



Are These The Best Movies Ever Made?

Discussion > Advanced 8



Exercise 1 – Vocabulary

tense	Unable to relax due to excitement, nervousness, etc.; characterized by stress or nervousness.
[adjective]	<i>Ex: The mood at the office these days is very tense.</i>

crusader	A person who fights for social or political change.
[noun]	<i>Ex: The newly elected senator claims to be an anti-corruption crusader.</i>

pit against	To test the strength, intelligence, etc. of a person or thing against another.
[phrasal verb]	<i>Ex: At the very beginning of the tournament he was pitted against the world champion.</i>



arch-nemesis	Someone's main opponent or enemy.
[noun]	<i>Ex: In the final episode, he faces his arch-nemesis.</i>

set apart	To make or be better than or different from others.
[phrasal verb]	<i>Ex: What sets him apart from his competitors is his determination to win.</i>

goblin	A small, ugly, troublesome creature (in folklore and fantasy stories).
[noun]	<i>Ex: The game is set in a land filled with elves, goblins, and other creatures.</i>



Exercise 2 – Reading

Read the text aloud with your tutor and discuss the key points.

Are These The Best Movies Ever Made?

The Internet Movie Database (IMDb) is a website that lets its millions of users rate thousands of films, allowing it to create lists of the most popular movies. Here are some of the best films ever made, according to IMDb:

5. 12 Angry Men (1957)

This classic courtroom drama stars Henry Fonda as one of 12 jurors who must determine whether a young man is guilty of murder. The viewer is kept guessing throughout the film as to what the verdict will be until its tense final minutes. The film did not win any Academy Awards, but has since come to be known as one of the greatest films ever made.



4. The Dark Knight (2008)

The second film in Christopher Nolan's Batman trilogy, The Dark Knight sees the caped crusader pitted against his arch-nemesis, the Joker. The film sets itself apart from other superhero movies through its realistic representation of Batman, superb acting and a storyline that leaves viewers without a happy ending.

3 & 2. The Godfather Part 2 (1974) & The Godfather (1972)

While it has its share of blood and bullets, The Godfather and its sequel are just as much family dramas as they are crime thrillers. Al Pacino stars as the reluctant mafioso, Michael Corleone, in his tragic rise to the top. The films were followed by a less well-regarded third installment, which is often considered to be one of the most disappointing sequels ever made.

1. The Shawshank Redemption (1994)

Despite being based on a short story by Stephen King, the horror of The Shawshank Redemption lies less in ghosts and goblins than it does in the injustice of the American legal system. Tim Robbins stars as a lawyer who has been sent to prison after being falsely accused of killing his wife, and Morgan Freeman stars as the man who helps him survive his time on the inside. The film was nominated for seven Academy awards — the most for any film based on a Stephen King story — but won none.



Exercise 3 – Discussion

Discuss the following questions with your tutor.

1. Have you seen any of the films mentioned in the article? Would you recommend them?
2. Do you ever check IMDb to help you decide what movies to watch?
3. Who's the biggest movie buff you know? Do you enjoy talking about films with them?
4. Are there any popular movies you dislike? Please explain your answer.
5. Have you seen any good movies recently? How did you find out about them?
6. What movie genres have you been into the longest?
7. Have you ever been disappointed by the sequel to a movie or book?
8. Have any of your favorite movies won any awards?