



Teacher's page

Fun lesson plans from Learn Hot English

Places made famous by films!

Level: Intermediate (B1) to Upper Intermediate (B2)

Audio: Yes

In this fun lesson, your students will talk about films and places that appear in them. This practical class will get your students using lots of useful language and all the essential skills: speaking, listening, reading and writing. Here are some ideas for doing it in class. Good luck!

1 Warm-up

Movie descriptions – scroll down for the student pages

Students look at the list of films on the Resource Sheet (see below) and choose one. Then, they write a short description of it and what it's about. When they're ready, they take turns reading out their descriptions without naming the film. Other students have to guess the film. For example:

Student 1: A shark terrorises tourists at a holiday resort on the north-eastern coast of the United States.

Student 2: Jaws!

Etc.

2 Lesson activities

Go through the activities for the lesson on the sheet: the Pre-reading, Reading I and Reading 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.

Remember, for the first listening you should play the recording once without stopping so students get the gist of it. For the second listening, if your students' listening level is low, stop the recording after each paragraph and check their understanding.

After finishing that, and if you've done this as a listening activity (not a reading), let your students read the text as you play the recording again. This is good for developing their listening skills as they can see the connection between the written and spoken language.



3 Follow-up activities

Retell it!

Assign a paragraph (or paragraphs) to each student. Students have a minute or two to try to remember the text. When they're ready, students try to recount the information, using as much of the language as possible. This works well in pairs, with you monitoring the language.

E-mail

In pairs or individually, students write an e-mail to the local council asking for a building or piece of street furniture (such as a statue) to be protected. The building could be a real building from a film, an invented one from a real film, an invented one from an invented film, etc. In the e-mail to the local council, students should explain what the building is, which film it's from and why it shouldn't be removed or pulled down.

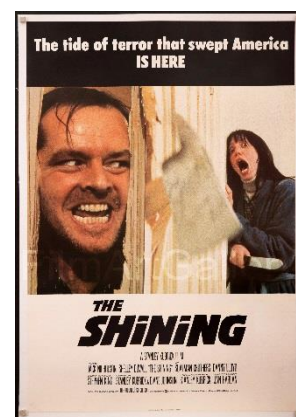
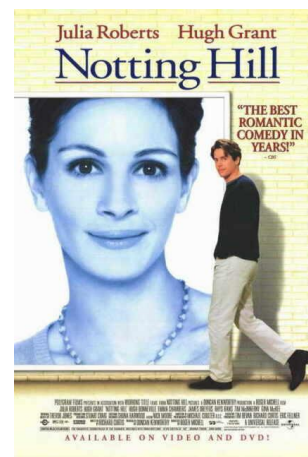
Dialogue

As a follow-up to the previous activity, students write up notes for a dialogue between the person trying to protect the building and a local councillor. Each person should explain their position. Tell your students to invent any information, and to make it as funny, silly or serious as they like. When they're ready, ask for volunteers to act out their dialogues (using notes, not reading it out word-for-word). Other students listen and then ask questions.

Discussion: Buildings & landmarks

Ask and answer these questions.

- Are there any famous buildings in your town or city? Why are they famous?
- Are there any famous landmarks, bridges, statues or other items of street "furniture"? In what way are they famous?
- Are there any films which take place in your town or city? Which ones? Which areas of the town or city appeared in the film?
- Did any important or famous buildings appear in the film? Which ones?
- How important is it to protect old buildings?
- What do you like or dislike about old buildings?
- Have you ever visited a place or building that appears in a film? Which one? Where was it? How did it make you feel?
- Which place of building from a film would you like to visit? Where is it? Why would you like to see it?





Student's page

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1 Warm-up

Movie descriptions!

Look over the list of films below and choose one. Then, write a short description of it and what it's about. When you're ready, take turns reading out your descriptions without naming the film. Other students have to guess the film. For example:

Student 1: A shark terrorises tourists at a holiday resort on the north-eastern coast of the United States.

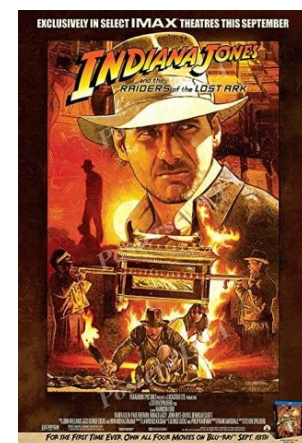
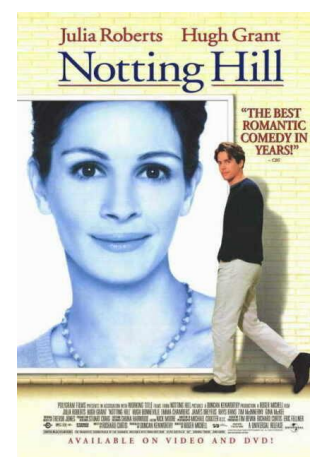
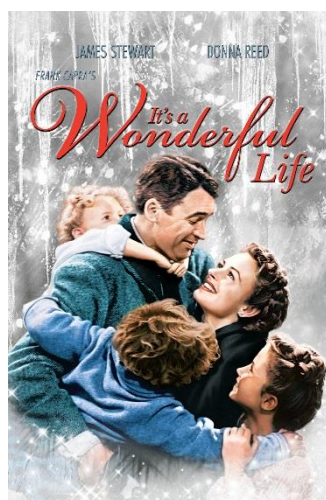
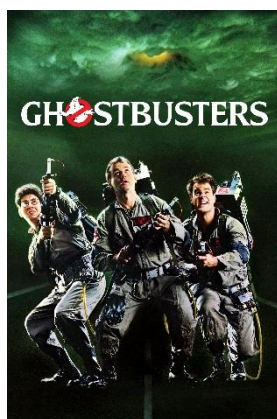
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Etc.

Afterwards, see if you can think of any places from the films below that you know about, or have visited or seen.

- Jaws
- Ghostbusters
- Citizen Kane
- Notting Hill
- Gone with the Wind
- The Godfather
- Breakfast at Tiffany's
- One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest

- Goodfellas
- Mrs Doubtfire
- Fault in our Stars
- Singin' in the Rain
- Taxi Driver
- Rocky
- The Dark Knight
- Raiders of the Lost Ark
- It's a Wonderful Life
- Gladiator
- Dr. Strangelove
- Titanic
- The Shining
- Some like it Hot
- Field of Dreams
- Die Hard
- Robocop
- The Hunger Games



SHALL WE SHARE AN INTIMATE MOMENT?



Places made famous by films

by Christian Olijve

Famous places often appear in films. But sometimes, a place can become famous because of a movie. Here are six of them.

The fire station from *Ghostbusters*



Location: 14 North Moore Street, New York (USA). This

comedy starred Bill Murray and Sigourney Weaver and is about three **parapsychologists** who start a ghost catching business. They use a fire station in New York as their headquarters. The actual **fire station** is a popular **landmark** and fans of the film often take pictures of themselves there.

The bookshop in *Notting Hill*



Location: 142 Portobello Road, London (England).

This bookshop in London became famous after William Thacker (played by Hugh Grant) met Anna Scott (played by Julia Roberts) there in a scene from the romantic comedy *Notting Hill*. Unfortunately, it never **survived** as a bookstore and eventually became a shoe shop.

Tiffany's, from *Breakfast At Tiffany's*



Location: 727 Fifth Avenue, New York City (USA). *Breakfast*

At Tiffany's is a romantic comedy starring Audrey Hepburn and George Peppard. Hepburn plays a young woman who becomes interested in a

man who has just moved into her **apartment building**. Tiffany's (also known as Tiffany & Co.) is a luxury goods and jewellery shop that appears several times in the film.

The bench from *Fault In Our Stars*



Location: Prinsengracht 263-267, Amsterdam (The Netherlands).

Fault in our Stars is the **heartbreaking** story of two young cancer patients who fall in love. It stars Shailene Woodley and Ansel Elgort. The **bench** features in the film and is where the main characters share a special moment (including a kiss). The **local council** removed the bench for a time, but it was returned by popular demand after **complaints** from fans of the film.

The family home from *Mrs Doubtfire*



Location: 2560 Steiner Street, San Francisco (USA).

Mrs Doubtfire is about out-of-work **voice-over artist** Daniel Hillard (played by Robin Williams). After his wife files for divorce, Daniel desperately wants to be with his children, so he **pretends** to be a **nanny** so he can take care of them. The actual house where the film was set is a popular tourist destination. The home is now owned by a San Francisco plastic surgeon. On hearing of the death of actor Robin Williams, fans **paid their respects** by leaving notes and flowers outside the house.

The hotel from *The Shining*

Location: Timberline Lodge,



27500 West Leg Road, Oregon (USA).

“All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy,” were the famous words spoken by frustrated writer Jack Torrance (played by Jack Nicholson). Jack and his family spend the winter at the **isolated** Overlook Hotel where strange things start happening. The hotel used for **exterior shots** in the movie is Timberline Lodge, which is on the south side of Mount Hood in Oregon (USA). It was built in the late 1930s and is a popular tourist attraction for fans of the movie. ☺

VIDEO

YouTube

Watch the trailer for the film *Notting Hill*. Search YouTube for “*Notting Hill* – Trailer”.

GLOSSARY

a parapsychologist ⁿ someone who investigates paranormal and psychic phenomena (such as ghosts)

a fire station ⁿ a building where there are fire engines and where fire fighters wait until they're called to a fire

a landmark ⁿ a building or structure that can be easily seen from far away in a city or town

to survive ^{vb} if a shop (for example) “survives”, it continues to exist as a shop, even though times are hard, or the economy is slow

an apartment building ⁿ a large building with many floors and many apartments (little houses) in it

heartbreaking ^{adj} very sad

a bench ⁿ a long chair in the street where you can sit

the local council ⁿ the people who are elected to represent a town or city. The “local” council is the one in the area you're referring to

a complaint ⁿ if someone makes a “complaint”, they say that they aren't happy about something

a voice-over artist ⁿ an actor who does the speaking part for a cartoon character in a film or TV show

to pretend ^{vb} if you “pretend” to be someone, you act as if you're that person, even though you aren't

a nanny ⁿ a woman who is paid to look after children, often in a rich person's house

to pay your respects ^{exp} if you “pay your respects” to someone who has just died, you go to see a relative of theirs or you leave flowers at their house

isolated ^{adj} an “isolated” place is far from towns, cities and people and is difficult to reach

exterior shots ⁿ the parts of the film that are shot outside (not in a building or room, etc.)

Answers on page 44

1 Pre-reading

Look at the names of the films in the article. Which ones have you seen? What did you think of them? Which ones would you like to see? Why?

2 Reading I

Read or listen to the article once. Which famous place from these films would you like to visit? Why?

3 Reading II

Read the article again. Then, write the name of a film next to each description.

1. It's about a man who will do anything to be with his children.
2. It's set in New York City and stars Bill Murray.
3. It's a romantic comedy with a scene in a shop in London.
4. It's a horror film that takes place in a hotel.
5. It's the story of two people who fall in love.
6. It's set in New York City and stars Audrey Hepburn.