

Topic 3 Movies

1. POSTER

Find a nice poster for this movie at the Internet Movie Database (imdb.com)

- a. **SIX WORDS:** Look at the poster and write down six words (more if you like) that you think of as you look at it. Share the words with your partner(s). Why did you choose them?
- b. **STORY:** Talk about what you think the story of the movie is – the start, beginning, end, etc. Change partners and share stories.
- c. **CREDITS:** Look at the credits on the poster (the actors, director, producer...) and talk about them with your partner(s).
- d. **MUST-SEE:** Talk with your partner(s) about whether the poster and movie title are good and make you want to see the movie.
- e. **STARRING YOU:** Imagine you are one of the stars of the movie. Talk about your role with your movie star partner(s).

2. Video

Find an official trailer for this movie on [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com)

- a. **RETELL:** Watch the trailer and retell what you saw to your partner (s).
- b. **CHUNKS:** Watch 10-to-15 second chunks of the trailer and retell what you saw to your partner(s).
- c. **QUIZ:** Watch the trailer and write down some quiz questions for your partner(s). Watch a second time to find the answers to the questions.
- d. **VOCABULARY:** Make a note of words in the trailer that you see or hear. Talk about them with your partner(s).
- e. **GOOD / BAD:** Watch the trailer and write down why you think the film might be good or bad. Share your ideas with your partner(s)

3. The Article

Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind

Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind is a 2004 American romantic science fiction film about an **estranged** couple who have each other **erased** from their memories. It was scripted by Charlie Kaufman and directed by the French director, Michel Gondry. The film uses **elements** of science fiction, psychological thriller, and nonlinear narration to explore the nature of memory and romantic love. The title is taken from the poem Eloisa to Abelard by Alexander Pope, the story of a **tragic** love affair, where forgetfulness became the heroine's only comfort. The targeted memory erasure in the movie is a fictional non-surgical **procedure**. Its purpose is the focused erasure of memories, particularly unwanted and painful memories.

The film was a critical and commercial success, developing a strong cult **following** and receiving many **accolades**. It won the Academy Award for Best Original Screenplay. In particular, Kate Winslet's performance was highly **praised**. "USA Today" said: "Winslet is wonderful as a free spirit whose hair color changes along with her moods...she plays it just right." Movie critic Roger Ebert commented: "Eternal Sunshine has an emotional center, and that's what makes it work." The Onion's AV Club **rated** Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind as the number one film of the 2000s. It states: "It's the **rare** film that shows us who we are now and who we're likely, for better or worse, forever to be."

Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eternal_Sunshine_of_the_Spotless_Mind

4. Vocabulary

Please match the word on the left with its correct or closest synonym on the right.

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------|
| 1. estranged | a. components |
| 2. erased | b. hailed |
| 3. elements | c. fan base |
| 4. tragic | d. uncommon |
| 5. procedure | e. alienated |
| 6. following | f. awards |
| 7. accolades | g. technique |
| 8. praised | h. deleted |
| 9. rated | i. sad |
| 10. rare | j. evaluated |

5. Expressions

EXPRESSIONS FOR DISCUSSION AND DEBATE

Logical Argument

Questions or conclusions based on conditions with "if"

- *If ..., why don't they just ...?*
- *What if ...?*
- *And what happens if ...?*
- *What would happen then if ...?*
- *If that is so ..., (then) ...*
- *That would be true if...*
- *You would be right if...*
- *That would make sense if...*
- *It'd be O.K. if ...*

Questions based on conditions with sentence adverbials " then" and "so"

- *But if you... Then how do you go about ...?*
- *Then can you tell me what's wrong with ...?*

Expressing Cause and effect

Cause

- *The reason why... is ...*
- *The reason why ... is that ...*
- *Due to ...,...*
- *Because...*
- *Because of...*
- *Because...,*
- *Since...,*
- *...is why...*

Result

- *For this reason,...*
- *For this reason alone, ...*
- *Owing to this, ...*
- *This is why ...*
- *That's why...*
- *This is the reason why ...*
- *Therefore*
- *So*
- *As a result*
- *Consequently,...*
- *Thus, ...*

Clarification

Asking someone to repeat

- *Pardon me?*
- *Pardon?*
- *Excuse me?*
- *Sorry?*
- *I'm sorry?*
- *I beg your pardon?*
- *Could you say that again?*
- *Would you repeat that please?*
- *Would you mind repeating that please?*
- *Sorry, what did you say?*
- *Sorry, what was that?*
- *What's that again?*

When you can't follow the logical progression in someone's argument

- *You lost me there.*
- *I'm lost.*
- *I'm not following.*
- *I don't follow.*
- *I didn't get that.*

Asking for clarification through short Yes/No Questions inviting illustration or example.

- *And are they right?*
- *Does that make it ok?*
- *Can you be a bit more specific?*
- *Are you saying that ...?.*
- *Are we talking about ...?*

Clarification through "What" or "How" Questions inviting illustration or example.

- *What's wrong with that?*
- *What's wrong with ...?.*
- *What do you mean?*
- *What do you mean by ...?*
- *What are you trying to say?*
- *In what way?*
- *How do you mean?*
- *Why do you say that?.*
- *Why is that*
- *Why not?*
- *Can you explain why ...?*
- *Why do you think that?*

EXPRESSIONS FOR DISCUSSION AND DEBATE

Giving clarification / Reiteration through reference to subject

- *I'm talking about ...*
- *I'm saying that ...*
- *What I'm saying is that ...*
- *The whole point of this is that...*
- *That's what this discussion's about.*
- *I'm talking about ...*

Giving clarification after misunderstanding

- *What I mean is...*
- *What I meant is...*
- *What I'm saying is...*
- *What I'm trying to say is...*
- *Don't get me wrong...*
- *Don't misunderstand me...*
- *Let me put it another way, ...*
- *That's not what I said...*
- *That's not what I meant*
- *What I said was...*
- *What I really said/mean/meant...*
- *You must have misunderstood me...*
- *Let's get it straight...*

6. Phrasal Verbs

These Phrasal Verbs are very common in relation to **Movies**.

Phrasal Verb	Meaning	Collocation	Example
Flick through	To search TV channels using the remote.	Channels Telly	He flicked through the channels on the TV, hoping for some news.
Act *out*	To present or perform	Script Story	The script itself is well written and acted out well by the cast.
Get *across*	To make something clear or convincing	Meaning Message	The company mainly used TV advertising to get their message across .
Figure *out*	To solve / understand a problem	Story	His reason for robbing the bank was definitely hard to figure out .
Live up to*	To be as good as you said or thought something would be	Expectations	I think the movie was quite good but it didn't live up to my expectations .

7. Idioms

These idioms are very common and they are connected to **Movies**.

Idiom	Meaning	Example
Bomb	a movie that is not popular and makes little money	Even though the studio spent \$50 million on that movie, it <u>bombed.</u>
Flick	a movie	Do you want to catch a <u>flick</u> tonight?
(give st) Two thumbs up	to show that you thought a movie was excellent	A: Did you enjoy the movie Inception? B: For sure! I <u>gave it two thumbs up.</u> A: Okay, maybe I'll go see it then.
Mind-blowing	overwhelmingly amazing or impressive	Going to that museum was a <u>mind-blowing</u> experience.
Gripping	very interesting	The last book I read was so <u>gripping</u> that I couldn't put it down.

8. Extra:

Movie Vocabulary and Questions/Phrases ([Link](#))