Cinema

Upper-intermediate

1 Match the descriptions

Match the types of films with the phrases that are most likely to describe them.

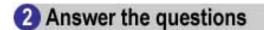|		
a thriller	a romantic comedy	an animated film
a sci-fi film	a horror film	a costume drama

1. An all-action movie with great *stunts* and a real *cliffhanger* of an ending that will have you *on the edge of your seat*.
2. *Set on* a star cruiser in the distant future, this film has great *special effects*.
3. A hilarious new film, about two unlikely lovers, which will have you laughing out loud.
4. *Based on* a novel by Jane Austen, this new *adaptation* by William Jones has been filmed *on location* at Harewood House in Hampshire.
5. A fantastic new computer-generated cartoon, featuring the voice of Eddie Murphy as the donkey.
6. This new film will scare you to death.

Now match the words in italics in the descriptions to the definitions below.

1. exciting
2. not filmed in a studio
3. the story comes from (a novel)
4. dangerous action sequences like car chases or people falling from skyscrapers
5. amazing, impossible visual sequences, often created by computers
6. changing a novel to a film screenplay
7. where the story takes place
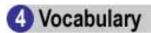8. exciting end – you want to know what happens

2 Answer the questions

Use the words below to answer the questions.

the latest release	the soundtrack	a trailer
the credits	a multiplex	the rushes
the titles	a screen test	

1. What do you call the songs and background music to a film?
2. What do you call a big cinema with lots of screens?
3. What do you call the bit at the start of the film that tells you the name of the film, the actors and director? And what do you call the words on the screen at the end that tell you who played who, and who was the cameraman, set designer, etc.?
4. Which phrase means a new film?
5. Which word means a short film made to advertise a new film?
6. What do you call film before it is edited?
7. What do you call a short scene filmed to find out if the actor is good in a particular part?

3 Vocabulary

What is the difference between the following?

1. A film and a movie
2. An art house film and a blockbuster
3. A co-star and an extra
4. A cameraman and a projectionist
5. The cinema and the pictures
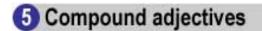6. The cast and casting
7. *Action!* and *Cut!*

4 Vocabulary

When making a film, in which order do you do the things in the list?

editing the film	filming
casting	releasing the film
writing the screenplay	finding locations

5 Compound adjectives

Film reviews often use compound adjectives to describe films. Make compound adjectives by matching words in A with words in B.

Example: *action-packed*

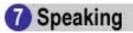| **A**	**B**
action	moving
slow	packed
spine	warming
breath	fetched
hard	taking
heart	chilling
far	hitting

6 Complete the gaps

Use compound adjectives from activity 5 to complete the film reviews below.

Beautiful People is a romantic melodrama. It lasts three hours, and has a _____plot, which gets a bit boring. However, the _____performance by Tim Franks in the central role will move you to tears. It also has a _____message about how we should deal with AIDS.

The Monster Movie is both a comedy and a horror film. It has a _____ storyline, which you just won't believe, but it also has some _____ stunts, which look really dangerous. It has a _____ ending which is so scary you will cover your eyes.
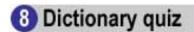
7 Speaking

Think of a film that you have seen recently, and answer the questions.

1. What was the name of the film?
2. What sort of film was it?
3. Who directed it? Who starred in it?
4. What was it based on?
5. Where was it set?
6. What was it about?
7. How would you describe the film, the performance of the actors, the stunts and special effects?
8. Would you recommend it? Why?

Interview your partner about their film. Tell the class about your partner's film.

8 Dictionary quiz

Films Dictionary Quiz

1. Name three places where you see *films*.
2. What is the difference between *a cartoon* and *an animated film*?
3. What does *captured on film* mean?
4. What does *filmic* mean?
5. What's a *film noir?*
6. If something is *filmy*, is it thin or thick?
7. What's *a roll of film*?
8. What's the difference between *a director* and *a producer*?
9. If something *films over*, what happens?
10. Complete the sentence: *it's a film about….*
11. Find two meanings of *film* that have nothing to do with cinema and Hollywood.

This activity was compiled using the Macmillan English Advanced Learner's Dictionary and CD Rom. To find out more about using dictionaries go to http://www.macmillandictionary.com .

Teacher's notes – Cinema

1) Ask students in pairs to match the types of films with the phrases that are most likely to describe them.

Answers:

1. a thriller	2. a sci-fi film	3. a romantic comedy
4. a costume drama	5. an animated film	6. a horror film

Ask students in pairs to match the words in italics in the descriptions to the definitions.

Answers:

1. on the edge of your seat	2. on location	3. based on
4. stunts	5. special effects	6. adaptation
7. set on	8. cliffhanger	

2) Ask students in pairs to answer the questions.

Answers:

1. the soundtrack	2. a multiplex	3. the titles/the credits
4. the latest release	5. a trailer	6. the rushes
7. a screen test		

3) Ask students in pairs to discuss the difference in meaning between the words.

Answers:

1. A film is British English. A movie is American English.
2. An art house film is a low-budget, often non-Hollywood film. A blockbuster is a film with big stars that makes lots of money.
3. A co-star is an actor in a supporting role to the main star. An extra is a person who appears in crowd scenes in a film, and has no lines.
4. A cameraman controls the camera during filming. A projectionist is the person who loads the film and shows it in a cinema.
5. The cinema and the pictures mean the same. Pictures is a slightly old-fashioned word used in British English
6. The cast are the people in the film. Casting means finding actors to appear in films.
7. 'Action!' is what a director says to start filming. 'Cut!' is what he or she says to stop filming.

4) Ask students in pairs to put the words in order.

Answers:

writing the screenplay	finding locations	casting
filming	editing the film	releasing the film

5) **Ask students in pairs to make compound adjectives by matching words in A with words in B.**

Answers:
action-packed   slow-moving   spine-chilling   breath-taking
hard-hitting   heart-warming   far-fetched

6) **Ask students in pairs to use compound adjectives from 5 to complete the film reviews.**

Answers:
Beautiful People is a romantic melodrama. It lasts three hours, and has a slow-moving plot, which gets a bit boring. However, the heart-warming performance by Tim Franks in the central role will move you to tears. It also has a hard-hitting message about how we should deal with AIDS.

The Monster Movie is both a comedy and a horror film. It has a far-fetched storyline, which you just won't believe, but it also has some breath-taking stunts, which look really dangerous. It has a spine-chilling ending which is so scary you will cover your eyes.

7) **Ask students to think of a film that they have seen recently, and answer the questions. When they are ready, ask them to interview their partner about their film. In the feedback, ask students to talk about their partner's film.**

If your students have access to the Macmillan English Advanced Learner's Dictionary and CD ROM, set them the following quiz. They can find all the answers by finding the key word *film*, and following the various links.

Films Dictionary Quiz

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