

I. a. Complete the following definitions using the words in the box

the cast	director	editing	plot	screenplay
screenwriter	special effects	soundtrack	the stars	

1. The putting together of sequences and scenes in a film : _____
2. A story written for a film : _____
3. Someone who writes stories for a film : _____
4. All the actors in a film : _____
5. Series of events in a film that make up the main story : _____
6. Images or sounds in a film that are created by trick photography or computers :

7. The music in a film : _____
8. The main actors in a film : _____
9. The person responsible for overall artistic content of film, including telling the cast what to do :

b. What are the aspects of a film mentioned above that are the most important

II. Reading

1. Read a scene from the second draft of the screen play adaptation and answer the following questions :

- a. Who is involved in the film ?
- b. Where does it take place ?
- c. When does it take place ?
- d. What is happening ?
- e. Why is this scene taking place ?
- f. How do the protagonists feel ?

INT. L.A. BUSINESS LUNCH RESTAURANT - MIDDAY

Kaufman, wearing his purple sweater, sits with Valerie, an attractive woman in glasses. They pick at salads. Kaufman steals glances at her. She looks up at him. He looks away.

KAUFMAN (V.O.)

I'm old. I'm bald. I'm repulsive.

VALERIE

We think you're just great.

KAUFMAN

(with studied modesty)
Oh, thank you.

Valerie rubs her nose. Kaufman self-consciously rubs his nose in response.

VALERIE

And we're thrilled you're interested.

Valerie rubs her nose again. Kaufman pulls at his nostril. Sweat slides down his forehead. Valerie watches it. Kaufman sees her watching it. She sees him seeing her watching it. She looks at her salad. He quickly wipes the sweat away.

KAUFMAN

Oh, thanks, wow. That's nice to hear.

VALERIE

You have a really unique voice.

KAUFMAN

Well, thanks. That's... I appreciate that.

VALERIE

Very talented. Really.

KAUFMAN

Thanks. Thank you. Thanks.

VALERIE

(looking up)
So -

Kaufman is sweating a lot. He smiles, embarrassed.

KAUFMAN

Sort of hot in here.

VALERIE

(kindly)
Yeah, it is a bit. So, why don't you tell me your thoughts on this crazy little project of ours ?

In one motion, Kaufman wipes his forehead and pulls a book entitled *The Orchid Thief* from his bag.

KAUFMAN

First, I think it's a great book.

VALERIE

Laroche is a fun character, isn't he ?

KAUFMAN

It's just, I don't want to compromise by making it a Hollywood product.

VALERIE

Oh, of course. We agree. Definitely.

Kaufman is sweating like crazy now. Valerie is quiet for a moment.

VALERIE

See, we thought maybe Susan Orlean and Laroche could fall in love -

KAUFMAN

New York journalist writes about weird guy and he teaches her to love. I mean, it didn't happen, it wouldn't happen.

2. Questions

- Do you think Valerie and Kaufman have the same vision for the film ?
- What do you think Kaufman means by "a Hollywood product" ?

3. Complete the following statements about the standard format of screenplays, using the following words :

action / present / centre / V.O. / ~~capital~~ / dialogue / INT. / brackets

- The names of characters and scene headings are written in capital letters.
- Dialogue is written in the _____ of the page.
- Descriptions of settings and _____ are written in blocks which are wider than the dialogue.
- Descriptions of how a character delivers his lines are in _____ .
- Characters generally have little _____ at one time.
- Descriptions of settings and actions are written in the _____ tenses.
- Voice-overs are abbreviated as _____, external shots as EXT. and internal shots as _____ .

4. Look at the following list of features that are typical of spoken dialogues. Can you find examples of these features in the screenplay ?

FEATURE	EXAMPLE
Incomplete sentences	
Missing subjects	
Repetition	
Short sentences	
Simple linking words	
Use of shared knowledge to leave things unsaid	

Can you think of other features typical of spoken conversations and screenplay dialogues ?

III. Writing a screenplay.

a. Most screenplays are divided into three acts. Match the acts to the descriptions.

- | | |
|-------|----------------------|
| Act 1 | a. the main conflict |
| Act 2 | b. the resolution |
| Act 3 | c. the background |

b. In pairs, think about a story you would like to tell, or a book you would like to adapt into a film. Make notes about the following headings :

The background :

How is the story set up and how are the characters introduced ?

The conflict :

What conflict(s) do the characters deal with during the story - that is, what is the problem / desire / goal at the centre of the story ?

The resolution :

How is / are the conflict(s) resolved at the end of the film ?

c. Write a scene for your film. Use standard screenplay format and make the conversation seem as natural as possible.