

## 21

## SPOT THE MISTAKE!

**Aim**

To revise vocabulary used for talking critically about films

**Language**

Vocabulary for different types of film or different elements of a film (*blockbuster, screenplay, plot*)

Language used to talk about these (*on location, corny, harrowing*)

**Skills**

Reading, speaking

**Lesson link**

Use after Classbook Lesson 21

**Materials**

One copy of the *Worksheet* per group of three or four (or ideally, one per student)

**Pre-activity (5–15 minutes)**

- Tell the students you saw a film or video last night that you really enjoyed and that they must see! (Make sure you have a film in mind that you can talk about!) Tell them they have to find out what it was by asking you *yes / no* questions e.g. *Is it a comedy? Did it get any Oscars?* If it proves too difficult, after a few minutes start giving them clues, e.g. the name of the director, the setting.
- If the class enjoys this, they can continue with one of them thinking of a film, either as a whole class or in two or three groups, depending on the size of the class.

**Procedure (20–30 minutes)**

- Write on the board *The film is a touching human drama with a hilarious performance from the leading actor* and ask students what's wrong with it. (It doesn't make sense; you probably wouldn't have a hilarious performance in this type of film.) Ask them to suggest an adjective that *would* be appropriate here (e.g. *moving, subtle, restrained*).
- Tell the class they are going to read some extracts from film reviews with similar mistakes in the use of vocabulary.
- Divide the class into teams of three or four and give out the *Worksheet*.
- Give a time limit of ten minutes to identify the mistake in each sentence and think of a way to improve it by using a more appropriate word or making another type of change to the sentence.
- Ask each team in turn to identify the mistake in one of the sentences and suggest an improvement. They get one point for correctly identifying the mistake and one for a correct alternative suggestion. If a team cannot answer or gives an unacceptable answer, the question passes to the next team.

**Note** You can decide which team has which sentence (e.g. by picking the numbers out of an envelope) or teams can opt for the sentences they feel most confident about.

**Extension activity**

- Students prepare their own *Spot the Mistake!* sentences using vocabulary connected with films, either in their teams or individually at home for use in the following lesson.

**Suggested answers**

- |             |   |
|-------------|---|
| 1 Mistake   | its <i>corny</i> plot   |
| Improvement | <i>gripping / intriguing / exciting</i>                           |
| 2 Mistake   | a <i>blockbuster</i> can't be made on a <i>shoe-string</i> budget |
| Improvement | leave out <i>blockbuster</i>                                      |
| or          | <i>enormous / colossal / huge</i> budget                          |
| 3 Mistake   | <i>music</i> and <i>score</i> are the same thing                  |
| Improvement | change one to <i>screenplay / direction / costumes</i>            |
| 4 Mistake   | <i>harrowing</i> humour   |
| Improvement | <i>slapstick / surreal / wacky</i>                                |
| 5 Mistake   | an <i>original screenplay</i> can't be an adaptation              |
| Improvement | leave out <i>original</i>   |

- |             |   |
|-------------|---|
| 6 Mistake   | <i>touching</i> performance                                       |
| Improvement | <i>chilling / memorable / great / dreadful</i>                    |
| 7 Mistake   | a <i>flop</i>   |
| Improvement | a ( <i>box-office</i> ) <i>hit / smash</i>                        |
| 8 Mistake   | a <i>cult movie</i> suggests it's <i>not</i> a box office success |
| Improvement | a <i>cult movie</i> <i>but not</i> a box office success           |
| 9 Mistake   | <i>slapstick humour</i> can't be <i>understated</i>               |
| Improvement | <i>understated</i> <i>dry / witty</i> humour                      |
| or          | <i>hilarious</i> <i>slapstick</i> humour                          |
| 10 Mistake  | a <i>trailer</i> is not part of the film                          |
| Improvement | <i>action-packed</i> <i>sequences</i>                             |
| 11 Mistake  | an <i>overstated</i> performance                                  |
| Improvement | <i>understated</i>  |
| 12 Mistake  | <i>tedious</i> dialogue   |
| Improvement | <i>witty / slick / entertaining</i>                               |

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## Worksheet

