

Lesson plan January

Topic

Film reviews

Aims

- To encourage students to join in a discussion
- To develop students' writing skills
- To train learners to spend time planning before they write.

Age group

Teenagers and young adults

Level

A2, B1, B2

Time

60 minutes +

Materials

Film review work sheet

Introduction

In this lesson learners will revise some film review vocabulary through pair-work discussions. They they will write their own film review after analysing a model. Then they will read each other's reviews and have a class vote about which film looks most interesting.

Procedure

1. Warmer (5 - 8 minutes)	Put learners into pairs or small groups and ask them to think of a film they have both seen. Give learners time to think and discuss their choices and then ask each pair to tell you which film they have chosen.
2. (10 - 12 minutes)	Write these 10 questions on the board: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. What is the title of the film?2. What genre is it?3. What is it about?

4. Is it based on a book?
5. Where is the film set?
6. When is the film set?
7. Who stars in the film?
8. Who plays the main role(s)?
9. Who is your favourite character in the film? (Why?)
10. What kind of person would like this film?

Make sure learners understand all of the questions and explain any new vocabulary if necessary.

Give learners time to discuss each question and to make notes about the answers. Go around the class, asking learners different questions about their chosen films.

3. (10 - 12 minutes)

Give each learner a copy of the Film review worksheet. Learners work in pairs to do activity 1. Make sure learners understand that all the information has been included in the film review. Encourage learners to notice how the review has been organised into 3 paragraphs.

4. (15 - 20 minutes)

Learners do activity 2 individually. Monitor learners as they write to make sure they are following the steps.

Ideally learners should choose a different film from the film they spoke about at the beginning of the lesson.

If you have access to Internet in the classroom, show learners another simple review at: <http://learnenglishteens.britishcouncil.org/skills/writing-skills-practice/film-review>

5. (10 mins)

Display all the reviews on a classroom wall or, alternatively upload the reviews onto a shared document (E.g. Google Docs) and get learners to vote on the most interesting film.

Contributed by

Katherine Bilborough

1. Read the film review. Does the writer answer all these questions? Check and tick ()

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| 1. What is the title of the film? | 7. Who stars in the film? |
| 2. What genre is it? | 8. Who plays the main role(s)? |
| 3. What is it about? | 9. Who is your favourite character in the film? (Why?) |
| 4. Is it based on a book? | 10. What kind of person would like this film? |
| 5. Where is the film set? | |
| 6. When is the film set? | |

Film review

The Theory of Everything
Biographical drama, 2014

The Theory of Everything is **about** the scientist Stephen Hawking. The film is **based on** a book, 'Travelling to Infinity: My Life with Stephen' by his wife, Jane Wilde Hawking. The film is **set in** England and starts in the early 1960s. It **tells the story of** Hawking's relationship with Jane, the diagnosis of his motor neuron disease and his success as a physicist.

I **love** the acting in this film. Eddie Redmayne **stars as** Hawking and Felicity Jones **plays the role of** Jane. My favourite character is Stephen Hawking because he is very clever and brave.

I **think this is an ideal film for** people who like true stories. It is a bit sad at times but the story is very interesting and there is a lot of action. I give The Theory of Everything **★★★★**. Go and watch it soon!

★★★★★Fantastic!

★★★★Really good!

★★★OK

★★Bad

★Terrible!

2. Follow the steps to write your own film review.

1. Think of a film you have watched.
2. Make notes for each of the questions in Activity 1.
3. Write your review using the your notes and the model text. Use some of the words and phrases **in bold**. Write between 100 and 150 words.

Look at the film review and do the exercises to practise and improve your writing skills.

Preparation

Write the words into the correct group.

comedy	drama	director	fantastic	good
terrible	sci-fi	actor	actress	

Types of film	People in films	Words to describe films

FILM *Review*

① **The Hunger Games**

② **Sci-fi adventure, 2012**

③ **In the future** the USA is a new country called Panem. Every year the Capitol of Panem chooses 12 boys and 12 girls to go on a TV show called *The Hunger Games*. In this TV show the teenagers have to fight until there is only one person left. Katniss goes on the show and she has to run fast and fight to save her life.

④ **I love the actors** in this film. Jennifer Lawrence, Liam Hemsworth and Josh Hutcherson are fantastic as Katniss, Gale and Peeta. My favourite character is Katniss because she is very good at running and fighting. Also, I think that the film is good because it is exactly the same as the book.

⑤ **I give *The Hunger Games* ☆☆☆☆☆, go and watch it soon!**

Marta (13 years old, Mexico)

☆☆☆☆☆ Fantastic!

☆☆ Bad

☆☆☆☆ Really good!

☆ Terrible!

☆☆☆ OK

Top Tips for writing

1. Start with the film's title.
2. The type of film. When it was made.
3. Explain the film's story but don't explain the ending!
4. Your opinion of the film.
5. Should people go and watch the film?

1. Check your understanding: multiple choice

Circle the best option to complete these sentences.

1. *The Hunger Games* is a sci-fi adventure / comedy / drama .
2. The USA is a new country called Capitol / The Hunger Games / Panem .
3. Each day / Each month / Each year boys and girls go on a TV show called *The Hunger Games*.
4. In *The Hunger Games* the boys and girls have to win a running race / fight until they are the last person left / fight the new country called Panem .
5. Marta's favourite character in this film is Katniss / Gale / Peeta .
6. Marta thinks you should watch this film / wait for the DVD to be released / not watch this film .

2. Check your understanding: true or false

Circle *Fact* or *Opinion* for these sentences.

- | | | | |
|----|--|-------------|----------------|
| 1. | I think you should go and watch it soon! | <i>Fact</i> | <i>Opinion</i> |
| 2. | Katniss goes on the TV show. | <i>Fact</i> | <i>Opinion</i> |
| 3. | In the future the USA is a new country called Panem. | <i>Fact</i> | <i>Opinion</i> |
| 4. | My favourite character is Katniss. | <i>Fact</i> | <i>Opinion</i> |
| 5. | I think that the film is good. | <i>Fact</i> | <i>Opinion</i> |
| 6. | I love the actors in this film. | <i>Fact</i> | <i>Opinion</i> |
| 7. | It's a sci-fi adventure film. | <i>Fact</i> | <i>Opinion</i> |
| 8. | The film is called <i>The Hunger Games</i> . | <i>Fact</i> | <i>Opinion</i> |

Discussion

What's your favourite film? Why do you like it?

Writing skills practice : Film review – writing practice

Write a review of a film you saw recently. Remember to look at the example review.

FILM *Review*

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☆☆☆☆☆ Fantastic!

☆☆ Bad

☆☆☆☆ Really good!

☆ Terrible!

☆☆☆ OK

Answers to Film review – exercises
Preparation

Types of film	People in films	Words to describe films
comedy	actress	terrible
drama	director	good
sci-fi	actor	fantastic

1. Check your understanding: multiple choice

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| 1. sci-fi adventure | 4. fight until they are the last person left. |
| 2. Panem | 5. Katniss |
| 3. Each year | 6. watch this film |

2. Check your understanding: fact or opinion

- | | |
|------------|------------|
| 1. Opinion | 5. Opinion |
| 2. Fact | 6. Opinion |
| 3. Fact | 7. Fact |
| 4. Opinion | 8. Fact |