Talking about Movies (A)

1. Movie genres
   How many different kinds of movies can you write in English? Make a list in the box below.

   **Movie Genres**
   - **Action**

2. Look at the table below.

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

   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 movie you have seen. Write a few sentences about it below. Don’t write the movie’s title!

   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________

4. Speaking Practice
   Read your movie description to your partner. Can your partner guess the movie title?
Talking about Movies (B)

1. Movie genres

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</tr>
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<tr>
<td>Action</td>
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</table>

2. Look at the table below.

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<td></td>
<td>Sean Connery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Casablanca</td>
<td>in Morocco</td>
<td>during the Second World War</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gladiator</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Russell Crowe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridget Jones's Diary</td>
<td>in the UK</td>
<td>in modern times</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 movie you have seen. Write a few sentences about it below. Don’t write the movie’s title!

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

4. Speaking Practice

Read your movie description to your partner. Can your partner guess the movie title?
Talking about Movies: Teaching Notes

Target Structure: None
Vocabulary: Movies / Expressions of Time (American English Version)
Level: Elementary / Pre-intermediate
Time: 30 minutes
Preparation: None

Suggested Teaching Method.

Talking about movies 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.

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 movie 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 movies they like.

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

1) Director: It was directed by …
2) Opinion: This movie 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 movies really can’t go wrong.

Answer Key

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