

# Talking about Films (A)

## 1 Film genres

How many different kinds of films can you write in English? Make a list in the box below.

Film Genres
Action



## 2 Look at the table below.

Film Title	Place	Time	Actors
Titanic	on a ship		Leonardo DiCaprio
From Russia with Love	in Turkey	in the 1960s	
Casablanca			Humphrey Bogart
Gladiator	in Rome	in the 1 <sup>st</sup> century AD	
Bridget Jones's Diary			Rene Zellweger and Hugh Grant

Ask your partner questions to find the missing information. Use the following question and answer format:

- |           |                  |                          |
|-----------|------------------|--------------------------|
| 1) Place  | Where is it set? | It's set (in New York).  |
| 2) Time   | When is it set?  | It's set (in the 1950s). |
| 3) Actors | Who's in it?     | It stars (Brad Pitt).    |

Write the answers in the spaces. If you can't spell a word, ask: "How do you spell that?"

## 3 Writing Practice

Think of a great film you have seen. Write a few sentences about it below. Don't write the film's title!

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## 4 Speaking Practice

Read your film description to your partner. Can your partner guess the film title?

# Talking about Films (B)

## 1 Film genres

How many different kinds of films can you write in English? Make a list in the box below.

Film Genres
Action



## 2 Look at the table below.

Film Title	Place	Time	Actors
Titanic	on a ship	in 1912	
From Russia with Love			Sean Connery
Casablanca	in Morocco	during the Second World War	
Gladiator			Russell Crowe
Bridget Jones's Diary	in the UK	in modern times	

Ask your partner questions to find the missing information. Use the following question and answer format:

- |           |                  |                          |
|-----------|------------------|--------------------------|
| 1) Place  | Where is it set? | It's set (in New York).  |
| 2) Time   | When is it set?  | It's set (in the 1950s). |
| 3) Actors | Who's in it?     | It stars (Brad Pitt).    |

Write the answers in the spaces. If you can't spell a word, ask: "How do you spell that?"

## 3 Writing Practice

Think of a great film you have seen. Write a few sentences about it below. Don't write the film's title!

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## 4 Speaking Practice

Read your film description to your partner. Can your partner guess the film title?

# Talking about Films: Teaching Notes

<b>Target Structure:</b>	None
<b>Vocabulary:</b>	Films / Expressions of Time
<b>Level:</b>	Elementary / Pre-intermediate
<b>Time:</b>	30 minutes
<b>Preparation:</b>	None

## Suggested Teaching Method.

Talking about films is great as a warm-up activity for lower-level students. However, these students often lack the ability to talk about it in a simple, yet understandable way. This worksheet provides extensive practice of some of the most common expressions used when talking about film.

Note that there are two different worksheets, A and B. This is for exercise two, which has an information gap activity.

This is a British-English worksheet. You can also download an American-English version from Handouts Online.

- 1 Follow the instructions on the worksheet. Students should work alone, and then check in pairs.
- 2 Follow the instructions. Explain to the students that the worksheets have different information, and that students should *not* look at their partner's sheet.

Below the table there are some questions and answers that can be used for this exercise. Chorus these with your students. Practice with a competent student, using a film not mentioned in this worksheet. (e.g. Star Wars / in space / a long time ago / Mark Hamil). Students should then work in pairs, filling in the table with the missing information.

- 3 This gives students a chance to personalize the language, using films they like.

If this is proving too easy, you can add some other useful language used for describing films. You could try these two examples

- 1) Director: *It was directed by ...*
- 2) Opinion: *This film is great / thrilling / violent / a load of rubbish ...*
- 3) Miscellaneous phrases: *It has a good twist. / It's very atmospheric etc.*

- 4 Follow instructions as given. Monitor carefully, and make a note of some mistakes that you hear. At the end of the exercise, write some sentences on the board, and elicit correction.

If you're looking for extra material, a discussion on films really can't go wrong.

## Answer Key

Film Title	Place	Time	Actors
Titanic	on a ship	in 1912	Leonardo DiCaprio
From Russia with Love	in Turkey	in the 1960s	Sean Connery
Casablanca	in Morocco	during the Second World War	Humphrey Bogart
Gladiator	in Rome	in the 1 <sup>st</sup> century AD	Russell Crowe
Bridget Jones's Diary	in the UK	in modern times	Rene Zellweger and Hugh Grant

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