



Lecture 7

Analyzing Popular Culture

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Sub-Topics

1. Talking about their favorite movies, songs, influencer or celebrities, or TV shows.
2. Comparing different genres of music or film.
3. Discussing the impact of social media on entertainment.
4. Writing a short review of a book, movie, or game.

Language Features

1. Adjectives for Opinions and Descriptions
2. Expressing Opinions and Preferences
3. Comparison (similar to, the same as, equal to, both..., and not only...but also)
4. Idioms and Phrasal Verbs Related to Entertainment
5. Cause and Effect Sentences (since, as, due to, because (of))
6. Appositives
7. Complex sentences with adjective clauses(Subject: who, which; object: whom)

Learning Objectives

By the end of the lesson, students will be able to:

1. Use a range of adjectives and opinion phrases to describe cultural products.
2. Compare and Contrast different pop culture phenomena.
3. Use idioms and phrasal verbs commonly used in entertainment contexts.
4. Express cause and effect clearly in discussion and writing.
5. Use appositive and adjective clauses to enrich writing

What's your favorite . . ?

Movie?

Song?

Hollywood Actor/ celebrity?

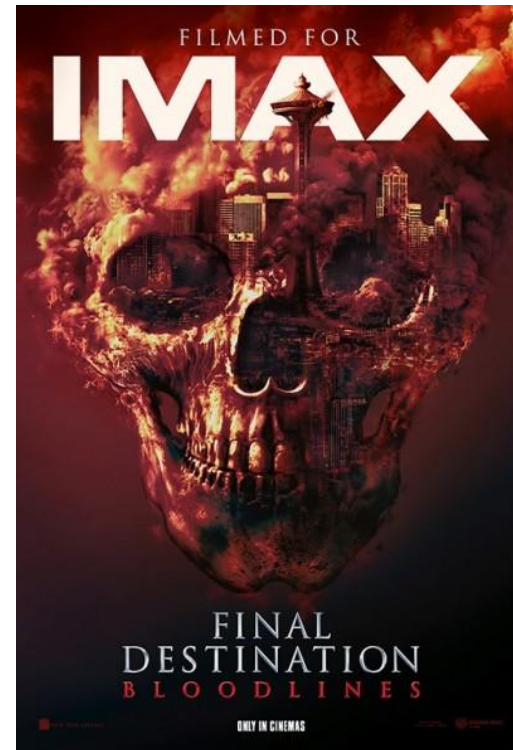
Model?

Youtuber?

Vlogger?

Food reviewer?

Movie



Source: <https://21cineplex.com/>

Adjectives & Present simple (be)

Tell me about your favorite movie/song, etc.

Word	US Pronunciation (IPA)	Word	US Pronunciation (IPA)
exciting	/ɪk'saɪ.tɪŋ/	emotional	/ɪ'moʊ.ʃən.əl/
boring	/'bɔːr.ɪŋ/	impressive	/ɪm'pres.ɪv/
inspiring	/ɪn'spaɪr.ɪŋ/	touching	/'tʌtʃ.ɪŋ/
dramatic	/drə'mæt.ɪk/	annoying	/ə'noɪ.ɪŋ/
hilarious	/hɪ'ler.i.əs/	creative	/kri'eɪ.tɪv/
unique	/ju'ni:k/	powerful	/'paʊ.ə.fəl/
overrated	/,oʊ.və'reɪ.tɪd/	entertaining	/,en.tə'teɪ.nɪŋ/

Adjectives for describing Entertainment

Word	Meaning
exciting	Make you want to do something
boring	Make you feel something strong
inspiring	Extremely funny
dramatic	Something different and you have never seen before
hilarious	Uninteresting
unique	Unusual ideas
creative	Make you feel slightly angry
annoying	making you feel excited

It is so inspiring.

Affirmative statements with <i>Be</i>		
Subject	Be/ Auxiliary	Adjectives
I	am	funny
You	are	
She/He/It	is	
We	are	
You	are	
They	are	

(Source: Pavlik, C., & Bland, S. K. (2004). *Grammar Sense: Student Book 1*. Oxford University Press. Pg. 156)

A sentence about ...

Word	Sentences
exciting	It was an exciting action.
boring	
inspiring	
dramatic	
hilarious	
unique	
creative	
annoying	

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gonAaBYuB-g>

Upgrade your sentences

I think _____ is more interesting than _____.

In my opinion, _____ is the funniest youtuber.

Compared to _____, this song is much more touching.

_____ has better plot than _____

_____ is not as funny as _____

Unlike _____, this celebrity has _____

This movie is similar to _____, but it has a different style.

Do you agree?

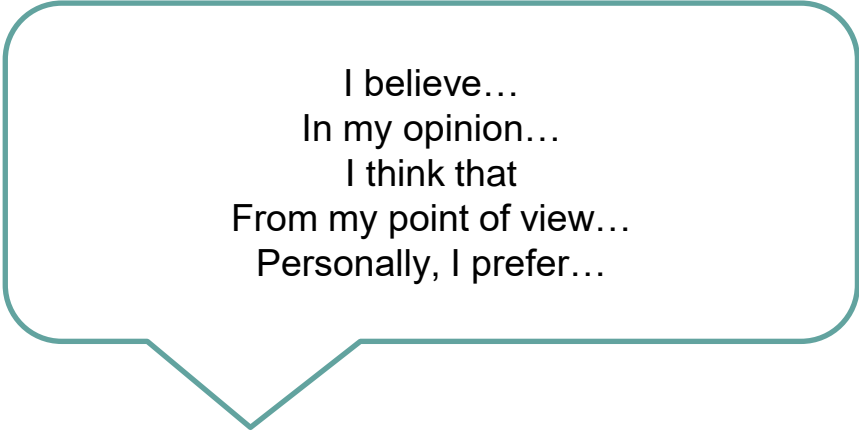
Do you agree that action movie are better than romantic movies?

What kind of movies do you enjoy the most? Why?

In your opinion, what makes an artist so inspiring?

Do you think a song can change someone's feeling?

Which do you prefer: watching TV or YouTube?



I believe...
In my opinion...
I think that
From my point of view...
Personally, I prefer...

Opinion Phrases

Function	Expressions
Stating an opinion	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- I think...- In my opinion...- I believe...- From my point of view...
Agreeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- I agree with you.- That's true.- You're right.- I feel the same way.
Disagreeing politely	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- I see your point, but...- I'm not so sure about that.- I respect your opinion, but...
Asking for opinions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- What do you think?- Do you agree?- What's your opinion on this?

Stating Preferences: prefer & would rather

When you say what you prefer in general, you can use **prefer to...** or **Prefer -ing**

I prefer to stay at home.	I prefer staying at home.
I prefer to listen pop song.	I prefer listening to Jazz.

Personally I prefer
I'd rather watch
I'm more into
If I had to choose, I'd go with

Which do you prefer?

prefer YouTube	to Tiktok
prefer watching comedy	to watching drama rather than (watching) drama
prefer to watch a documentary	rather than (watch) reality show

Would you prefer?

Would prefer to say what somebody wants in a specific situation.

Would you prefer this movie or that movie?

Shall we listen to rock music?	I'd prefer to listen to jazz.
Do you want to go to the pop concert?	I'd prefer to stay home and listen to classical music.
I'd prefer to listen to K-pop rather than heavy metal.	

Would rather (I'd rather)

	I'd rather do something I'd rather to do something
Do you want to go to the pop concert?	I'd prefer to stay home and listen to classical music. I'd rather stay home . . .
Which would you prefer to do, listen to. . . Or . . . ?	Which would you rather do, listen to. . . Or . . . ?
	I'd rather not watch horror movie.
I'd prefer to listen to k-pop rather than heavy metal.	I'd rather watch action movie than watch horror one.
	I'd rather somebody did something I'd rather somebody do something
I'd prefer you not to play the song loudly	I'd rather you didn't play the song loudly.

(Source: Murphy, R. (2019). *English Grammar in Use - Fifth Edition*. Cambridge University Press. p. 118)

Exercise

Match the sentences beginnings with the correct endings.

Sentence Beginnings	Sentence Endings
A. I'd prefer to listen to jazz...	1. ...play that song loudly.
B. I'd rather listen to classical music...	2. ...than go to a concert tonight.
C. I'd rather you didn't...	3. ...than K-pop.
D. I'd prefer to stay home...	4. ...than watch a music video.

Exercise

Complete the sentences using “I’d prefer to...”, “I’d rather...”, or “I’d rather you didn’t...”

1. I’m really tired tonight. _____ (go out / stay home and listen to music).
2. That song is too loud. _____ (you / play it again).
3. This song is nice, but _____ (listen / something more upbeat).
4. I don’t like rock music. _____ (you / change the playlist).
5. She wants to sing, but _____ (just / enjoy the music quietly).

Why do you like it better?

I prefer pop music to rock because it is calmer than other genres.

→ Pop music is *similar to* poetry, while rock is *not only* loud *but also* powerful.

From my point of view, Dwayne Johnson is the best actor in the world.\

→ His action is *not the same as* other actors I've watched

Comparison Signals

Similar/equal/the same	Adjectives → describing nouns. YouTube's and Tiktok's concepts are similar/equal/the same.
Similar to Equal to (just) like The same as	Act like prepositions (In front of nouns) Rowan Atkinson's performance is similar to/(just) like/ the same as Ethan Hunt
Equally	Adverb → Describing verbs, adjectives, other adverbs Dwayne Johnson and Rowan Atkinson are equally professional.
Both...and Not only ... but also	Paired conjunctions The two actors are <i>both</i> professional <i>and</i> friendly. He is <i>not only</i> smart <i>but also</i> creative

(Source: Oshima, A., & Hogue, A. (2007). *Introduction to academic writing* (p. 3). London: Pearson. p.115)

Exercise

Complete the sentences using correct comparison structure

1. This movie is _____ the one we watched last month – exactly same story!
2. _____ jazz and pop are amazing
3. The number of viewers of his Instagram post is _____ the number on Tiktok.

Write Complete Sentences

Example: K-Pop / Indonesian Pop (not the same as) → K-Pop is not the same as Indonesian Pop

1. This music/ the one we listen last week (similar to)
2. Ariana Grande/ Mariah Carey (both...and)
3. Ed-Sheeran's performance/ Taylor swift's performance (not only...but also)

Expression	Meaning	Example
Hit the big time	Become very successful	They hit the big time after her last incredible performance.
In the limelight	Receive public attention	The guitarist has been in the limelight since his last performance.
Take the stage	Begin performing	The speaker took the stage to deliver her speech.
Star-studded	Full of famous people	This is a star-studded group.
Out of tune	Singing incorrectly	I didn't expect he sings out of tune.
Pay it by ear	Do something without planning	We need to go, even though we just play it by ear.
Go off the charts	Greatly popular	The last released movie went off the charts.
Live up to the hype	Something is as good as expected	The story's resolution really lived up to the hype!
Sing one's heart out	Sing with great passion	They sang their hearts out on the stage.

🎵 Word Bank:

hit the big time, in the limelight, take the stage, star-studded, out of tune, play it by ear, go off the charts, live up to the hype, sing your heart out

🗣️ Dialogue 1: At the Music Festival

A: Did you hear about Luna's performance last night?

B: Yeah! She really _____. The crowd went wild!

A: I know! That girl can really _____. I've never heard someone sing like that live.

B: And the whole event was so _____. I even saw some movie stars there.

A: Same! And her album just _____ this week. She's finally _____!

🗣️ Dialogue 2: Backstage Before a Show

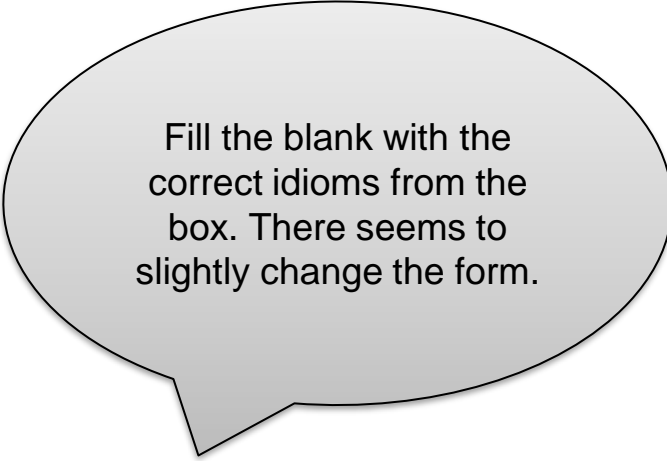
A: I'm so nervous. I don't know what to say if I win.

B: Don't worry. Just _____. Speak from the heart.

A: You're right. I hope I'm not too nervous to _____.

B: You'll be great. Just make sure your guitar isn't _____ this time!

A: Haha, yeah. I still can't believe we're going to _____ in front of so many people!



Fill the blank with the correct idioms from the box. There seems to slightly change the form.

Dialogue 1: At the Music Festival

A: Did you hear about Luna's performance last night?

B: Yeah! She really **took the stage**. The crowd went wild!

A: I know! That girl can really **sing her heart out**. I've never heard someone sing like that live.

B: And the whole event was so **star-studded**. I even saw some movie stars there.

A: Same! And her album just **went off the charts** this week. She's finally **hit the big time!**

Dialogue 2: Backstage Before a Show

A: I'm so nervous. I don't know what to say if I win.

B: Don't worry. Just **play it by ear**. Speak from the heart.

A: You're right. I hope I'm not too nervous to **take the stage**.

B: You'll be great. Just make sure your guitar isn't **out of tune** this time!

A: Haha, yeah. I still can't believe we're going to **be in the limelight** in front of so many people!

Consequently...

Why we like something?

Why do songs go viral so quickly?

Why are people more interested to be Tiktokers nowadays?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ekr2nlex040>

Cause & Effect

Connector	Structure	Example
because	[Cause] + because + [Effect]	I like documentaries because they are educational.
since / as	[Cause] + since/as + [Effect]	Since I enjoy learning, I often watch documentaries.
because of	[Cause] + because of + [noun/noun phrase]	She cried because of the sad movie.
due to	[Effect] + is/was + due to + [noun/noun phrase]	The delay was due to bad weather.

Why?

Why do you think Westlife band is so popular?	Since the singer always sing his heart out, this group band becomes so popular.
Why do you prefer pop music to rock?	I prefer pop music to rock because it is calmer than other genres, like rock.
Why does Dwyne Johnson always perform well in every scene?	He always hit the big time because of his professional action.
Why are you late?	I need to take other way to get here due to traffic congestion

Match the cause and effect clause

Cause	Effect
A. He was late	1. The emotional story
B. She cried	2. The traffic jam
C. The song became popular	3. It had catchy lyrics
D. They missed the movie	4. The long queue
E. Fans waited hours	5. Their car broke down

Writing practice

Create your own sentences:

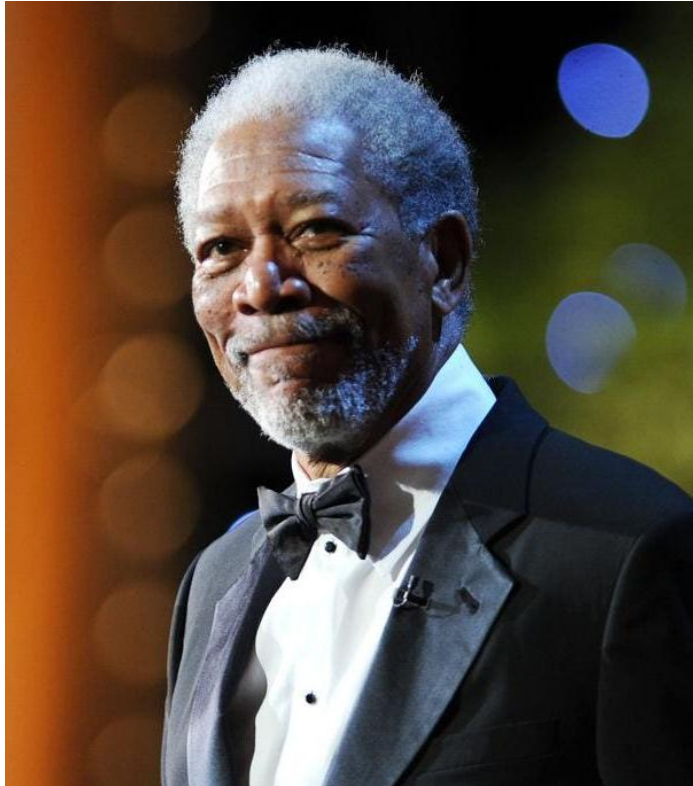
I enjoy this movie because...

The performance was delayed due to...

Since the bad weather, ...

What do you know?

Morgan Freeman



Leonardo DiCaprio



<https://www.forbes.com/sites/entertainment/article/greatest-actors-of-all-time/>


Let's practice

Cristiano Ronaldo plays football for charity.

BTS is a K-pop group

Westlife is a group band.

My friend is so popular in the class.



Let's make them
more detail.

Appositive

BTS, **a famous Korean girl band**, has million of fans all over the world.

a famous Korean girl band	Extra information
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My friend **Joy** is so popular in my class.

Joy	Necessary information
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Adjective clauses

The actor is from Paris → The actor **who won the award** is from Paris

Function	Connector	Example
Subject (person)	who	The singer who won a Grammy is from the US.
Subject (thing)	which	The song which topped the chart is a hit.
Object (person)	whom	The actor whom I met was very kind. (formal)
	that	The actor that I met was very kind.

Adjective clauses

The actor is from Paris → The actor **who won the award** is from Paris

	People	Thing	Necessary Information	Extra Information
The singer who won a Grammy is from the US.	Who		v	
The song which topped the chart is a hit.		Which	v	
The actor whom I met was very kind. (formal)	Whom		v	
The actor that I met was very kind.	That (informal)	that	v	
Christmas, which is on December, is a blessing day for Christian.		Which		v
The singer, whom we met last night, is popular in China	whom			v

(Oshima, A., Hogue, A., & Ravitch, L. (2017). *Longman academic writing series 4: Essays*. Pearson. pp. 133-137)

Give me more information

Match them!

The song	Whom millions follow is promoting some healthy products.
The singer	Who lead this making process of film is famous in my country.
The director	Which went viral is just sung by my mom.
The influencer	Who just performed has been in the limelight since his last performance.
The audience	Whom we just met is my parent's student.

The Power of Movies

In my opinion, movies have a significant impact on how we perceive certain situations. Through the actors and their actions, movies shape our preferences and daily conversations.

I personally prefer movies to concerts because they are more educational and related to real life. However, **both** movies and concerts can be entertaining. They **not only** attract large audiences **but also** influence fashion, language, and behavior.

Take Conclave, **a movie that went viral worldwide**, for example. The plot is **similar to** real-life events, but the message and cultural background make it unique. This movie is extremely popular, and its fan base is one of the most dedicated in the world. Their newest movie, **which was released in 2025**, quickly became popular and is often in the limelight. This success is partly **due to** their hard work and authentic connection with fans.

Another example is the film Oppenheimer, **which** received multiple awards. The director, **Christopher Nolan**, is known for creating films that combine science and emotion. His work **lives up to the hype**, and viewers often **binge-watch** his movies.

Movies also give rise to many expressions. For instance, when an actor's performance is exceptional, we say the actor **stole the show**. If something unexpected happens, we might just **play it by ear**.

As a result, movies don't just entertain us—they connect people from different backgrounds. I believe it is one of the most powerful tools of global communication today.

Let's summarize

Topic	Focus/Key Language	Examples
Adjectives for Opinions and Descriptions	Use descriptive adjectives to talk about movies, songs, influencers	That movie was thrilling and emotional.
Expressing Opinions and Preferences	"I believe...", "In my opinion...", "Personally, I prefer...", "I'd rather..."	Personally, I prefer documentaries to reality shows. I'd rather stay home than go to a concert.
Comparison	similar to, the same as, equal to, both... and, not only... but also	This movie is similar to the one we watched last week. Both BTS and BLACKPINK are global stars."
Idioms & Phrasal Verbs (Entertainment)	"Hit the big time", "In the limelight", "Take the stage", "Go viral", "Out of tune", etc.	The indie artist went viral overnight. She took the stage confidently."
Cause and Effect	because, since, due to, as a result, therefore, consequently	She became famous because of her unique voice. The film was well-promoted, so it went viral."
Appositives	Noun/noun phrase giving extra information about another noun	BTS, a famous K-pop group, has millions of fans.
Complex Sentences with Adjective Clauses	who, which (subject); whom (object)	The actor who won the award is from Korea. The artist whom I met was very humble.

Wrap up

Language features	Topics covered
Narrative Tenses	Past Simple – Past Continuous - Past Perfect
Time Markers and Transition Words	First, Then, Suddenly, After that, While, Meanwhile, Finally
Direct and Indirect Speech	Quoting and reporting
Descriptive Language and Sensory Details	5 senses (sight, sound, touch, taste, smell)
Narrative style	First person, second, and third person narrative (I, mine, my, and us, you, they, she, he, it)

References

Hogue, A. (2014). *Longman academic writing series 2: Paragraphs*. Pearson

Murphy, R. (2019). *English Grammar in Use - Fifth Edition*. Cambridge University Press.

Oshima, A., & Hogue, A. (2007). *Introduction to academic writing* (ed. 3). Pearson/Longman)

Sounds conversion: https://luvvoice.com/#google_vignette

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ekr2nlex040>

<https://21cineplex.com>

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/entertainment/article/greatest-actors-of-all-time/>

Thank You