Listen to the film reviews to practise and improve your listening skills.

# Before listening

Do the preparation task first. Then listen to the audio and do the exercises.

## Preparation task

Match the definitions (a–h) with the vocabulary (1–8).

**Vocabulary Definition**

Listening: B2

Film reviews

1. …b… a character
2. …g… pace
3. …a… a sequel
4. …d… to set
5. …e… a poster
6. …h… special effects
7. …f… to cast
8. …c… the plot

# Tasks

## Task 1

* 1. the second, third, fourth, etc. of a film or book
  2. a person in a story
  3. the story
  4. to locate a film or book in a place
  5. a large picture to advertise a film
  6. to choose actors
  7. the speed of the events of a story
  8. computer graphics or other ways of making amazing scenes for films and television

Write the descriptions in the correct group.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| is the second in the story | was better than the reviewer expected | has unrealistic characters | The reviewer hated it. |
| The reviewer felt sympathetic towards the characters. | made the reviewer feel like a child again | was what the reviewer expected | is a story a lot of people already know |
|  | | | |
| **the first film** | | **the second film** | |
| * is the second in the story * has unrealistic characters * The reviewer hated it. * was what the reviewer expected | | * was better than the reviewer expected * The reviewer felt sympathetic towards the characters. * made the reviewer feel like a child again * is a story a lot of people already know | |

## Task 2

Are the sentences true or false?

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Answer** | | |
| 1. The reviewer didn’t think she was going to enjoy the first film. | True | False |
| 2. The first scene of the first film is important for the rest of the film. | True | False |
| 3. The reviewer was glad the first film was set in a different country. | True | False |
| 4. There is another sequel planned for the first film. | True | False |
| 5. The reviewer had some doubts about the actors who were chosen for the second film. | True | False |
| 6. The second film made the reviewer think about her children. | True | False |

## Discussion

What was the last film you watched? What did you think of it?

# Transcript

Obviously, this is the sequel to *Fun in the City*, which is a film I didn’t like so it’s fair to say my expectations were low. So, you could say I wasn’t disappointed, as it met my expectations. It was awful! It was so awful, I’d rather not spend any more time on it by talking about it. But, that wouldn’t be a film review and I think I owe you all a review to save you wasting your money going to see it.

So, it starts off with this big wedding scene. And, I won’t go into why, but the whole scene is just there so they can make this one joke. It’s not even a funny joke ... it’s just, ah, it’s just terrible. It’s got nothing to do with the rest of the film. Anyway, it starts there. Then, instead of the characters and the plot staying in New York where the original film was set, one of them wins a ticket to India and decides to take all her friends. It’s what directors do when they’ve run out of ideas … let’s take our characters on tour!

Anyway, they gossip, cry and shop, and they repeat this until the end. No real people would ever act like this. I didn’t have any sympathy for their problems or even care what happened to them. Don’t go and see it, you’ll only encourage them to make another sequel. The world doesn’t need three of these films. Please save your money and go and see the other big film this week: *Twilight Mirror*.

So, if you’re a fan of the book it’s based on, you’re probably as excited as I was about this. For everyone else, this is a film fans have been waiting ten years to see. I have to confess, I was a bit nervous. I’d seen the posters and they didn’t look right. I didn’t love them at all. And I wasn’t sure about the actors they cast either. So I went in not sure what to expect. But … I loved it.

One thing I really liked about it was the pace. They went backwards and forwards between the real world and the computer world and it worked really well. The special effects brought the computer world to life and I totally believed in it. But, more than that, I felt emotionally connected to the story and the characters. The whole film worked on so many levels. It reminded me of going to the cinema as a child – how much fun that was. I can’t recommend it enough.

# Answers

## Preparation task

* + 1. b
    2. g
    3. a
    4. d
    5. e
    6. h
    7. f
    8. c

## Task 1

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **the first film** | **the second film** |
| is the second in the story  was what the reviewer expected has unrealistic characters  The reviewer hated it. | is a story a lot of people already know was better than the reviewer expected  The reviewer felt sympathetic towards the characters.  made the reviewer feel like a child again |

**Task 2**

1. True
2. False
3. False
4. False
5. True
6. False