

23. FILMS AND BOOKS

A

Talking about films and books

When a new **book** or **film comes out**, newspapers and websites, like BookLikes and IMDB, will review it. The people who **review the book/film** are called **book reviewers / film critics** and they write **book/film reviews**. If they don't like a book/film they **give it a bad review**. We can say that a novel or film is **based on a true story**. We say that a **book/film captures** an atmosphere or that a **book/film deals with** a topic. We talk about the **opening/closing scenes** of a film and the **opening/closing chapters** of a book. We talk about the **beginning** and **end of a book/film** (NOT start and finish). If everything works out well for the **central characters**, we say that the book/film **has a happy ending**. You may **recommend a book/film** that you enjoyed to a friend. If a lot of people have enjoyed it, it is **highly recommended**.

B

Just about films and acting

I've never had any desire to **go on the stage**¹ myself but I'd love to produce a film. I think historical dramas work particularly well on **the big screen**² and I'd love to make a film about Vikings in Britain. There'd be plenty of opportunities to use **special effects**³ during battle scenes. I'd want the **male lead**⁴ to be played by Hugh Jackman, while Jennifer Lawrence could have the **female lead**. Liam Neeson could **play the role of** a Viking warrior and I'd like Judi Dench to take on a **cameo role**⁵. I'm sure that, as always, she would **give an excellent performance**. My dream is to make a film that would be **nominated for an Oscar**⁶. Of course, I'd also like it to be an immediate **box-office hit**⁷, playing to **full houses**⁸ worldwide.

¹ become an actor

⁵ small but special part

² the cinema

⁶ put on the official list of people in the film world

³ powerful visual effects,

who may receive a special prize (an Oscar)

often created using technology

⁷ extremely successful with audiences

⁴ main male part

⁸ cinemas/theatres with no empty seats

C

Just about books, audiobooks and e-books

collocation	example
be engrossed/absorbed in a book	Claudia was so engrossed/absorbed in her book that she didn't hear me.
compulsive reading	Many people find articles about the private lives of film stars compulsive reading . [so interesting you can't stop reading]
bedtime reading	I don't think a horror story makes good bedtime reading .
an easy read	Detective stories are good for train journeys as they're an easy read .
download an audiobook / an e-book reader app	You can look up the latest book releases and download an audiobook from the iTunes store. I've just helped my mother download an e-book reader app on her tablet.
flick/skim through a book	Mona flicked/skimmed through the book without reading it in detail.
beautifully written	The book is beautifully written – I highly recommend it.

Common mistakes

Critics **review** books and films, NOT **criticise** them. To **criticise** a book or film means to say negative things about it.

Remember that you **watch television**, NOT **see** television, but you can **see** or **watch a film** or **programme** on television. We usually say **see a film** at the cinema.

EXERCISES

23.1 Use collocations from A opposite instead of the underlined words in this conversation. The conversation has no errors, but the changes will improve it.

Matthew: Have you downloaded that new e-book that has just appeared about Ireland?

Camilla: No, I don't use my e-book reader app much and I don't visit websites with articles discussing new books. What's it about?

Matthew: Well, it concerns the Irish War of Independence. It's very authentic and it manages to give the atmosphere of Ireland at the beginning of the 20th century.

Camilla: Is it just historical facts, then?

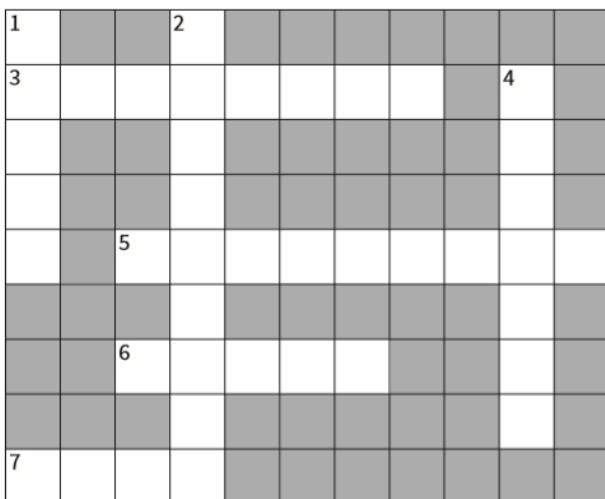
Matthew: No, the main people are two brothers who have different opinions about the war and this divides their family. In the first chapters they're happy and do everything together, but by the last chapter they have become enemies.

Camilla: Mm, it sounds a bit depressing to me.

Matthew: Well, it certainly doesn't finish in a happy way, but I liked it, and it's recommended very much by all the critics.

Camilla: So, a book with a pleasant start and a sad finish. Not for me, I'm afraid. I prefer the opposite.

23.2 Complete the crossword.



Across

3 I was completely — in my book and didn't realise how late it had got.

5 An alternative to 3 across.

6 He wants to go on the —. He's always wanted to be an actor.

7 Who played the male — in *Destination Saturn*?

Down

1 — role means 'small but special part in a film/play'.

2 The film was — for an Oscar but it didn't win.

4 It was an amazing film about space travel, with fantastic special —.

23.3 Match the words in the box on the left with their collocations on the right.

full big bedtime
female box-office

screen reading
lead hit house

23.4 Complete these collocations.

1 shoot / star in / make a

2 download an

3 flick / skim through a

4 compulsive / bedtime

Over to you

Online bookshops, as well as book and film review websites, often have mini-reviews and descriptions of books and films. Find a review of a book or film that you know and note down any interesting collocations in it.

ANSWERS

23.1 Matthew: Have you downloaded that new e-book that has just **come out** about Ireland?
Camilla: No, I don't use my e-book reader app much and I don't visit websites with **book reviews**. What's it about?
Matthew: Well, it **deals with** the Irish War of Independence. It's very authentic and it manages to **capture the atmosphere** of Ireland at the beginning of the 20th century.
Camilla: Is it just historical facts, then?
Matthew: No, the **central characters** are two brothers who have different opinions about the war and this divides their family. In the **opening chapters** they're happy and do everything together, but by the **closing chapter** they have become enemies.
Camilla: Mm, it sounds a bit depressing to me.
Matthew: Well, it certainly doesn't **have a happy ending**, but I liked it, and it's **highly recommended** by all the critics.
Camilla: So, a book with a pleasant **beginning** and a sad **end(ing)**. Not for me, I'm afraid. I prefer the opposite.

	Across	Down
3	absorbed	1 cameo
5	engrossed	2 nominated
6	stage	4 effects
7	lead	

23.3 full house
bedtime reading
box-office hit
big screen
female lead

23.4 1 film
2 audiobook / e-book reader app 3 book/magazine/article
 4 reading