Movies and TV ESL lesson plan (B2)

B2 (upper 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
cinematography	the art of filming and lighting a movie	The cinematography is stunning.
screenplay	the written text of a movie, with dialogue and directions	She wrote the screenplay in six months.
plot twist	a surprising change in a story	I didn't see the plot twist coming.
blockbuster	a very successful, expensive movie	It's this summer's biggest blockbuster.
cult classic	a movie loved by a small but very loyal group of fans	It flopped, but it's now a cult classic.
flop	a movie or show that fails	The movie was a huge flop.
franchise	a series of movies with the same characters or world	The Marvel franchise has made billions.
typecast	to always give an actor the same kind of role	He's been typecast as the villain.
understated	effective because it is quiet and not exaggerated	It was an understated performance.
far-fetched	difficult to believe; unlikely	The story was a bit far-fetched.

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 B2 movies and tv vocabulary page on englishcue.app has a self-correcting quiz with all 22 words.

Movies and TV (B2)

Student handout · Name: _____ · Date: _____

A. Word bank

couch potato · critically acclaimed · on the edge of my seat · tearjerker · stole the show · thought-provoking · compelling · harrowing

B. Complete the sentences

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

1. I turned into a _____ this winter.
2. She gives a _____ performance.
3. It's a _____ drama.
4. Bring tissues: it's a real _____.
5. The child actor _____.
6. It's a _____ documentary.
7. The war scenes were _____.
8. The final scene had me _____.

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 couch potato · 2 compelling · 3 critically acclaimed · 4 tearjerker · 5 stole the show · 6 thought-provoking · 7 harrowing · 8 on the edge of my seat