

COMMUNICATION

# Describing films and TV series

**LEVEL**

Intermediate (B1)

**NUMBER**

EN\_B1\_1061X

**LANGUAGE**

English

## Learning outcomes

- I can have an in-depth discussion about films and TV series.
- I can use adjectives to express what I love or hate about a particular film or series.



## Warm-up

**What's your favourite film or TV series?**



**What makes something really enjoyable to watch, in your opinion?**





# Talking about a TV series

**Daniel** and **Robert** are flatmates. **Read a part of their conversation** and **answer the questions** in the red box.

**Daniel:** I've been so bored lately! I could definitely use some recommendations. Are you watching anything good at the moment?

**Robert:** Hmm, I just finished a series called *Paula in New York*. Have you seen that one yet?

**Daniel:** Yeah, I watched it a while ago, when everyone was super excited about it. How'd you find it?

**Robert:** I thought it was such a waste of time! On a scale from zero to five, I'd give it a minus 2. They went totally overboard with the plot. It's just another cheesy love story, in my opinion.



1. Why does Daniel ask for recommendations?
2. Did Robert enjoy *Paula in New York*?

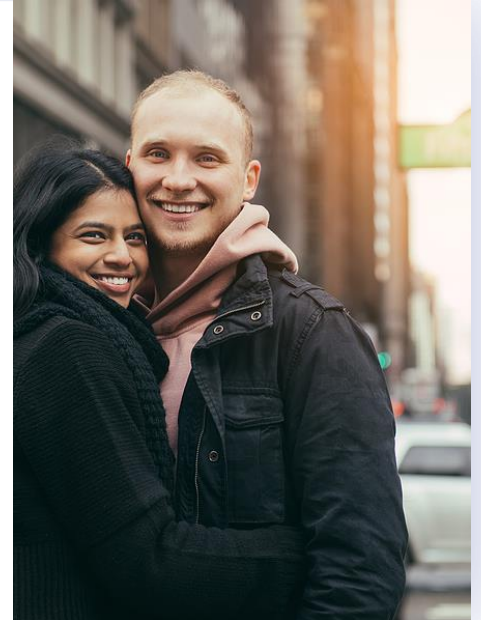
# Talking about a TV series

Continue reading a part of Daniel and Robert's conversation and **answer the questions** below.

**Daniel:** Really? I actually loved *Paula in New York*! Sure, it's a total tear-jerker, but I was impressed by the story-telling. It seemed very authentic to me. I also like how the show has such a diverse cast!

**Robert:** Yeah, fair enough. I guess I just don't enjoy such slow-burners. I need more action! Another thing I found really annoying was the happy ending. Of course they had to get married!

**Daniel:** Come on! Now you're just being jealous because you haven't been lucky with the ladies lately.



3. What did Daniel like about the show?
4. Why didn't Robert like the show?
5. What does Robert mean when he says he doesn't enjoy *slow-burners*?

It's a total **tear-jerker**.



I don't enjoy such **slow-burners**.



They went totally **overboard with the plot**.



What are some films or TV series that are **tear-jerkers**?

Do you like **slow-burners**? Why or why not?

Can you think of a film or TV series that **went overboard with the plot**?



# Match the word to the definition

1

*episode*

a

What happens (the story)

2

*plot twist*

b

Part of a TV series, usually about an hour in length

3

*plot*

c

A sudden change of the plot

4

*character*

d

Part of a TV series, usually containing at least 10 episodes

5

*season*

e

A person represented in a film or TV programme



# Describing your favourite film or TV series

Ask and answer the questions below with a partner.  
You can do this activity **in breakout rooms** or **in the classroom**.



What is the plot?

Who are the main characters?

Is there a plot twist?

(Film): Do you have a favourite scene?  
(TV series): Do you have a favourite episode?





# Sharing your opinion

Daniel and Robert just can't seem to agree on anything. **Read their opinions** and **answer the question** in the blue box below.



That was an **awful** series. I didn't like it at all.



Really? I thought the series was very **informative** and **funny**!

- Look at the words in blue. What are they describing?
- The highlighted words are \_\_\_\_\_. We use them to provide more information on a noun.
- Look at the **endings** of the words in blue: **-ful**, **-ive** and **-y**. Can you think of other adjectives with those endings?





# Sort into categories

**Form adjectives** using the nouns below.

Which adjective has a different meaning to the noun it stems from?

hero

creep

fun

class

mess

fame

history

nerve

scare

mystery

**-ic**

**-y**

**-ous**



# Sort into categories

**Form adjectives** using the nouns below. Which words can you already use as an adjective in their current form?

classic

beauty

creation

magic

information

history

use

wonder

logic

power

**-ive**

**-cal**

**-ful**



# What's the difference?

**Read** the short dialogue between Daniel and Robert and **answer the questions** in the blue box.



Daniel

This documentary is about different **historic** events that happened in the United States.



Robert

I love watching **historical** films.  
They help me learn about the past.

- Look at the adjectives highlighted in blue:
- \_\_\_\_\_ means it is important for history.
- \_\_\_\_\_ means related to the study of history.

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# Fill in the gaps

Complete the sentences with the correct adjective from the box.

- 1 John has a very \_\_\_\_\_ moment at the end of the film when he rescues a little baby from a fire.
- 2 Thomas and Olivia are very \_\_\_\_\_ characters. They made me laugh a lot.
- 3 I loved how \_\_\_\_\_ the film was. A true masterpiece!
- 4 The documentary was very \_\_\_\_\_. It had a very \_\_\_\_\_ message.
- 5 This film is so \_\_\_\_\_. I felt like I was in a different universe.

informative  
creative  
funny  
powerful  
heroic  
magical



# Who is your favourite TV or film character?

**Tell your classmates about your favourite TV or film character.** Use the adjectives below to talk about them and say why they are your favourite character.



creative

funny

powerful

magical

wonderful

creepy

famous

mysterious

beautiful



# Describing a film or series you hated

“

**I thought it was a total waste of time!**

Have you ever felt this way about something you watched?

Describe the film or series using adjectives from the lesson.

Do you think it was truly bad, or just not your kind of thing?







# End of the lesson

Idiom

***Break a leg!***

**Meaning:** That's what people at the theatre say to wish 'good luck!'



# Additional practice



# What's the noun?

What noun do these adjectives come from? Say the noun and then build a sentence using it.

1 famous



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2 informative



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3 funny



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4 powerful



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5 scandalous



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# Fill in the gaps

**Form adjectives** using the nouns in the red box and use them to complete the sentences.

1 Although the film is generally quite \_\_\_\_\_, it also has a few \_\_\_\_\_ moments.

2 I cannot watch horror films when I'm home alone. They are just too \_\_\_\_\_!

3 I love documentaries because they're so \_\_\_\_\_. I love learning about new topics.

4 The main character in that film is just so \_\_\_\_\_. I want to be as stylish and cool as her!

5 I love that film because of its \_\_\_\_\_ message.

Information  
power  
class  
seriousness  
scare  
fun

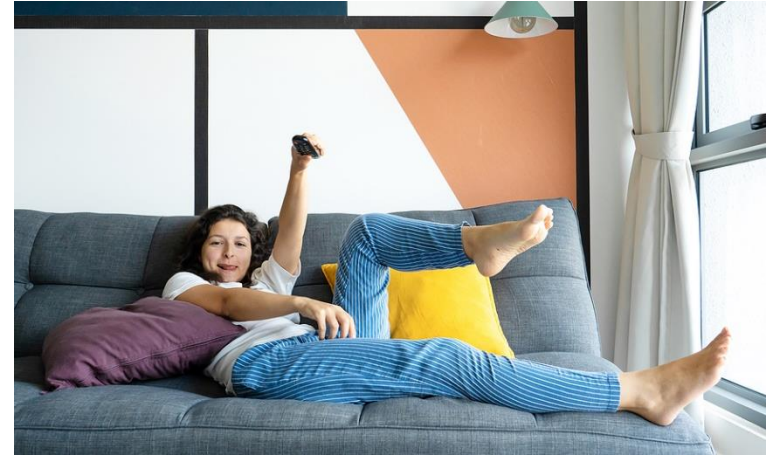




# Discuss



**What kinds of character do you like?**



**Do you enjoy plot twists? Are there other ways that a film or series can be exciting?**



# Discuss



**I don't like slow-burners.  
A series needs to be super exciting  
from the beginning.**

**Do you remember  
what a *slow-burner*  
is?**

**Do you agree with  
this statement?**

**Do you know any  
slow-burners?**





# What is your favourite film like?

**Describe** your favourite film. You can either talk about the plot or the main characters.



I really like...

I love...

Another thing I  
really like is...

funny

scary

heroic

informative

beautiful

magical



# Role play

Name a film or series that most people know. **Choose one of the main characters** and describe them without mentioning their name. Your classmates will try to guess who you're talking about.

- funny
- heroic
- creepy
- serious
- scary
- mysterious
- famous
- messy
- beautiful
- creative
- powerful

*I'm choosing the film / series ...*

*The character I chose is ...*

*I would describe that character as ...*





# Which film am I talking about?

**Describe a film.** Your classmates will try to guess which film you're talking about.



*The film I'm thinking of is about...*

*The main character is...*

- funny
- scary
- famous
- creepy
- heroic
- informative
- beautiful
- creative



## Answer key

**p.4:** 1. He is bored 2. No, he didn't enjoy it

**P.5:** 3. He liked the storytelling and the diversity of the cast 4. Robert didn't like the show because it was a slow burner and he didn't enjoy the happy ending. 5. He means that he doesn't like slow-paced shows.

**p.7:** 1. (b) 2. (c) 3. (a) 4. (e) 5. (d)

**p.9:** adjectives

**p.10:** heroic, creepy, funny, classy, messy, famous, historic, nervous, scary, mysterious

**p.11:** classical, beautiful, creative, magical, informative, historical, useful, wonderful, logical, powerful – classic and magic

**p.12:** historic, historical

**p.13:** 1. heroic 2. funny 3. creative 4. informative, powerful 5. magical

**p.21:** 1. serious, funny 2. scary 3. informative 4. classy 5. powerful



# Summary

## General vocabulary to describe films and TV series:

- Episode, plot, plot twist, character, series

## Grammar:

- We use adjectives to provide more information on a noun
- Common endings are: like **-ive, -ic, -cal, -ous, -ful, -y**

## Adjectives to describe films and TV series:

- powerful, intense, historic, historical, informative, scary, creepy, famous, heroic, creative

## Real life language:

- Such a waste of time, they went overboard with the plot, on a scale from zero to five, tear-jerker, slow-burner



# Vocabulary

Such a waste of time!

They went overboard with...

On a scale from zero to five...

tear-jerker

slow-burner

episode

plot

plot twist

character

series

heroic

creepy

funny

classy

messy

famous

historical

historic

serious

scary



# Vocabulary

mysterious

beautiful

creative

magical

informative

useful

wonderful

logical

powerful



## Notes