



English Class Topic

Online only

Upper and Middle English levels

Movie Stars: Matt Damon and Ben Affleck

Kinds of Movies: (TASK: *students should describe each with one word or a short phrase*)

action, adventure, animated, comedy, crime, drama, fantasy, historical, horror, romance, romantic comedy, sci-fi (science fiction), suspense/mystery, war, chick-flick, western.

Warm up question: What is your favorite kind of movie, and why?

Movie Ratings:

G = General audience

PG = Parental Guidance

PG-13 = some material may be inappropriate for under 13 years old

R = Restricted; parent must be with children under 17 years old

NC-17 = No Children under 18 years old

Phrases in the article:

[sth = something; sb = somebody]

seek fame and fortune = try to become famous and wealthy

start to turn heads = attract attention, often in a surprising and positive way

became a household name = was well-known by most people

leading men/women = famous movie stars whose name appears first on posters or movie credits

sequel = a story (book, film, etc) that continues a previous story

on a more personal note = referring to something about their private lives (vs their career, fame, etc)

on a more serious note = said when changing from a light topic to sth needing more attention (serious)

comes out on top = is the winner; is the best

Matt Damon and **Ben Affleck** have been best friends since childhood and have followed similar paths in life. They each dropped out of college and went to Hollywood in the late 1980s to seek fame and fortune. When success didn't come, in 1997 they wrote and starred in "Good Will Hunting," which won a Best Screenplay Oscar for them. Overnight, they started turning heads in Hollywood and became household names. Though their careers are going in different directions, they are still two of Hollywood's top leading men. Damon starred in two movies that became some of the most profitable movies of the 2000s: "Ocean's Eleven," "The Bourne Identity," and their sequels. Affleck starred in the blockbusters "Armageddon," "Pearl Harbor," and "The Sum of All Fears." In addition, Affleck got praise for the first movie he directed, which was "Gone Baby Gone." The second movie he directed, "The Town," proved to be a surprise success, making him one of the most in-demand directors in Hollywood. Later, Damon starred in "We Bought a Zoo," and Affleck starred in "Argo." On a more personal note, they both got married in 2005; Affleck now has three children, and Damon has four. Comparing the lives of these two men since their success began

in 1997, people disagree on which man has come out on top, but clearly both have been successful movie stars.

Other Movie Vocabulary: (TASK: *students should describe each with one word or a short phrase*)
director, producer, actor/actress, movie star, leading role, supporting role, paparazzi, subtitles/captions, a hit/blockbuster, a flop/bomb, very moving, too mushy.

Websites for Movie Reviews/Tools: www.imdb.com eflsuccess.com/movies_overview/
www.kidsinmind.com www.pluggedin.com/movies <http://www.filmeducation.org/resources/>

Questions:

1. What is one of your favorite movies? Why do you like it so much?
2. Is there a “movie rating system” in your home culture? If so, how is it similar or different from the US system?
3. Who is one of your favorite actors? Why do you like him/her so much?
4. Do you think actors should try to be a good role model for other people? Why or why not? If yes, how can they do it?
5. Who (not an actor) is currently (or in the past was) an important role model in your own life? In what ways does/did this person influence you?
6. Who do you want to be a role model for? In what specific ways can you be a good role model for that person?
7. Do you think an actor’s personal life should be protected from paparazzi? Why or why not?

If you have time, read and discuss this passage from the Bible, talking about how it relates to today’s lesson:
“In conclusion, my friends, fill your minds with those things that are good and that deserve praise: things that are true, noble, right, pure, lovely, and honorable..” [Philippians 4:8 GNT]

(find “easier lesson” on the next page)



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Warm up question: What is your favorite kind of movie, and why?

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Phrases in the article: [sth = something; sb = somebody]

to drop out = to quit/leave a school without earning a degree

start to turn heads = attract attention, often in a surprising and positive way

sequel = a story (book, film, etc) that continues a previous story

on a more personal note = referring to something about their private lives (vs their career, fame, etc)

comes out on top = is the winner; is the best

leading men/women = famous movie stars whose name appears first on posters or movie credits

Life-long friends **Matt Damon** and **Ben Affleck** have followed similar paths in life. They each dropped out of college and went to Hollywood in the late 1980s. When success didn't come, in 1997 they wrote and starred in "Good Will Hunting," which won a Best Screenplay Oscar award for them. Overnight, they started turning heads and became famous. Damon then starred in two very profitable movies (early 2000s): "Ocean's Eleven," "The Bourne Identity," and their sequels. Affleck starred in the popular films like "Pearl Harbor" and "The Sum of All Fears." In addition, Affleck got praise for directing "Gone Baby Gone." His second successful film, "The Town," made him an in-demand director. Later, Damon starred in "We Bought a Zoo," and Affleck starred in "Argo." On a more personal note, they both got married in 2005; Affleck now has three children, and Damon has four. People disagree on which of these men has come out on top, but clearly both are among Hollywood's top leading men.

Other Movie Vocabulary: (TASK: *students should describe each with one word or a short phrase*)

director, actor/actress, leading role, supporting role, subtitles/captions, a hit/blockbuster, a flop/bomb, very moving, too mushy.

Questions: *(teacher: start with some content questions)*

1. Tell us about something interesting or surprising (to you) in the article.
2. What is one of your favorite movies? Why do you like it so much?
3. Is there a “movie rating system” in your home culture? If so, how is it similar or different from the US system?
4. Who is one of your favorite actors? Why do you like him/her so much?
5. Do you think actors should try to be a good role model for other people? Why or why not? If yes, how can they do it?
6. Tell us about a role model in your own life. In what ways does/did this person influence you?
7. Who do you want to be a role model for? In what specific ways can you be a good role model for that person?

To Learn More about Movies: www.imdb.com eflsuccess.com/movies_overview/
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These lessons were created or adapted by the staff of International Friendship Ministries, P.O. Box 12504, Columbia SC 29211; ifmusa.org; info@ifmusa.org. IFM is grateful to Kathy Williams for most of the original work. Some lessons were adapted from EFLsuccess.com (with permission). IFM makes these lessons available to our participants, but this does not imply our consent for others to publish these lessons online or in print without permission.

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