Movies and TV ESL lesson plan (B1)

B1 (intermediate) · 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)

- Tell me the story of a film you love without saying the title.
- Which series did you watch too fast? What was so good about it?
- Do you prefer the book or the film? Give an example.

2. Vocabulary (15 min)

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

Word	Meaning	Example
plot	the main events of a story	The plot was hard to follow.
cast	all the actors in a movie or play	The movie has an amazing cast.
main character	the most important person in a story	The main character is a young detective.
scene	a part of a movie that happens in one place	The opening scene is incredible.
special effects	images or sounds made by computers or tricks	The special effects were amazing.
sequel	a movie that continues the story of an earlier one	The sequel was better than the original.
remake	a new version of an old movie	It's a remake of a 1970s film.
spoiler	information that tells you what happens in a story	No spoilers, please!
trailer	a short ad showing parts of a new movie	Have you seen the trailer?
review	an article giving an opinion of a movie or book	The movie got great reviews.

Grammar focus (10 min): Narrative tenses: telling a story

Elena writes a travel blog: “It was midnight and it was raining. I was walking back to my hotel when I suddenly realised I had left my bag in the restaurant. I ran back, but the restaurant had closed…” By the end of this lesson you can tell a story using three past tenses.

Form	Pattern	Example
Background	was / were + -ing	It was raining. I was walking home.
Events	past simple, in order	I realised… I ran back…
Earlier	had + participle	I had left my bag.
Sequencers	One day · Suddenly · Then · In the end	Eventually, we found the hotel.

Watch for: ~~I walked home when it started to rain.~~ → **I was walking home when it started to rain.**. Background action in progress: continuous.

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 B1 movies and tv vocabulary page on englishcue.app has a self-correcting quiz with all 22 words.

Movies and TV (B1)

Student handout · Name: _____ · Date: _____

A. Word bank

binge-watched · dubbed · set in · critics · cliffhanger · hooked on · box office · based on

B. Complete the sentences

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

1. The movie is _____ a true story.
2. The _____ loved it.
3. I'm _____ this show.
4. I hate watching _____ movies.
5. The movie was a hit at the _____.
6. The film is _____ 1920s Paris.
7. The season ended on a _____.
8. We _____ the whole series in a weekend.

C. Talk with a partner

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

1. What film have you seen more than three times?
2. Have you ever walked out of a cinema or stopped a film? Why?
3. Which film character would you like to have dinner with?
4. Do you watch with subtitles? In which language?
5. What film would you recommend to someone learning about your country?

Write

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

Answer key

B. Complete the sentences: 1 based on · 2 critics · 3 hooked on · 4 dubbed · 5 box office · 6 set in · 7 cliffhanger · 8 binge-watched