

UNIT 5

Media Matters

LESSON 1

Trends in Movies

VOCABULARY

A Complete the text with the words from the box.

blockbuster	cinematography	computer-generated graphics	handheld	movie franchise
screenplay	shoot	soundtrack	special effects	stream

Are you paying attention?

More and more movies these days are using computer technology to create incredible imagery. In fact, it almost seems like there is a competition to amaze audiences, so that producers can make millions of dollars with a new **1** _____ movie. There are many ways of capturing the imagination of your audience, from writing a brilliant **2** _____ that will make people laugh or cry, to using a **3** _____ camera to make it look like a home movie or a documentary.

But you don't have to study the art of **4** _____ for years to know that a successful **5** _____ like *The Lord of the Rings* uses **6** _____ (remember the terrifyingly realistic creature Gollum?) to make people pay attention and pay good money.

There is also the use of technological tricks, known as **7** _____. So, for example, Keanu Reeves's character Neo in *The Matrix* appears to be able to avoid bullets by moving out of the way at impossible speeds. This isn't a new trick. In fact, in 1901, *The Man with the Rubber Head* was one of the first movies to do this.

Apart from the visual effects, there is also the music. In fact, a film's **8** _____ can be one of the biggest attractions for people. Who can forget the title song to *Titanic* by Celine Dion? As a director, when you **9** _____ a movie, you need to take all of these things into account.


So next time you sit in front of your computer and **10** _____ a movie on a Friday night, think about all the work that has gone into it!

LISTENING



LISTEN FOR DETAILS

When you listen for details, listen for individual words or phrases that give you the information you need. Look at the questions before you listen to see what details you should be listening for.

A  **5.1** Listen to the interview and choose the correct options.

- 1** The radio host is interviewing the movie critic about ...
 - a** typical women's characters in movies.
 - b** how many women there are in movies.
 - c** why women in movies always get married.
- 2** The movie critic thinks that ...
 - a** women have uninteresting roles in movies.
 - b** women always play the same types of characters in movies.
 - c** women don't get paid as much as men in movies.
- 3** The conclusion of the interview is that the situation ...
 - a** has changed recently.
 - b** will never change.
 - c** can change under certain circumstances.



GRAMMAR

A Read the example sentences and complete the rules with words from the box.

contrasting do/does/did double effect increase repeated

These days, more and more movies are based on real-life events.

We use a/an **1** _____ comparative to emphasize a/an **2** _____ or decrease in something.

The more we define characters by their gender, the less we relate to them.

We use a/an **3** _____ comparative to emphasize a cause and a/an **4** _____.

Although we often empathize more with female characters these days, we do still feel that they can be stereotypes.

We use **5** _____ to emphasize a/an **6** _____ idea.

B Rewrite the sentences using the correct form of emphasis in parentheses.

- 1** People say that there is lot more equality in the film industry these days, but I don't think that's true.
(double comparative)

- 2** Juana doesn't like documentaries at all, but she likes watching wildlife programs. (emphatic do/does/did)

- 3** Independent movie companies get less funding. The films become worse. (repeated comparative)

WRITING

A Match the different sections of the movie review (a-d) to the correct phrase (1-4).

- a** *The Lion King* is a computer-animated adventure, directed by Jon Favreau in 2019. It tells the story of a lion cub named Simba and his adventures in the Pride Lands of Africa. This film is a remake of the 1994 animated movie, which was the first Disney movie with a completely original story, and most of the characters were drawn by hand.
- b** Simba is an ambitious young lion. He wants to be involved in ruling the Pride Lands, and he wants to make his father, Mufasa, proud of him. But Simba is frustrated because Mufasa wants him to stay at home. Scar, Mufasa's evil brother, takes advantage of this and tricks Simba into exploring forbidden territory. He plans to kill Mufasa so that he can be king instead.
- c** Some big-name stars such as Danny Glover and Beyoncé voiced the characters in the movie. Beyoncé also helped to create the beautiful soundtrack and wrote the title-track "Spirit." But the actor who plays Scar, Chiwetel Ejiofor, is by far the best in my opinion. His voice sounds clever and dangerous. It makes you feel like Scar is not just a violent character, but a highly intelligent villain who can manipulate anyone.
- d** The most amazing cinematography in *The Lion King* is at the beginning when all the animals meet at Pride Rock and Simba is presented to them. The scene, like many in the movie, was created by a combination of CGI, special effects, and virtual reality. This is why people call *The Lion King* a "live action" movie. It's animated, but it feels real. How did they do this? The animators created the environment by reproducing photos of the African landscape. They even created scenes with technology to make it look like it was filmed with a handheld camera. I'm not a big fan of animated movies, but the plot and the production of this film, especially on the big screen, make it feel like you are really there. Long live the king!

- 1** the setting and the plot of the movie _____
2 special effects _____

- 3** name of movie and genre _____
4 voice actors _____