



# What makes a film a classic?

01 Write a list of movie titles for each genre.

Science Fiction	Action	Romantic Comedy

02 Read "The Blockbuster Season." Match the film genre to its unique feature.

1. Sci-fi	a. They did not rely on special effects.
2. Action	b. They had different endings compared to those now.
3. Romantic comedy	c. They included elements of other genres.

03 Read the text again. Complete the summary with the words in bold from the text.

The film industry had its **1.** \_\_\_\_\_ in the last decades of the previous century. Action film **2.** \_\_\_\_\_, rom-coms with happy endings, and **3.** \_\_\_\_\_ ruled the big screen, as well as sci-fi films with **4.** \_\_\_\_\_ narratives. The films of the 80s and 90s certainly **5.** \_\_\_\_\_ the **6.** \_\_\_\_\_ movie era.



## The Blockbuster Season

The 1980s and 1990s saw the grand release of **blockbuster**-era adventures. At a time when moviegoers still had to see their favorite films on the big screen, fan favorites brought significant revenue for film studios and fame to household names.

Released in 1985, *Back to the Future* and its **franchise** became an instant classic. This science fiction movie is a story about time travel and all the **mishaps** it has the potential to cause. It was so successful because director Robert Zemeckis brought romance and a classic rags-to-riches story to engage audiences not generally drawn to sci-fi.

The action film, **epitomized** by *Die Hard* from 1988 and its ensuing sequels, was a much-loved genre of the decade. Characterized by **jaw-dropping** stunts and incredible pre-CGI special effects, action films kept audiences on the edge of their seats as they watched good triumph over evil.

Classic romantic comedies ("rom-coms") also had their **heyday** in the 80s and 90s. Classic films like *When Harry Met Sally* tell a story of platonic love between friends in which they finally opt for romance. Audiences followed the characters as their relationship went through atypical ups and downs, but finally cheered on the characters in their happy ending. This is often disliked in today's movies, which typically have a more open ending for romance.



04 Check (✓) the film/genre you would rather watch. Explain your reasons to a classmate.

Sci-fi / *Back to the Future*

Action / *Die Hard*

Rom-com / *When Harry Met Sally*



**05** Complete the table below.

Nouns	Verbs	Adjectives
▶ clear		
	▶ act	
	▶ excite	
		▶ varied
		▶ threatening



**06** Rewrite the sentences so that they contain the word in parentheses.

1. The film critic analyzed the film and gave it five stars. (analysis)

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2. The director was creative with the set design and was praised for it. (creativity)

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3. The film was awarded an Oscar for the most original score. (originality)

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4. Charlotte fondly remembers going to the cinema with her family as a child. (memories)

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5. In the 1980s, films were released to video months after being shown in the theater. (releases)

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6. In films of the 1990s, characters were not diversified very much. (diversification)

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**08** Organized in groups of three, where everyone researched different film genres in Exercise 7, compare and contrast the three genres from the 80s and 90s based on the points below.

- ▶ creativity
- ▶ use of special effects
- ▶ storytelling
- ▶ audience engagement
- ▶ uniqueness

