

A2.7 Films/Books - Handout

- 1 There are two sets of questions here: the first set are about books and reading and the second set are about films and cinema going. Try not to discuss favourite films and books at this stage though, because that is the task for the third activity. The concept of 'self-help' books may need some explaining, but basically this kind of book is designed to help people to do better at work, or in their personal relationships and they are usually full of advice and positive thinking. It is possible that you or your partner reads more online now than on paper, so there are questions about blogs and 'Twitter' as well as printed media. A lot of adjectives to describe books and films should naturally arise such as: *interesting, sad, horrible, good, brilliant, entertaining, slow, exciting* etc. Be careful with "funny" as it is confusing for learners of English who often think it is the adjectival form of "fun". It does not mean "entertaining", but means instead either "strange" or "comic".
- 2 This reading is a kind of, "Guess the movie/series of movies" activity. The native speaker could read the descriptions in the boxes and ask the learner to guess the film(s). This should not prove too difficult as they are quite well-known, but obviously the age and cultural background of the learner will be decisive factors. The answers are: "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" (Bill); "The Lord of the Rings Trilogy" (Tanya); "James Bond" (Martin asked for the name of the hero, not the name of the film) and "Star Wars" (Julia). After the films have (hopefully) been guessed, then the learner can read the texts aloud for pronunciation practice.
- 3 Discussion of favourite books and films should be done in as much detail as possible as it provides a good opportunity to practise the Past Simple of irregular verbs. In addition, both Past Continuous (e.g. "He was working alone") may occur to 'set the scene' and Past Perfect to show one event occurred before another in the past (e.g. "She had left her husband before she met him.") .
- 4 This creative writing activity is designed to make the task of writing a narrative more interesting by stimulating the imagination. If you have any suggestions as to how these various elements could be linked then please offer your ideas to your partner.