

Leisure Time and Entertainment, Film

First go through the USEFUL PHRASES below.

What kind of leisure-time activities do you like?

I collect (stamps / postcards / coins / ...).

I enjoy making things, so I do (clay modelling / wood carving / embroidery / ...).

I like to (write letters / draw pictures / play music / ...).

I need exercise, so I (go to a fitness club / do gymnastics / play sports / ...).

I sit a lot at school, so in my free time I like to (walk / jog / swim / ...).

What kind of music do you like to listen to most often and when?

My favourite kind of music is (country / rock / classical / pop / ...).

I like to listen to several different types of music, such as

My choice of music depends on the mood that I am in. For example, when I'm happy, I listen to ... ; when I'm sad, I listen to

What is your opinion of programmes on TV? What types of programmes do you like and dislike?

In general, I think that the programmes on TV are (worthwhile / informative / uplifting /

I feel that (many / some / few / ...) programmes are too (violent / crude / shallow / ...).

My favourite programmes are (nature films / travel documentaries / sporting events / ...) because

I rarely watch (quiz shows / cartoons / soap operas / ...) because

Do you like going to the cinema or do you prefer watching films on TV? What types of movies do you like and who are your favourite actors?

I favour going to the cinema that watching TV because

I prefer staying at home and watching TV because it (is more comfortable / costs no money / ...).

The types of movies I really enjoy are (comedies / romances / fairy tales / ...) because

I dislike (horror / war / western / ...) movies because

The actors I like best are ... because

READING

Read the text.

One of my favourite films is *Forrest Gump*. I know, it's quite an old film but I've never seen anything better. Actually, I've seen it three times. The last time I saw it was the other night on television, and it made me laugh and cry all over again. I love Tom Hanks and I think he's brilliant in this film. Robin Wright played the part of his girlfriend, and Sally Field was his mum. I can't remember who else was in it, or who directed it. But I do know that it won six Oscars including best film, best director and Tom Hanks got best leading actor. Apparently, it's based on a novel, but I've no idea who wrote it.

There are so many things I love about this film. I suppose it's a drama, but it's historical and it's funny and it's really sad too. The character of Forrest Gump is brilliant – he's not very clever, and at the beginning of the film he can't walk properly, but he manages to succeed in life without meaning to, and without realising it. I particularly like the bits where he meets famous people like President Kennedy or Elvis Presley. It's so clever the way they mix old black and white footage from the 60s. It's hilarious when Forrest meets Elvis. Forrest has a strange way of walking, and when Elvis imitates him, it looks like the dance that he was famous for. The soundtrack is great too – there are all these classic pop songs including some by Elvis.

But the ending is a bit of a tearjerker – I cry my eyes out every time. I won't spoil it for you in case you haven't seen it – but you should see it because it's the best film of all time.

Then read the questions and tick the answers that are correct. Then change the incorrect answers.

- 1 Who's in it? - **Tom Hanks, Robin Wright and Sally Field.**
- 2 Who directed it? - **I can't remember.**
- 3 What is it based on? – **A true story.**
- 4 What type of story is it? – **A thriller.**
- 5 What's the main story? – **It's about the life of Forrest Gump.**
- 6 What do you particularly like about it? – **The bits where he meets famous people.**

Net reviews

- 1) *Have you ever looked for information about a film on the Internet?*
- 2) *What do you think a film called *The Horse Whisperer* may be about? Look at this web-page and match the headings to the information.*

- a) cast
- b) key words
- c) memorable quotes
- d) plot summary
- e) review
- f) type of film
- g) user rating
- h) title and main details

WEB MOVIES

1 The Horse Whisperer Directed by Robert Redford Based on a novel by Nicholas Evans	2 Romance/Adventure/Drama	3 Robert Redford: Tom Booker Kristin Scott Thomas: Annie McLean Sam Neill: Robert McLean Scarlett Johansson: Grace McLean	4 7/10 (833 votes)
5 The Horse Whisperer is a film based on a book by an English writer, Nicholas Evans. Directed by and starring Robert Redford, it is the story of Annie, a New York magazine editor,	6 horses tragedy tearjerker	7 Annie: "I've heard you help people with horse problems." Booker: "Truth is, I help horses with people problems."	8 A romantic family film in which, apart from the accident with the horse, nothing much happens. Beautiful photography of wide open spaces in Montana makes the film pleasant to watch. What I found difficult to swallow

<p>her young daughter Grace and Grace's horse, Pilgrim. Grace and Pilgrim are involved in an appalling riding accident which leaves both of them with horrific injuries.</p> <p>Annie's only hope lies in Tom Booker, a macho-but-sensitive rancher from Montana. Booker is a horse whisperer, a man who has a special talent for healing horses.</p>	landscapes	<p>Annie: "Are you frightened with anything, Tom Booker?"</p> <p>Booker: "Of growing old. Being of no use."</p>	<p>Redford's portrayal of life in Montana – everybody smiles all the time and all those smiles made me feel uneasy. But if you are looking for a pleasant film this is it.</p>
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3) *Read these comments made by Internet users about The Horse Whisperer. What rating out of ten do you think each person gave the film?*

<p>"I must say I enjoyed this movie, even after the jokes about it being a three-hour advert from the Montana Tourist Board." Jim, New York.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Rating 7 10</p>
<p>"It is fascinating to see how a film of almost three hours without violence, action or sex can still be so very good. Redford has really succeeded in making a beautiful film, full of sensitivity and emotions." Anna, Geneva.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Rating 10</p>
<p>"Robert Redford is a competent director, no doubt about is. The film is well made, but never interesting. I found myself waiting for some sort of climax that never happened. There's no chemistry between the characters and it's simply too long." Angel, Salamanca.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Rating 10</p>
<p>"Having read the novel last year on holiday, I was looking forward to seeing the film. To be honest, I doubted if Redford could play Tom Booker convincingly as the character is much younger than he is. Having seen the film I now realise that it really didn't matter – all performances are good and the new ending is better than the</p>

book.” Agnes, France.

Rating 10

“A few questions came to mind during the film: who in their right mind would travel thousands of miles across the American continent with an injured horse, when the most simple and affordable thing would be to shoot it and simply buy a new one? If you’re not a fanatic horse-lover, don’t bother to see this film. D.J. Mico, Sweden.

Rating 10

WRITING

A Film Review

Write a review of the film you have seen (use the useful phrases below). Include the following information:

- the title of the film
- the type of film
- the name of the director (if you can remember)
- any other information such as whether it is based on a book, where it was filmed, etc.
- the main actors and which characters they play
- a summary of the plot (in the present tense)
- what you particularly liked or didn’t like about the film

Useful phrases:

It’s directed by ...

It’s a romantic comedy / an action movie / a thriller / ...

It’s based on a book by

(Robert de Niro) plays the part of (rocky Marciano)

The film takes place in / was filmed in / ...

What I liked / didn’t like about it was ...

KEY (ex.2): a) 3; b) 6; c) 7; d) 5; e) 8; f) 2; g) 4; h) 1

KEY (ex.3): 9, 3, 7, 2

Source: Kay, S., Jones, V.: Inside Out (Intermediate), Macmillan

