

## At the movies

by Lindsay Clandfield

**Level:** Elementary

**Time needed:** 1 hour

**Vocabulary:** *movie theater, popcorn, screen, blockbuster, drama, action, comedy, romance, science fiction, horror*

### Warm up

Tell students you are going to describe a movie to them. As soon as they think they know which movie it is they should call out the name of the movie. Describe the movie sentence by sentence, pausing each time. Here is an example for the movie Superman Returns (although you can use a movie that is more recent or topical with your students).

*It's about a super hero. (pause)*

*He wears a blue and red suit. (pause)*

*In this movie, he returns after a long absence. (pause)*

*He is in love with Lois Lane. (pause)*

Etc.

When students have guessed the movie, tell them that they will be learning some movie vocabulary today. Hand out the worksheet.

### Movie related vocabulary

1 Ask students to do the quiz in pairs. They can use a dictionary if they like. Go through the answers all together and drill the pronunciation of the new words.

Answers:

*Popcorn is something people eat at the movies.*

*A movie theatre is a place where people see movies.*

*A screen is the part of the theatre where you can see the movie.*

*A blockbuster is a very successful movie.*

2 Now tell students, working in the same pairs, to make definitions for the other words. Circulate and monitor, helping students with any mistakes they might make at this stage.

### Discussion questions

3 Put students into groups of three. Tell them to take turns asking and answering the questions. Circulate and monitor, but don't explicitly correct at this point.

After the discussion is over, address any persistent language problems you heard.

### Kinds of movie

4 Tell students to unscramble the letters to make words. To help them, tell them that the missing letters are all vowels. You could do another example. When students have completed the words, elicit examples of each kind of movie (these may have titles in the students' own language, which is okay as long as they grasp the concept and word for the kind of movie in English)

Answers: *action, comedy, romance, horror, science fiction, drama*

### Talking about a movie

5 Ask students to complete the text individually.

Answers: *The last movie I saw was Crash. It's a drama about a group of people in Los Angeles. It had Matt Dillon and Sandra Bullock in it. I thought it was great.*

Now ask students to make a similar text about the last movie they saw (or a movie they know, if they can't remember). Tell them to read their text to a partner. No tell them to spend a minute memorizing their text. Then ask them to swap partners with another pair and repeat their text, this time from memory. Follow up by asking a few students to tell you their texts from memory.

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### Movie-related vocabulary

**1 Choose the correct answer to complete the definitions.**

Popcorn is...

- something people eat at the movies.
- something people drink at the movies.
- a kind of movie.

A movie theater is...

- a place where people make movies.
- a place where people see movies.
- a place where people buy movies on DVD or video.

A screen is...

- the part of the theater where you can see the movie.
- the entrance doors to a movie theatre.
- the original version of a movie.

A blockbuster is...

- a kind of candy you eat at the movies.
- a ticket to see a movie.
- a very successful movie.

**2 Now make similar definitions for these movie words.**

A movie ticket

A movie star

Hollywood

### Discussion questions

**3 Work in pairs. Discuss the questions below.**

- How often do you see a movie in a movie theater?
- Is there a movie theater near where you live? How many screens does it have?
- Where do you like to sit in the movie theater?

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- Do you ever eat popcorn or candy at the movies?
- Have you ever walked out of a movie theater before the movie finished?
- Have you ever been to a movie alone?

**Kinds of movie**

4 Unscramble the letters below to make different kinds of movie. Then think of an example for each one. The first one has been done for you.

|                             |                           |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| a c t i o n                 | <u>Mission Impossible</u> |
| c _ m _ d y                 | _____                     |
| r _ m _ n c _               | _____                     |
| h _ r r _ r                 | _____                     |
| s c _ _ n c _ f _ c t _ _ n | _____                     |
| d r _ m _                   | _____                     |

**Talking about a movie**

5 Complete the text with the phrases from the box.

|                |       |                                  |
|----------------|-------|----------------------------------|
| Matt Dillon    | drama | a group of people in Los Angeles |
| Sandra Bullock | great | Crash                            |

The last movie I saw was \_\_\_\_\_. It's a \_\_\_\_\_ about \_\_\_\_\_.  
It had \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ in it. I thought it was \_\_\_\_\_.

6 Now write a similar paragraph about the last movie you saw.