

5.4 Speaking and writing

GOALS ■ Write a film review ■ Compare and recommend

Reading & Writing a film review

- 1a You are going to read a review of the classic American film, *The Shawshank Redemption*, based on a book by Stephen King. What information do you expect to find in the review?
- b Compare your ideas with a–e below.
- a the writer’s opinion
 - b the plot/storyline
 - c the name of the director
 - d who stars in the film
 - e whether the book is better than the film
- 2 Read the review and match the information from the review (a–e) to the paragraph it is in.

Paragraph 1 _____
Paragraph 2 _____
Paragraph 3 _____
Paragraph 4 _____

- 3a Read the information in the Language for writing box about contract linkers.

LANGUAGE FOR WRITING contrast linkers

We use the following linkers to show that things are different.

Although/Even though

Although I don't like action films, I loved this one.

Despite/In spite of

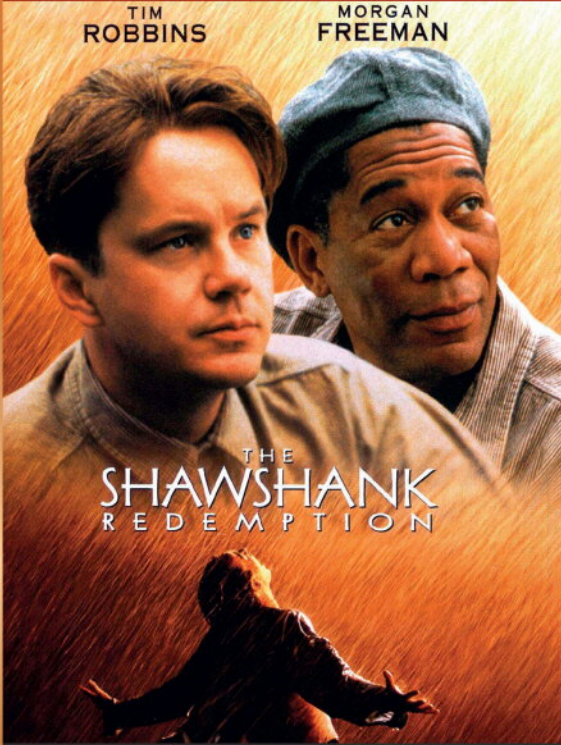
Despite seeing the film twice, I still didn't understand the ending.

However

However, I loved the rest of the film.

- b Underline the linkers and what follows them in the review.

HomeWhat's OnReviewsFilm NewsBook Tickets



TIM ROBBINS **MORGAN FREEMAN**

THE SHAWSHANK REDEMPTION

The Shawshank Redemption
★★★★☆

Director: Frank Darabont
Cast: Tim Robbins, Morgan Freeman
Release date: 1994

The Best Film of All Time?

What is your favourite film of all time? We are inviting fans to post reviews this month. Then you can vote for your favourite.

- 1 *The Shawshank Redemption* was directed by Frank Darabont and is based on a novel by Stephen King. Starring Tim Robbins and Morgan Freeman, the film is surprisingly sad in places, but essentially, it is a positive story about friendship and hope. Despite failing at the box office when it was originally released in 1994, it has now become a modern classic.
- 2 The film is set in the late 1940s in the USA. Tim Robbins plays Andy Dufresne, a banker who is falsely sent to prison for killing his wife. At first, Andy finds prison life difficult. However, he soon makes friends with another prisoner, Ellis 'Red' Redding (Morgan Freeman), who is in for life. Andy gets a job in the prison library and helps with the prison's finances. This changes everything for Andy and allows him to spend years planning the surprising events at the end of the film.
- 3 Darabont makes few changes to King's original novel, and manages to make the end result even more exciting than the book. Thomas Newman's soundtrack creates an exciting atmosphere throughout the film.
- 4 *The Shawshank Redemption* is terrific entertainment. Freeman's performance is very moving, and Tim Robbins gives one of his best performances of his career. Although the film is a little slow in places, the end is absolutely brilliant and I highly recommend it to everyone.

- 4 Complete the extracts from a review of the film *One Day* with the correct contrast linkers. Then check with a partner.



One Day

One Day is a story about love and friendship based on David Nicholls' very successful novel. The two main characters, Emma and Dexter (Anne Hathaway and Jim Sturgess) meet at university and become friends
1 _____ they grow apart during the next few years. The story follows them on the same day every year ...

Sturgess plays the upper-class Dexter with great skill.
2 _____, Hathaway's performance is the best in the film, 3 _____ her terrible English accent.

Nicholls' novel was a charming, clever romantic comedy about how the world has changed over the past twenty years. 4 _____ it is not as brilliant as the novel, the film *One Day* is still funny, entertaining and worth seeing.

- 5a Think about a film you have recently enjoyed. Make notes on the film using the points from exercise 1b and the language in the Language for writing box on page 52.
- b Write a review of the film.

Listening & Speaking comparing and recommending

- 6 Work with a partner and discuss the questions.
- 1 When do you like to listen to music?
 - 2 Is there one film you think everyone should see? Why?
 - 3 What TV programmes do you never miss? Why?

- 7 5.7))) Listen to extracts from conversations about music and entertainment and answer the questions.

Conversation 1

Which statistic surprises one of the speakers?

Conversation 2

Do they both want to watch the programme about the environment?

Conversation 3

What doesn't the speaker recommend?

- 8 5.7))) Listen again and complete the sentences. Which phrases tell you what the speaker's opinion is?

- 1 The statistics look much _____.
- 2 That _____!
- 3 _____ *that* if you have to go to work the next day!

- 9 Complete the sentences with phrases from the Language for speaking box to express what you think about these topics, and finish the sentences so they are true for you.

- 1 _____ going to 3D versions of films ...
- 2 _____ sitting through a whole opera ...
- 3 _____ sure that I like jazz ...
- 4 The first time I went to a live concert _____ ...
- 5 Listening to recorded music is _____ ...

LANGUAGE FOR SPEAKING

comparing and recommending

Comparing

It's nothing like as good as ...

I expected it to be ..., but it's not really.

It's more/less ... than I thought it would be.

Recommending (or not)

I'd really recommend you see/hear/watch ...

I wouldn't recommend it.

I'm not at all sure about that.

I'm pretty sure that I ...

It's really/not worth + noun or + -ing

It sounds/looks ... great/fantastic/awful/boring ...

- 10a **TASK** Use the phrases in exercises 8 and 9 and the Language for speaking box to make notes for a short talk on one of these topics or one of your own.

- My favourite music
- A film/TV series I really enjoyed/really didn't enjoy
- A great video game

- b Work in small groups. Talk for a minute on your topic.

- c Listen to the person talking and ask questions to find out more information.