

2.31 A night at the movies

Aim:	To plan a night out at the movies
Focus:	Likes and dislikes, cinema vocabulary, arranging to go out
Level:	Mid-intermediate and above
Time:	60 minutes
Sites:	http://www.bbc.co.uk/movies/

Procedure

The *Movie crossword* is a good starting point for this activity, as it activates a lot of the vocabulary which will be needed in the following parts. Students should walk around finding out who likes which types of films, and getting together into like-minded groups before going online.

The BBC Movies section has reviews of forthcoming and recent releases. Give students time to see which films are on at the cinema, and to decide which one they would like to see. Encourage negotiation during this part. Further investigation can be done online to find out where the films are on and to arrange which cinema to go to, and at what time.

Get feedback as a group, exchanging experiences and decisions. I usually like to follow this activity up with a look at the 100 Greatest Films website. This can easily be turned into an information gap activity if printed out. Take the top twenty films and make two copies of the lists, then blank out the titles – or partial titles – of half the films on each copy. Students then see which titles they can complete (or guess) and ask their partner questions to fill the gaps on their copy.

You can also use this site as a springboard for students to make a personal (or class) list of their top ten films of all time. They might start by deleting all the ones they have never heard of, then get into groups to strike off any of the remaining ones they think are not very good before finally choosing ten from the remaining titles.

KEY: Across – 1 cartoons, 4 road movie, 6 Bruce Lee, 11 Oscar, 13 ticket, 14 camera, 16 to, 17 at, 18 western, 19 on, 21 thriller, 22 subtitle, 23 special effects
Down – 2 actor, 3 space, 4 reel, 5 on location, 6 black and white, 7 horror, 8 popcorn, 9 ET, 10 trailer, 12 comedy, 15 spaceship, 16 token, 20 plot

Follow-on

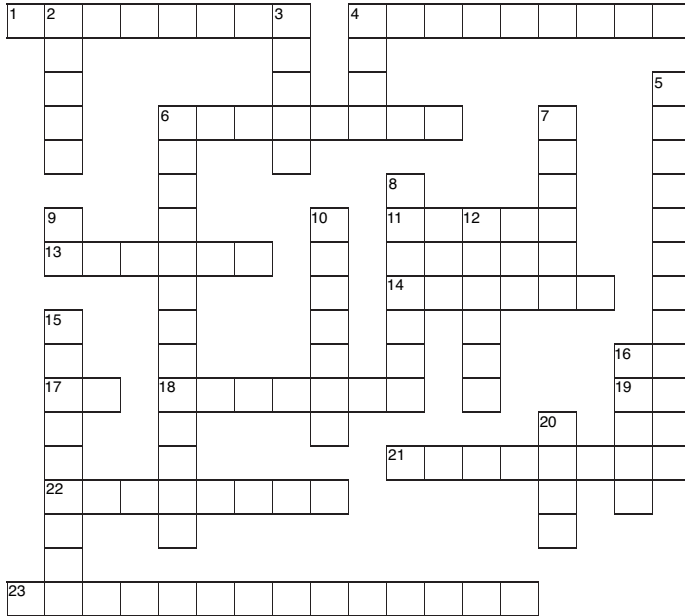
Film titles are often wildly changed when they are translated into other languages. *The Sound of Music*, for example, was called *Sonrisas y Lágrimas* in Spain (this translates as *Smiles and Tears*). A good activity is a matching exercise with original titles and the titles from the country where you are teaching.

A written assignment of a film review is another good activity to round off this cinema class.

TIP

A good site for movie reviews is <http://www.filmsite.org/momentsindx.html>
These sites (like me!) use 'movie' and 'film' interchangeably – make sure your students are aware of this practice.

Movie crossword



ACROSS

- 1 Animated films (8)
- 4 A type of film involving a journey (4, 5)
- 6 Famous kung fu actor (5, 3)
- 11 Film award (5)
- 13 You need to buy this to see a film (6)
- 14 You make a film with a ... (6)
- 16 Do you want to go ... the cinema? (2)
- 17 What's on ... the cinema tonight? (2)
- 18 Film with cowboys and Indians (7)
- 19 Are there any good films ... tonight? (2)
- 21 An exciting kind of film (8)
- 22 Text on screen in a foreign film (8)
- 23 Explosions, fights, battles ... (7,7)

DOWN

- 2 Male performer in a film (5)
- 3 Where most science fiction films are set (5)
- 4 Round metal container for film (4)
- 5 Filmed ... in Africa (2,8)
- 6 Old films were made in ... (5,3,5)
- 7 Frightening type of film (6)
- 8 You eat this in the cinema (7)
- 9 Famous film alien (1,1)
- 10 Short advert for a film (7)
- 12 A funny film (6)
- 15 *Alien* was set on a ... (9)
- 16 There's one ... woman in the film. It's definitely a very male story (5)
- 20 The story of a film (4)