

Talk a Lot

Films

Role Plays

1. "Cut!"

- Place: A beautiful stately home in the country, which is the set of a high-budget film – a costume drama set in the 1860s
- Time: 11.40am
- Characters: You are a film extra; the other student is a famous actor
- Situation: The famous actor is filming some emotional scenes. You are supposed to be in the background, keeping quiet and unnoticed
- Scenes:
- i) Shooting a scene: the actor's character's lover has left them for another man/woman. There is a dramatic argument. Suddenly your mobile rings. You answer it. The actor has to restart the scene. This happens a few times
 - ii) Later, during a different scene, the actor's character is plotting revenge on their former lover. You are supposed to be in the background, up a ladder, cleaning a window. You lose your balance and fall off. This happens a few times; the final time you actually fall through the window. The actor is cross
 - iii) At the end of the day, you go to the actor's dressing room and apologise. Try to get their autograph for yourself, and then for your mum, dad, sister, brother, cousin, Auntie Dotty, etc.!

If there are three people in the group, the third character could be:

- a) *The upper-class director of the film, called Nigel*
- b) *Another film extra, who is jealous of your screen time with the actor...*

2. "Your world is confusing to me!"

- Place: A DVD rental store
- Time: 3.30pm
- Characters: You work in the store; the other person is an alien from the planet Sproot
- Situation: The alien comes into the store to complain about his rental. It wouldn't play...
- Scenes:
- i) You check the DVD on your player. It works fine. The alien explains that it wouldn't fit in the slot. He (or *she*, or *it*) had been trying to put it into a video recorder. He chooses a different DVD
 - ii) The next day, the alien returns to complain that the DVD is damaged. It wouldn't play. This time it went in the slot OK, but all the power in his flat went off. He had been trying to put it into a toaster. He rents a different DVD
 - iii) The next day, the alien comes back with the DVD and a microwave oven. Both are badly damaged. He is banned from the DVD rental store for life

If there are three people in the group, the third character could be:

- a) *The alien's equally confused friend / commander / overlord*
- b) *The store manager, who is drunk*

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Role Play Extensions

Here are some additional situations for students to use as starting points for new role plays based on the topic of "Films":

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Films

1. You are a comedy screenwriter. You have to finish your screenplay by 4pm today or you will lose the contract and have to pay back your initial fee (which you have already spent on luxury groceries). You are halfway through writing the screenplay. You have to buckle down and get some work done, but you face many **distractions** – in the form of your wife/husband, kids, former wife/husband, pets, cold-callers, and your agent, etc. – and **temptations** – in the form of eating, sleeping, watching daytime TV, sunbathing, surfing the internet, and eating (again)... Will you get your screenplay finished in time?

2. You are in court on trial, accused of illegally downloading films from the internet. Your defence lawyer is nervous because it's their first day in the job. It looks like you're guilty because you *did* download over two hundred films illegally from the internet, but only so that you could burn discs for your friends and family – and sell them at a car boot sale for 50p each! What will your defence be? Will you be convicted of the crime? What punishment awaits you...?

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