Film reviews

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
1. ...... a character	a. the second, third, fourth, etc. of a film or book
2. ...... pace	b. a person in a story
3. ...... a sequel	c. the story
4. ...... to set	d. to locate a film or book in a place
5. ...... a poster	e. a large picture to advertise a film
6. ...... special effects	f. to choose actors
7. ...... to cast	g. the speed of the events of a story
8. ...... the plot	h. computer graphics or other ways of making amazing scenes for films and television

Tasks

Task 1
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

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?

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

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