. (**where**)
.....

Writing

5 Choose one of the tasks. Write 100–150 words.

- 1 Write a biography of a popular person from your country.
- 2 Write a biography of someone you know well.



UNIT 3 Listening practice

1 Ⓢ 4.08 Read descriptions A–D. Then listen to the introduction to the radio programme. Which is the best description of Vegfest?

- A A three-day vegetarian cookery course.
- B A large show about vegetarian living.
- C A fashion show.
- D A children's funfair.

2 Ⓢ 4.08 Read questions 1–5. Then listen to the rest of the radio programme and choose the correct answers.

- 1 What aspect of Vegfest does Jim think people will enjoy, even if they're not interested in vegetarian food?
 - A the food stalls selling meat dishes from around the world
 - B the films
 - C the music
- 2 What will the vegetarian celebrities be doing at Vegfest?
 - A giving talks about why they became vegetarian
 - B opening events at the show
 - C giving cookery demonstrations
- 3 What will the 'pirate' character be doing to entertain children?
 - A teaching them how to cook
 - B giving circus performances
 - C holding dancing workshops
- 4 How does Tina benefit from being a volunteer at Vegfest?
 - A She doesn't have to pay to enter the festival.
 - B She can learn a lot more about being a vegetarian.
 - C She gets free vegetarian food.
- 5 According to Tina, what do volunteers at Vegfest have to be?
 - A completely vegetarian
 - B knowledgeable about animal welfare
 - C keen to help people

3 Ⓢ 4.08 Listen again and complete the sentences with a word or phrase from the radio programme.

- 1 In the evenings, visitors will be able to watch some performing on the stages.
- 2 Vegetarian chefs will be demonstrating how to make some delicious
- 3 Tina is concerned about how animals are treated in the
- 4 Volunteers at the festival will be giving out to visitors.

4 Ⓢ 4.08 Listen again and complete the sentences in your own words.

- 1 The stalls serving vegetarian food from around the world will be a good chance for people to ...
.....
.....
- 2 Visitors to Vegfest will be able to watch films about ...
.....
.....
- 3 In the craft tent ...
.....
.....
- 4 Tina wanted to get involved in Vegfest because ...
.....
.....

SUMMER NIGHTS

Grease

PUT THE LINES IN CORRECT ORDER (1-6):

- ___ To, uh oh, those summer nights
- ___ Met a boy cute as can be,
- ___ Summer loving had me a blast,
- ___ Summer days drifting away,
- ___ I met a girl crazy for me,
- ___ Summer loving happened so fast,

COMPLETE THE SENTENCES

Well-a well-a well-a huh

Tell me _____, tell me more

Did you get _____ far?

Tell me more, tell me more

Like does he _____ a car?

WRITE IN MISSING WORDS:

BEGUN / CRAMP / DROWNED / NIGHTS

She swam by me, she got a _____

He ran by me, got my suit damp

I saved her life, she nearly _____

He showed off, splashing around

Summer sun, something's _____

But, oh, oh, these summer _____

COMPLETE THE SENTENCES

Well-a well-a well-a huh

Tell me more, tell me more

Was it love at first _____?

Tell me more, tell me more

Did she put up a _____?

USCRAMBLE THE WORDS:

Took her bowling in the Arcade

We went strolling, drank _____ **MNDOEALE**

We made out under the dock

We stayed up 'till ten o' _____ **CLCKO**

Summer fling, don't mean a _____ **NTGIH**

But, oh, oh, those summer nights

...

Tell me more, tell me more

But you don't gotta brag

Tell me more, tell me more

'Cause he sounds like a drag

FIND THE MISTAKES AND CORRECT THEM:

He got friendly, holding my head

She got friendly down in the desert

He was sweet just turned thirty

Well, she was bad you know what I mean

Summer beat, boy and girl meet

But, oh, oh, the winter nights

...

Tell me more, tell me more

How much dough did he spend?

Tell me more, tell me more

Could she get me a friend?

WRITE THE OPPOSITES

It turned _____ **hotter**, that's where it ends

So I told her we'd still be _____ **enemies**

Then we made our true _____ **hate** vow

Wonder what she _____ **isn't** doing now

Summer _____ **nightmares**, ripped at the seams

Bu-ut oh, those summer _____ **mornings!**

Tell me more, tell me _____ **less!**

THE NOTEBOOK. ROW SCENE

Noah: "So you make _____ to me, and then you go back to your husband? Was that your plan? Was that a test that I didn't pass?"

Allie: "No! I made a promise to a man. He gave me a ring and I gave him my _____."

Noah: "And your word is shot to hell now, dontcha think?"

Allie: "I don't know-I don't know. I'll find out when I talk to him."

Noah: "This is not about keeping your _____, and its not about following your heart. It's about security."

Allie: "What is that supposed to mean?"

Noah: "_____!"

Allie: "What are you talki-"

Noah: "He's got alot of money!"

Allie: "Now I hate you, you smug bastard!"

Noah: "Well I hate you. If you _____ here, I hate you."

Allie: "Wha-haven't you been paying attention to anything thats been happening these past few _____?"

Noah: "I guess not, I guess I must have misread all those _____."

Allie: "Yeah I guess you did."

(Allie starts to walk away and Noah shouts after her)

Noah: "You're bored! You're bored and you know it. You wouldn't be here if there wasn't something _____."

Allie: "You arrogant son of a bitch."

Noah: "Would you just stay with me?"

Allie: "Stay with you? What for? Look at us, we're already _____!"

Noah: "Well that's what we do! We fight! You tell me when I'm being an arrogant son of a bitch, and I tell you when you're being a _____ in the ass! Which you are, 99% of the time. I'm not afraid to hurt your feelings. They have like a two-second rebound rate and your back doing the next pain in the ass thing."

Allie: "So what?"

Noah: "So it's not gonna be _____. It's gonna be really hard, and we're gonna have to work at this every day but I wanna do that because I want you. I want all of you, _____. You and me, every day. Will you do something for me? Please? Will you just picture your life for me, 30 years from now, _____ years from now? Whats it look like? If it's with that guy, go. Go! I lost you once, I think I could do it again. If I thought it's what you really wanted. But don't you take the easy way out."

Allie: "What easy way? There is no easy way! No _____ what I do, somebody gets hurt!"

Noah: "Would you stop thinking about what everyone wants? Stop thinking about what I want, what he wants, what your _____ want. What do you want?" (Allie shakes her head) "What do you want?"

Allie: "It's not that simple-"

Noah: "What do you want? Goddammit, what do you want?!"

Allie: "...I have to go."