

**Using Films in the ESOL Classroom: Level B1 – B2**

The resources in this section consist of 5 units aimed at level B1-B2 which focus on the topic of films and film-making in the ESOL classroom. Developed as part of the international DELFI project (Development of European Languages for Immigrants), the aim of these materials is to promote the learning of English using the context of film-making, but at the same time to encourage individual participation and teamwork to promote a sense of inclusion and integration. Whilst some units are centred on producing a film with the learners, this is by no means the sole aim of the resources: each unit consists of a wide variety of film lexis, discussion topics and grammar activities which can be completed independently, if time and resources do not permit for a film-making project with the group. *[It should, however, be noted that these units do not contain instructions for the teacher on the technical side of producing a film such as use of a video camera or computer software.]*

Each unit is clearly laid out with an overview at the start, listing the aims of the unit, approximate timing and materials needed, as well as the language skills that will be covered. This is followed by detailed instructions for the teacher accompanied by learner worksheets and interactive classroom activities, which are carried out in pairs, groups or as a whole class.

Brief outline of the units:

1. Analysing Films Part A: Still Images

This unit aims to raise awareness of some aspects of making a short, simple film using still images (e.g. photographs). A film about Fair Trade is used as a basis for discussion and analysis, but equally another film may be used. Three basic premises of making a still image film are discussed and analysed and useful language for comparing and contrasting is focused on.

1. Analysing Films Part B: Moving Images

This unit involves a more in-depth analysis of film-making - it covers types of camera shots and how and why these can be used. Plenty of opportunity for group discussions and a short film is shown and focused on as a basis for the analysis.

1. Planning a Film

The different stages of planning a film, the order in which these should be done, and an introduction to storyboarding are looked at. However, if your group is not producing a film this unit also contains a variety of activities, including a film vocabulary dominoes game and focus on the language function of asking for and giving opinion, with accompanying exercises and interactive speaking activities.

1. Fim-making about Learners’ Countries

The language focus of this unit is ‘describing your country’ (*e.g. weather, people, culture, food e.t.c.),* use of the construction ‘What ….like?’ and the comparative. This unit can be completed as a stand-alone unit, with learners interviewing one another and learning about each other’s countries, or as part of your film-making project.

1. Films and the Cinema

In this final unit learners consider film genres and common film terminology associated with modern movies and going to the cinema. Use of the passive voice in the context of films is the grammar focus in this unit.

The group of learners who participated in this part of the DELFI project were of mixed gender, aged between 25–40, and of a variety of nationalities and cultural backgrounds (Latvian, Polish and Kurdish). Having different nationalities in the group lead to the decision to make a film about the learners’ home countries, as they particularly enjoyed sharing information and learning about each other’s backgrounds. Producing their own film while improving their language skills was what learners in the group expressed to be most satisfying about the project. The teamwork and enthusiasm demonstrated by the group particularly impressed their tutor. Please note that the timings on each until (mostly 90 minutes – 2 hours) do not take into account the actual film-making process (research, setting up, filming on location, etc.). Depending on the film length, considerably more time will need to be factored in if these units are used in conjunction with producing a class film.