

English in Mind

Level 5 Project 2

A group activity: a short film script

You are going to work in groups to produce a short film script.

1 Think up a story

a) Work together in groups of four to six students. Make up a story for your film. You are a group of people all staying in a hotel. Use these ideas and the pictures on this page to help you imagine what happens:

- Where is the hotel? What is it like?
- Something mysterious happens – what: a fire? An explosion? A theft? A death?
- You and your friends are determined to find out why it has happened. How do you solve the mystery?

b) Appoint a group secretary to note down the outline of the story. Get them to read it out to the group to make sure you are all happy with it.



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2 Create characters

- a) Invent different characters for yourselves. Use these ideas to help you.
- How old are you?
 - What do you look like?
 - What is your background?
 - Why are you staying at the hotel? Are you a guest? An employee? A detective? The criminal?
- b) Write a paragraph giving a full description of your own character.
- c) Read out your description to the group. Are there any changes you should make? Help each other with constructive suggestions.
- d) Decide on any other characters you may need for your film. Make notes on them.

3 Make a storyboard

- a) Use a large sheet of paper per group. Divide it into eight rectangles.
- b) Work as a group. Make rough drawings to show the opening scene and other important moments in the film. Write a brief description of what is happening in each section. Use speech bubbles to show some of the dialogue.
- c) Show your storyboard to the class, using it to outline the plot of the film. Explain who the characters will be.

4 Write sections of the script

- a) Work alone or in pairs. Choose a scene from the storyboard and write the script for that scene (not more than two pages). Remember to include instructions for the camera operator, as well as the dialogue.
- b) Show your script to the group. Ask for helpful suggestions on how to improve it.
- c) Ask your teacher for help with your English.

5 Perform a scene

- a) Practise acting out the scenes you have scripted.
- b) Choose one scene from each group to perform to the class. Learn your lines so you don't have to read the script. Use classroom furniture as props for your film. Improvise simple costumes.
- c) If you have the equipment available, film the scene and show it to your classmates! You can give star ratings for each film. Which one gets the Oscar for the best film?