Movies and TV ESL lesson plan (A1)

A1 (beginner) · 60 minutes · for English teachers · englishcue.app

Stage	Time
Warm-up	5–10 min
Vocabulary	15 min
Controlled practice	10 min
Grammar focus	10 min
Speaking	15 min
Wrap-up and homework	5 min

1. Warm-up (5–10 min)

- What kind of films do you like?
- Who is your favourite actor?
- How often do you go to the cinema?

2. Vocabulary (15 min)

Elicit each word before you give it, model the pronunciation, then check meaning with a quick question.

Word	Meaning	Example
movie	a story shown on a screen (British English: film)	Let's watch a movie tonight.
film	a movie (British English)	It's my favorite film.
TV show	a program on television	What's your favorite TV show?
cinema	a place where you go to watch movies (American English: movie theater)	We go to the cinema on Fridays.
actor	a person who acts in movies or plays	He's a famous actor.
actress	a woman who acts in movies or plays	She's my favorite actress.
star	a very famous actor or singer	She's a big Hollywood star.
comedy	a funny movie or show	I love comedies.
cartoon	a movie or show with drawings that move	My kids watch cartoons in the morning.
news	information on TV about things that are happening	I watch the news at nine.

Grammar focus (10 min): Present perfect or past simple?

Sofia has a job interview at a travel agency. Mr Hale asks: “Have you worked in tourism before?” Sofia: “Yes, I have. I’ve worked in three countries. I worked in a hotel in Lisbon in 2021, and I’ve been at a tour company in Madrid since last year.” By the end of this lesson you can choose between the present perfect and the past simple.

Form	Pattern	Example
Present perfect	experience · result now · up to now	I’ve worked in three countries.
Past simple	finished time · stories · when?	I worked in Lisbon in 2021.
For	both tenses	I’ve lived here for 5 years (still) · I lived there for 5 years (over)
Conversation	Have you ever…? → When did you…?	Have you seen it? — Yes, I saw it on Monday.

Watch for: ~~I have worked there in 2020.~~ → **I worked there in 2020.**. In 2020 is finished.

Speaking (15 min): Sell me the film in sixty seconds

The learner has one minute to convince you to watch a film or series tonight, with no spoilers. You answer with one objection (It sounds slow. I don’t like subtitles.) and they have thirty seconds to change your mind.

Useful language

- It’s about a… who…
- The plot is… / The ending is…
- I couldn’t stop watching. / I gave up after two episodes.
- It’s set in… / It takes place in…
- It stars… / It was directed by…
- a sequel · a spoiler · a twist · the cast

Wrap-up and homework (5 min)

- Each learner says the three new words they will remember, and one sentence with each.
- Homework: write 80–120 words about movies and tv using at least six words from the lesson and the grammar point.
- Self-study: the A1 movies and tv vocabulary page on englishcue.app has a self-correcting quiz with all 21 words.

Movies and TV (A1)

Student handout · Name: _____ · Date: _____

A. Word bank

popcorn · watch · funny · channel · sad · tickets · scary · screen

B. Complete the sentences

Use a word from the word bank. Then compare with a partner.

1. The movie is really _____.
2. It's a very _____ story.
3. I don't like _____ movies.
4. What's on the other _____?
5. The _____ is too small.
6. Do you want _____?
7. Two _____, please.
8. I _____ TV every evening.

C. Talk with a partner

Ask and answer. Make notes of one interesting answer to report to the class.

1. What series are you watching now?
2. Do you watch films in English?
3. Do you prefer films or series?
4. What was the last film you saw?
5. Who do you watch TV with?

Write

Write 80–120 words about movies and tv. Use six words from the lesson.

Answer key

B. Complete the sentences: 1 funny · 2 sad · 3 scary · 4 channel · 5 screen · 6 popcorn · 7 tickets · 8 watch