

MTSACLLC. TALKING ABOUT MOVIES. TRANSCRIPT

Welcome to talking about movies for ESL. This is from the language learning center at Mount San Antonio College.

If your friend asks "How was the movie?", they want a review or your opinion of the movie. You might say "It was amazing. It had great acting and interesting action" or, if you didn't like it, you could say "It was awful. The dialogue sounded fake the soundtrack didn't fit the scenes and the acting looked sloppy".

After stating your feelings about the movie, you can move on to other details. On the other hand, if your friend asks "What was the movie about?", they want a synopsis which is also a very short summary of the movie. Often we start by saying what type of movie it was, such as action sci-fi, romance, or a documentary. Of course, a movie can be any combination of genres and genre just means type of movie.

Next share the plot and the setting in one or two sentences. Mention the characters played by the actors, then follow the same order as the movie scenes and talk about the highlights. What was the problem? Who had the problem? Where were they and what steps happen to help them solve the problem? Stop before you tell the ending of the movie. Make sure it's okay with your friend for you to do that.

"How was the movie" allows you to answer with your opinions and feelings. Give some examples of why you feel that way.

"What was the movie" about can be answered with a very short summary or synopsis. Tell the genre, plot and setting.

Point out key characters or actors, and share the highlights from the beginning of the movie to the end without jumping around.

In Summary

1. How was = opinion
2. What was = short summary
3. Genre = type of movie
4. Plot = main idea
5. Setting = where and when
6. Characters or actors
7. Tell from start to finish. Don't jump around

VOCABULARY

plot (noun) - the series of events that form the story of a novel, play, film, etc.

sloppy (adjective) - shows a lack of care, thought or effort

soundtrack (noun) - all the music, speech and sounds that are recorded for a film or television show

synopsis (noun) - a summary of a piece of writing, a play, etc.

summary (noun) - a short statement that gives only the main points of something, not the details