ESL LAB

Christmas Movie Worksheets

Five printables for December lessons with adults: a viewing worksheet for any film, three worksheets on Home Alone, The Holiday and A Christmas Carol, and a movie quiz for the last class before the break. Every page works alone or in pairs, and the answers are on page 7.

LEVEL	STUDENTS	GROUPING	TIME
A2 to C1	Adults and older teens	Alone or in pairs	20 to 45 minutes each

What's inside, in the order of the blog post

1	**Watch any Christmas film**	A viewing worksheet for before, during and after any film or scene	**Page 2**
2	**Home Alone: put the story in order**	Nine scenes to number, then a one-minute retell	**Page 3**
3	**The Holiday: swap your home**	Two home-swap listings, then write your own and ask polite questions	**Page 4**
4	**A Christmas Carol: a modern Scrooge**	Dickens's words for a mean man, then plan a 2026 version	**Page 5**
5	**Christmas movie quiz**	Ten plots in plain English: name the film	**Page 6**
	Answers	Answers for pages 3 to 6, with model sentences	**Page 7**

No film stills or scripts are printed, so the pages work with any version of each film. Students can watch at home and bring the worksheet to class. Before you show a full film in class, check that your school's screening license covers it.

Language for talking about films

DESCRIBING A FILM

It's a comedy about ...
It's set in ...
The main character is ...

GIVING AN OPINION

The best part is when ...
It's a bit slow at first, but ...
I'd give it four stars because ...

RECOMMENDING

You should watch it if you like ...
It's perfect for ...
It's not for people who ...

One-to-one and online classes

Send page 2 as homework before the lesson and spend class time on the retell and the phrases. Pages 3 to 6 also work with one student: you play the partner, and the student leads.

ACTIVITY 1 A2 TO C1

Watch any Christmas film

Use this page with any film or with one scene of 10 to 15 minutes. Fill in part A before you watch, part B while you watch and part C after. Then tell a partner about the film in one minute, without your notes.

A Before you watch

Film _____ **Year** _____

Read the short description of the film online or on the box. What do you think will happen?

The main character is _____

Their problem is _____

I think in the end _____

B While you watch

Pause and write down a phrase when you hear it twice or like how it sounds.

	PHRASE I HEARD	WHO SAYS IT	WHAT IT MEANS
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			

C After you watch

1. *At the start, ...*
2. *The problem is that ...*
3. *Then ...*
4. *The best part is when ...*
5. *In the end, ...*

Was my guess right? Yes Partly No **My rating** ○ ○ ○ ○ ○

I'd recommend it to _____

ACTIVITY 2 A2-B1

Home Alone: put the story in order

Home Alone (1990) is a comedy about Kevin, an eight-year-old boy whose family flies to Paris for Christmas without him. Read the nine scenes and number them in story order. Scene 1 is done for you. Check your answers on page 7.

- [ ] **A** Kevin goes shopping on his own, eats what he wants and watches TV.
- [ ] **B** Old Man Marley, the neighbor Kevin was afraid of, saves him from the burglars.
- [ ] **C** Kevin argues with his family and has to sleep in the small room under the roof. That night, he wishes his family would disappear.
- [ ] **D** Kevin's mother arrives home on Christmas morning.
- [ ] **E** Kevin wakes up in an empty house and thinks his wish came true.
- [1] **F** The McCallister family gets ready for a Christmas trip to Paris.
- [ ] **G** Kevin fills the house with traps, and the burglars fall into every one.
- [ ] **H** The power goes off in the night, the family wakes up late, and they rush to the airport without Kevin.
- [ ] **I** Kevin finds out that two burglars plan to rob the house on Christmas Eve.

Tell the story

Tell the story to your partner in one minute, without looking at the page. Your partner ticks every word you use.

first · then · after that · the next day · later · finally · in the end

Your turn

Kevin's mother walks in on Christmas morning. Write what Kevin says first, and what she says back.

Kevin

His mother

ACTIVITY 3 B1-B2

The Holiday: swap your home

In *The Holiday* (2006), two women swap homes for Christmas: Iris leaves her cottage in an English village, and Amanda leaves her house in Los Angeles. Read two invented listings in the same spirit, then circle A or B.

LISTING A

Snowy cottage in an English village

A small stone cottage with a real fireplace, two bedrooms and a garden. The village has one pub, one shop and a church, and London is 50 minutes away by train. The neighbor's dog visits every morning: he isn't ours, but he thinks he is. The stairs are steep and the Wi-Fi is slow upstairs.

House rule: please take your shoes off at the door.

LISTING B

Big modern house in Los Angeles

Four bedrooms, a pool, a home cinema and a huge kitchen you will never need, because you can get any meal delivered. The beach is 25 minutes away by car, and you will need a car for everything. The gate opens with a code, and the neighbors are very quiet.

House rule: no parties, please.

1. Which home is better if you don't drive? (A) (B)
2. Where might an animal visit you every day? (A) (B)
3. Where can you go for a swim without leaving home? (A) (B)
4. Which owner is honest about a problem with the internet? (A) (B)
5. Where is it easier to eat well without cooking? (A) (B)

Write your own listing

60 to 80 words: a headline, the three best things about your home, one honest problem and one house rule.

Ask the owner

~~Is there a car?~~ → I was wondering if there's a car I could use.
~~Can I invite friends?~~ → Would it be OK if I invited two friends for dinner?
~~Where's the key?~~ → Could you tell me where I can find the key?

Swap listings with your partner. Write three polite questions about their home, then answer theirs.

1

2

3

ACTIVITY 4 B2-C1

A Christmas Carol: a modern Scrooge

Charles Dickens published *A Christmas Carol* in December 1843. Ebenezer Scrooge, a rich and mean old businessman, meets three spirits on Christmas Eve and wakes up a different man. These lines are from the book.

HOW DICKENS DESCRIBES SCROOGE

a squeezing, wrenching, grasping, scraping, clutching, covetous, old sinner! Hard and sharp as flint ... secret, and self-contained, and solitary as an oyster.

WHAT SCROOGE THINKS OF CHRISTMAS

"Bah!" said Scrooge, "Humbug!"

SCROOGE ON CHRISTMAS MORNING

I am as light as a feather, I am as happy as an angel, I am as merry as a school-boy.

Dickens's words

Find each word in the lines above. Write the letter of its meaning in the box.

- ☐ **grasping**
- ☐ **covetous**
- ☐ **solitary**
- ☐ **flint**
- ☐ **humbug**
- ☐ **merry**

A a very hard gray stone

B happy and full of fun

C always trying to get more money or things

D nonsense, something false

E alone, with no friends or company

F wanting what other people have

Plan a modern version

In pairs, move the story to 2026. Make notes in each box.

Our Scrooge in 2026
Name, job and city

Why everyone avoids them
What do they do or say?

The Ghost of Christmas Past shows ...
A memory from their childhood or first job

The Ghost of Christmas Present shows ...
What other people say about them right now

The Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come shows ...
What happens if nothing changes

On Christmas morning, our Scrooge ...
One thing they do to change

Pitch it

Sell your version to the class in two minutes, as if the class were a film studio. The class votes for the film they would make.

It's set in ... | Our Scrooge is a ... who ... | The ghosts show ... | The twist is that ... | It ends when ...

ACTIVITY 5 A2 TO C1

Christmas movie quiz

Each film plot is told in plain, very literal English. Write the name of the film from the box. Work alone, then compare with a partner. The answers are on page 7.

Love Actually | **Klaus** | **A Christmas Carol** | **Elf** | **Last Christmas** | **Home Alone** | **The Polar Express** | **The Grinch** | **It's a Wonderful Life** | **The Holiday**

1. A man who grew up with elves at the North Pole travels to New York to find his father.

2. A green creature who hates the noise of Christmas steals the presents of a whole town.

3. Two women who are unhappy in love swap homes for two weeks: one in England, one in California.

4. An eight-year-old boy defends his family's house against two burglars.

5. A lazy young postman is sent to a frozen island in the far north and makes friends with a toymaker.

6. On Christmas Eve, a man who is ready to give up sees what his town would be like if he had never been born.

7. A rich, mean old man meets three ghosts in one night.

8. A boy who isn't sure Santa is real gets on a magic train on Christmas Eve.

9. A young woman who works as an elf in a London Christmas shop meets a kind stranger.

10. Lots of different love stories happen in London in the weeks before Christmas.

Your turn

Write the plot of a film you love in one plain, literal sentence. Read it to your partner. Can they guess the film?

ANSWERS PAGES 3 TO 6

Answers and model sentences

Activity 2 Home Alone

Story order: **1** F **2** C **3** H **4** E **5** A **6** I **7** G **8** B **9** D

Model retell: *First, the McCallister family gets ready for a trip to Paris. Then Kevin argues with everybody and wishes they would disappear. The next day, the family leaves without him. After that, Kevin has the house to himself, but later he finds out about two burglars. Finally, he fills the house with traps, and in the end his mother comes home on Christmas morning.*

Activity 3 The Holiday

1 A **2** A **3** B **4** A **5** B

Model listing: *Bright flat in the old town. Three minutes from the market, with a balcony, a fast washing machine and the best bakery in the city downstairs. The bad news: there is no elevator, and we live on the fifth floor. House rule: please water the plants on Sundays.*

Activity 4 A Christmas Carol

grasping C **covetous** F **solitary** E **flint** A **humbug** D **merry** B

Model pitch: *It's set in a delivery company in Madrid. Our Scrooge is a manager who makes the drivers work on Christmas Eve. The twist is that the third ghost is his own delivery app. It ends when he gives every driver a paid day off.*

Activity 5 Christmas movie quiz

1. Elf
2. The Grinch
3. The Holiday
4. Home Alone
5. Klaus
6. It's a Wonderful Life
7. A Christmas Carol
8. The Polar Express
9. Last Christmas
10. Love Actually