

Lesson: *A film review: Se7en + students' own reviews!*

This is a quick, easy, ready-to-go lesson that will inspire your students. It'll also give them opportunities to improve their speaking, listening, reading and writing skills. This lesson comes with Teacher's Notes, a Resource Sheet, a PDF of the lesson, and an audio file. Simply follow the lesson ideas for a fantastic class that'll really motivate your students. This lesson idea comes from our fantastic and popular course book series English Unlocked (Advanced level).

1 Warm-up

Film descriptions

In pairs, students play a game. They take turns describing one of the films on the Resource Sheet. Their partner has to name it. Or, you could write the film titles on the board. Students take turns describing one of them. Other students listen and identify the film.

2 Lesson activities

Go through the activities for the lesson on the sheet **at the end of this document**: the Pre-viewing, Viewing I and Viewing II activities. You could do this lesson as a **listening** activity. In order to do this, tell your students to turn over the sheet so they can't see the text as they do the exercises.

If your students' listening level is not that high, stop the video after short sections and check their understanding.

Answers to the activities:

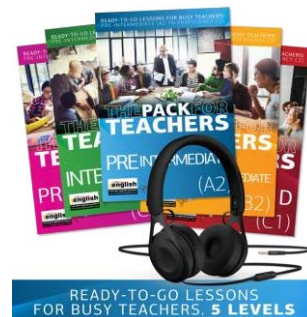
1 Pre-viewing

1d 2c 3g 4f 5a 6b 7e

3 Second viewing

1. He thinks it's one of the greatest movies ever made. It's about a serial killer who kills seven people in ways that reflect the seven deadly sins: greed, lust, etc. Brad Pitt and Morgan Freeman play the detectives who are after him.
2. They said that it was overly gruesome, relying on blood and gore, and that there's nothing really great or original about the movie.
3. It's one of the best endings in cinema history ever. About watching the film for the first time, he says that he was so engrossed in the film that he forgot about all the things he usually concentrates on like the acting, the lighting, how it was made, how the shot was set up, etc.
4. Because making Alien 3 had been an unpleasant experience for him, and he said that he didn't want to make another film.
5. The viewer is never told what city it's taking place in.

6. That he's looking forward to his retirement and he just can't wait to get out of this place.
7. He didn't want to watch the sloth killing, but for the last one there was a suggestion of what took place, but you didn't get to see it.
8. A dinner scene with Brad Pitt, Gwyneth Paltrow and Morgan Freeman talking about the subway vibrating their house, or the bar conversation with Brad and Morgan discussing the topic of apathy.



3 Follow-up activities

Retell it!

Students try to recount the information from the video, using as much of the language as possible. Or, ask for volunteers to retell the information, using as much of the original language as possible (or even by heart if they can).

A quick film review

Students prepare a quick film review of their own. They could try to do in the style of the video reviewer that they've seen as part of the lesson. They should include these three parts to the review (or anything else). They should also try to use some of the adjectives below (or any others):

1. What's it about? Who stars in it? Who is it directed by?
2. What do the critics say about it – why it's good or bad?
3. How did it make you feel? What did you like about it? Which particular parts or what things did you like about it?

Adjectives to describe a film or an actor

Some film adjectives to use

Delightful, depressing, different, amusing, disturbing, annoying, funny, fun, beautiful, incredible, amazing, bewildering, successful, exciting, long, short, first rate, clever, comical, enjoyable, original, hilarious, absorbing, sensitive, riveting, intriguing, powerful, fascinating, surprising, imaginative, thought-provoking, violent, flawed, distasteful, disgusting, senseless, brutal, confusing, disappointing, silly, predictable, weak, unconvincing, convincing, dramatic, sentimental, slow, satirical, fast-moving, odd, weird, wacky...

Some actor adjectives to use

Defiant, adorable, adventurous, aggressive, agreeable, different, amusing, annoying, selfish, inquisitive, arrogant, jealous, elegant, funny, fun, incredible, amazing, bewildering, evil, lucky, lovely, brave, talented, brave, courageous, serious, resourceful, stubborn, loyal, concerned, generous, self-confident, considerate, imaginative, brilliant, creative, carefree, intelligent, honest, mischievous, hardworking, daring, charming, lazy, patriotic, successful, helpful, cautious, polite, manipulative, demanding, gentle, loving, proud, mysterious, ambitious, mature, immature, witty, determined, calm, rude, annoying, troubled, foolish, miserable, upset, unhappy, rich, wealthy, lonely, jealous, envious, reliable, wise, weak, strong, timid, shy...

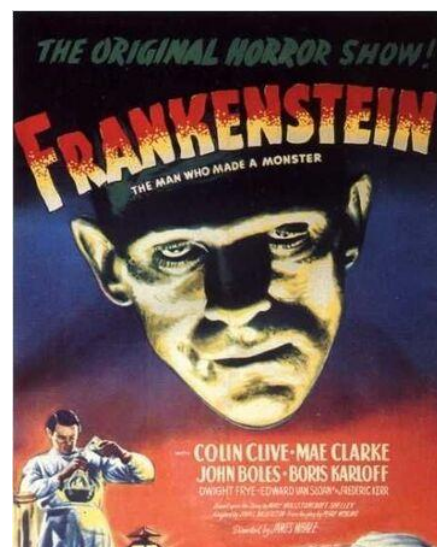
Resource Sheet

Look at the list of horror movies and thrillers below. Which one/s have you seen? Discuss with a partner. Then, play a game. Write very short descriptions of 3 of the films. Then, in pairs or small groups, take turns reading out your descriptions without mentioning the film. Other participants have to guess the name of the film.

Horror and thriller movies

Willow Creek (2014)
The Others (2001)
The Conjuring 2 (2016)
Dressed to Kill (1980)
Seven (1995)
The House of the Devil (2009)
The Thing (1982)
It (2017)
Paranormal Activity (2009)
Backcountry (2015)
Gremlins (1984)
The Autopsy of Jane Doe (2016)
Spring (2015)
Altered States (1980)
A Field in England (2014)
The Omen (1976)
Donnie Darko: The Director's Cut (2004)
Henry: Portrait of a Serial Killer (1986)
Poltergeist (1982)
An American Werewolf in London (1981)
The Orphanage (2007)
Cronos (1994)
The Shining (1980)
Misery (1990)
The Dead Zone (1983)
The Conjuring (2013)
The Exorcist (1973)
The Blair Witch Project (1999)
Frankenweenie (2012)
The Texas Chainsaw Massacre (1974)
Little Shop of Horrors (1986)
The Wicker Man (1973)
Phantom Of The Opera (1925)
Dawn of the Dead (1979)
The Fly (1986)
Eraserhead (1977)

What Ever Happened to Baby Jane?
(1962)
Dracula (1931)
Zombieland (2009)
Shaun of the Dead (2004)
The Host (2007)
A Nightmare on Elm Street (1984)
Halloween (1978)
Young Frankenstein (1974)
The Evil Dead (1981)
Carrie (1976)
Invasion of the Body Snatchers (1978)
The Cabin in the Woods (2012)
The Birds (1963)
The Silence of the Lambs (1991)
Evil Dead 2: Dead by Dawn (1987)
The Witch (2016)
Night of the Living Dead (1968)
Aliens (1986)
Frankenstein (1931)
Rosemary's Baby (1968)
The Bride of Frankenstein (1935)
Psycho (1960)



UNIT 4 What's up?

VIDEO

FILM REVIEW: SE7EN



1 Pre-viewing

Match the sin (1 to 7) to the definition (a-g).

1. Wrath
2. Greed
3. Sloth
4. Pride
5. Lust
6. Envy
7. Gluttony

- a. A strong feeling of sexual desire for someone
- b. Feeling bad because other people have things you want
- c. The desire to have more of something than you need
- d. Feeling angry and wanting to punish someone
- e. Eating or drinking more than you need
- f. A feeling of great love for yourself
- g. Being lazy

2 First viewing

You're going to watch a review of the film *Se7en*, a 1995 American psychological thriller directed by David Fincher. It stars Brad Pitt, Morgan Freeman, Gwyneth Paltrow and Kevin Spacey. Watch the review once. If you've seen the film, to what extent do you agree with the review? If you haven't seen it, does the review make you want to see the film? Why? Why not?

3 Second viewing

Watch the video again. Then, answer the questions.

1. What does the reviewer think of the film? What's the film about, according to the reviewer?
2. What did a lot of critics say about the film?
3. What does the reviewer say about the ending? What does he say about his experience of watching the film for the first time?
4. Why is it remarkable that the director made such a good film?
5. What does the reviewer say about the setting?
6. What does he say about Morgan Freeman's character?
7. What does he say about the scene involving the "sloth" and "lust" killing?
8. What conversational scenes does he mention? What do the characters talk about during these scenes?

4 Writing & speaking

Write a review of a film you like or that you've seen. Include information on the following: the director, the actors, the plot, where you first saw it, how it made you feel, what you like about it, what you didn't like about it, whether you'd recommend it, etc. When you're ready, tell other people about the film and answer any questions.

FLUENCY PRACTICE!

1 Dictation

Write down the words you hear.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

2 Transformation

Transform the sentences you hear into questions, using question words (what, when, where, how, etc.). [In some cases, it might not be necessary to repeat all of the information in the question. Also, alternative questions may also be possible.]

1. Blue is one of the most popular colours for company logos. = What's one of the most popular colours for company logos?
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

3 Pronunciation

When we speak naturally, the stress usually falls on the important words in the sentence: the nouns, main verbs, adjectives, etc. These are known as the key words. Other words (articles, pronouns, auxiliary verbs, prepositions, etc.) aren't stressed.

For example: They were **taken** to the **station** in the **morning**.

You can usually understand the main ideas by simply focusing on the key words.

Listen and write the sentences you hear. Then, try saying them yourself with the stress on the key words.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

