THE MOVIES — TRANSCRIPT AND NOTES

DIALOGUE

MAN: What shall we do¹ this weekend?

WOMAN: I don’t know. What would you like to do?

MAN: Why don’t we² go to the pictures³?

WOMAN: That’s a good idea. We haven’t been⁴ to the cinema for ages⁵. What’s on⁶?

MAN: Well, we could⁷ go and see the latest Bond movie.

WOMAN: You know I hate action movies. I’d rather⁸ go and see that new romcom⁹ with Hugh Grant.

MAN: I can’t stand¹⁰ Hugh Grant. He’s a terrible actor.

WOMAN: Well, it’s either that or a three-hour¹¹ French drama with subtitles.

MAN: Let’s¹² just stay home and watch a DVD instead. We can order a pizza!

LISTENING

I really enjoy¹³ going to the pictures with my friends most weekends. I usually check the film listings in the newspaper or online to see what’s showing. I also read the film reviews because I don’t want to see a bad film, especially as it’s so expensive nowadays.

I prefer to arrive early at the cinema so we don’t have to queue¹⁴ too long to buy tickets. Sometimes, the film we want to see¹⁵ is sold out¹⁶, so we might buy a ticket for a later showing.

I usually sit in an aisle¹⁷ seat somewhere in the middle of the cinema. I think you can see the film better, instead of straining your eyes if you are unfortunate enough¹⁸ to sit in the front few rows.

One thing I don’t like is when people in the audience talk during the movie, or check their mobile phones. That really annoys me. Everyone should be able to¹⁹ enjoy the film in peace.

My favourite films are Hollywood blockbusters²⁰. I love the Avengers series and can’t wait to see the new Star Wars movie. On the other hand, I try to avoid going²¹ to see old black and white foreign films with subtitles. They can be really boring²²!

QUESTIONS

- When did you last go to the cinema, and what did you see?
- Who did you go with?
- What sort of movies do you like best?
- What’s your favourite movie and why?
- What do you think about 3D movies?
1. Note the difference between ‘What shall we do …’, which is used to ask for suggestions, and ‘What will we do …’, which is used to ask for information: ‘What will we do this weekend?’ (= what are we going to do).

2. Why don’t we … is a fixed expression used for making suggestions: Why don’t we/you ask Peter?

3. In Britain people talk about going to the pictures; in America, they say ‘the movies’.

4. Note the construction here: present perfect + for + duration. You could also say ‘It’s ages since we went to the cinema’ (using the past simple tense).

5. Ages means ‘a long time’: I spent ages looking for my keys.

6. What’s on (at the cinema or on TV) means ‘What films (or programmes) are they showing?’

7. We could … is another expression used to make a suggestion: We could go to France this summer.

8. I’d rather is a contraction of ‘I would rather’, and means ‘I would prefer to’. Note that ‘I’d rather’ is followed by the infinitive without ‘to’: I’d rather not talk about it.

9. Romcom is an abbreviation of ‘romantic comedy’, the type of film that British actor Hugh Grant often appears in.

10. If you can’t stand someone or something, you really don’t like them. You can also use a gerund: I can’t stand watching reality shows on TV.

11. Note that we say a three-hour drama and not a three-hours drama. The rule is that when a number and a noun form a modifier before a noun (as in ‘six-storey building’), you make the noun singular and hyphenate the expression. Examples: two-week holiday, fifteen-month-old baby, ten-ton truck, etc.

12. Let’s (short for ‘let us’) + infinitive without ‘to’ is the third expression for making a suggestion in this dialogue: Let’s have a party!

13. Note that the verb to enjoy is followed by a gerund and never by an infinitive: I enjoy swimming but not I enjoy to swim.

14. The Americans say ‘wait in line’: We had to wait in line for two hours to get the tickets. Note that ‘queue’ is pronounced just like the letter ‘Q’, and can also be a noun: The queue was incredibly long.

15. You could say ‘the film that we want to see’ but the relative pronoun ‘that’ is often omitted in everyday speech.

16. If something is sold out, there are none left to buy. Strictly speaking, it’s the tickets that are sold out.

17. Aisle is pronounced like ‘I’ll’ (I will). You also find aisles in supermarkets and planes.

18. Note that enough always comes after the noun: It’s not big enough, not It’s not enough big.

19. The modal verb ‘can’ does not have an infinitive form so we use be able to instead.

20. A blockbuster is a Hollywood movie that’s made with a large budget and big stars. The original meaning was a very large high-explosive bomb!

21. Note that we use a gerund after the verb ‘to avoid’: Please avoid using (not ‘to use’) slang in your essays.

22. Adjectives that end ‘-ed’ (e.g. ‘bored’, ‘interested’) and adjectives that end ‘-ing’ (e.g. ‘boring’, ‘interesting’) are often confused. Adjectives that end in ‘-ed’ tell us how people feel about something: I was very bored in the maths lesson. I almost fell asleep. Adjectives that end in ‘-ing’ describe the thing that causes the emotion: A boring lesson makes you feel bored.
A. MATCH THE WORDS WITH THE PICTURES

actor  popcorn  queue  director  ticket  seat

cinema  Oscars  aisle  projector  audience  screen
I really enjoy (1) **going** to the pictures with my friends (2) **most/mostly** weekends. I usually check the film listings in the newspaper or online to see what’s (3) **shown/showing**. I also read the film reviews because I don’t want to see a bad film, especially as it’s (4) **so/such** expensive nowadays.

I prefer to arrive (5) **early/soon** at the cinema so we don’t have to queue (6) **too/to long** to buy tickets. Sometimes, the film we want to see is sold (7) **up/out**, so we might buy a ticket for a (8) **later/latest** showing.

I usually sit in an aisle seat somewhere in the middle of the cinema. I think you can see the film (9) **best/better**, instead of straining your eyes if you are (10) **unfortunate/unfortunately** enough to sit in the front few rows.

One thing I don’t like is when people in the audience (11) **talk/discuss** during the movie, or check their mobile phones. That really annoys me. Everyone (12) **could/should** be able to enjoy the film in peace.

My favourite films are Hollywood blockbusters. I love the Avengers series and (13) **don’t/can’t** wait to see the new Star Wars movie. On (14) **another/the other** hand, I try to avoid (15) **going/to go** to see old black and white foreign films with subtitles. They can be really (16) **boring/bored**!
THE MOVIES — CROSSWORD

Across

3 Americans say movie theater, the British say ____ (6)
7 A line of seats (3)
9 What you sit on (4)
10 You need one to get in (6)
12 The Transformers movies are directed by Michael ____ (3)
13 I wish people would switch ____ their mobile phones at the cinema (3)
16 Spielberg sci-fi movie (2)
18 Translation at the bottom of the screen (9)
21 That's the ____ I've ever seen (5)
22 Person who acts in movies (5)
23 Our local cinema has a two-for-one ____ on Wednesdays (5)
26 The film got a very good ____ in The Guardian (6)
27 American movie awards (6)
28 No seats left (4,3)
29 I ____ three movies last week (3)

Down

1 How often do you ____ to the movies? (2)
2 Popular, big budget movie (11)
3 Funny film (6)
4 Way out (4)
5 Passage between rows of seats (5)
6 Serious film (5)
7 Romantic comedy (6)
8 Let's ____ a movie on DVD (5)
11 Scary ____ (5)
14 Alfred Hitchcock was a British ____ director (4)
15 They show what movies are playing (8)
17 People like to eat this during a movie (7)
19 ____ to the Future (4)
20 Space fantasy franchise (4,4)
24 I hate sitting in the ____ row (5)
25 Most cinemas ____ tickets online these days (4)
SOLUTION

G  B  C I N E M A D
O  R  W  L  O  X  I  R
O  A  O  M  I  S  E  A T
M  T  I  C  K  E  T  T  L  M
C  C  K  D  M  E  A
O  H  B  A  Y  O  F  F  L
M  U  V  I  S  A  I
P  S  U  B  T  I  T  L  E  S
W  O  R  S  T  A  E  M  T  T
P  E  C  A  I
A  C  T  O  R  K  O  F  F  E  R  N
O  S  R  W  G
R  E  V  I  E  W  O  S  C  A  R  S
N  L  N  R
S  O  L  D  O  U  T  S  A  W
THE MOVIES — WORD SEARCH

Actor
Aisle
Back
Blockbuster
Cast
Cinema
Comedy
Director
Drama
Film
Front
Hollywood
Listings
Movie
Oscars

Producer
Queue
Review
Romcom
Screen
Seat
Showing
Sold out
Subtitles
Ticket
Watch

L P R O D U C E R R W C A S T
I S S U B T I T L E S A R G X
S S H O W I N G Y O D L T O L
T W G J O I E R E K A N Q C W
I M O V I E M P Q U E U E D H
N Q R F B Z A O Q E F A V I P
G Q H R O Z A P R V A I D R C
S R D O B L O C K B U S T E R
W D M N L T S O Q S A L H C E
I I O T E L A R L L M E I T V
X W S K A F Y N H O K T A O I
Q H C M B I M W C I A I C R E
G I A V A L I M O E P Z T S W
T R R J C M O P S O L D O U T
D W S V K R C O M E D Y R V X

Popcorn
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Romcom
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Ticket
Watch
SOLUTION