Movie Words in English

Hey students! It's day 2 of our vocabulary challenge - we're learning over 100 words in these five days - and in this lesson we'll focus on vocabulary related to movies.

First, let's talk about the different **genres** or types of movies:

Action movies with lots of physical movement and adventures

Comedy, which is funny

Drama, which is more serious and focused on emotions
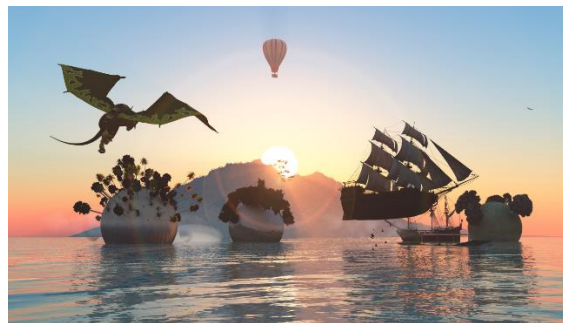
Horror, which is scary

Romance, which focuses on love and relationships

Sci-fi (short for science fiction) that explores the future or technology
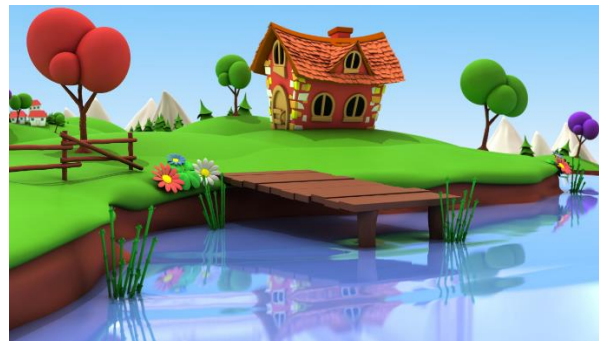

Fantasy, which has elements of magic

Documentaries, which are non-fiction, they're based on facts and designed to educate you

Animated films, which have computer-designed images instead of real people and things.

Before a movie comes out, the studio often releases a **trailer** - that's a short video showing just a few scenes (moments or situations) - in order to get people excited for the movie and interested in seeing it. And then the first public showing of the full movie is called the **premiere**.

The group of actors and actresses in a movie is called the **cast**, and the people who work on the movie without appearing in it are called the **crew** (like the people operating the cameras or doing the makeup for the cast).

Each actor or actress plays a **character** - that's a person in the story. There might be one or more main characters, and others in **supporting roles**, meaning someone who is present but more on the side.

Some movies have a **hero** or **heroine** who shows great courage or accomplishes great things, and a **villain** - that means a bad guy.

If the characters need to do some skilled or dangerous movements, those can be performed by **a stunt double** or **stunt man/woman** - a person who looks like the actor/actress but is able to do those difficult physical things.

Regular people can sometimes appear in movies as **extras** - who play the part of a person in the background, or walking down the street, or in a crowd.
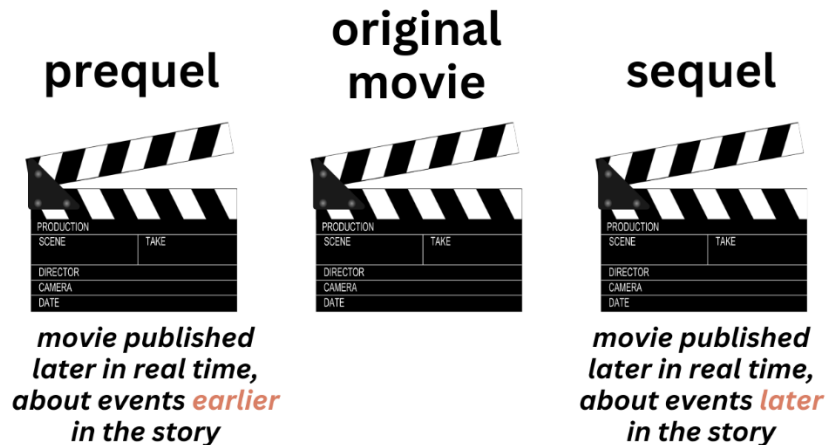
Sci-fi and fantasy movies often have **special effects,** things done with computers that would not be possible in real life, like having a person transform into an animal or something like that.

The general story of a movie is called the **plot**, and each moment/situation is called a **scene**. Sometimes you'll see a **montage**, that's a quick collection of very short scenes, often with music - a montage is often used to quickly show time passing.

Another film technique is showing a **flashback**, that's showing a scene that happened in the past or in someone's memory, compared to the present moment in the story. The collection of music used in the film is called the movie's **soundtrack**.

If a movie follows another one in a sequence, the second movie is the **sequel** of the first movie. If the story of the second movie happened earlier in time compared to the first movie, then the second movie is called a **prequel**.

prequel — *movie published later in real time, about events earlier in the story*

original movie

sequel — *movie published later in real time, about events later in the story*

If you're watching a movie in another language, there are two options - the movie could use **subtitles**, words on the screen to translate the dialogue, or the movie could be **dubbed**, meaning that voice actors record themselves talking in the new language and the new audio replaces the original dialogue.

After a movie comes out, you might see some articles talking about how it's doing at the **box office** - that's literally the place where tickets are sold, and in this context it means how well ticket sales are going, so how popular the movie is. **Film critics** - people who evaluate and comment on movies - write **reviews** (detailed evaluations) of the movie.
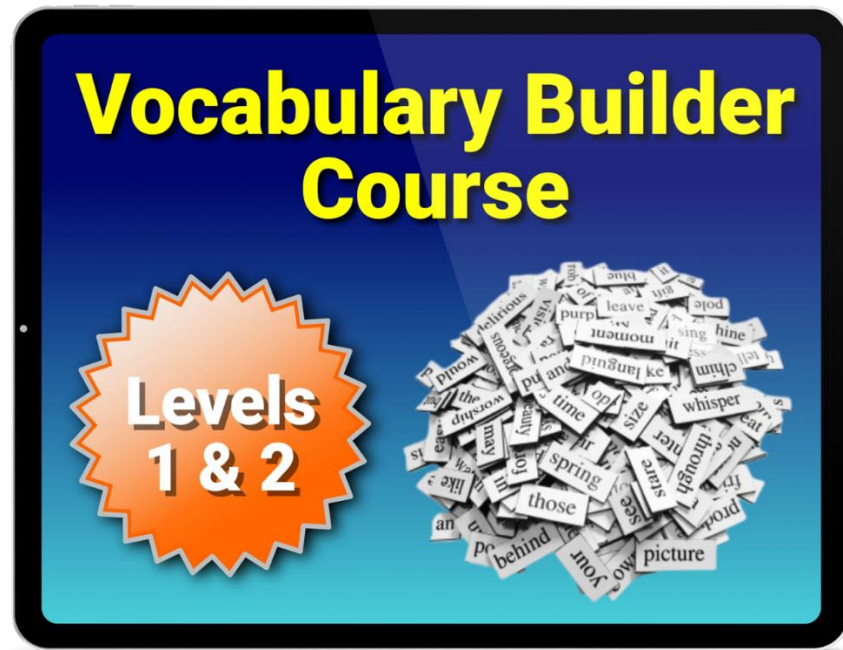
And you and I can decide whether we want to see it at **the movie theater / cinema** - the place with the giant screen - or wait until it comes out on **streaming** services, meaning we can use the internet to watch it at home on our TVs, computers, or phones.

Now you know more than 30 words used to talk about movies!

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