

### A Talking about films and books

When a new **book** or **film** comes out, newspapers will review it. The people who review the **book/film** are called **book reviewers / film critics** and they write **book/film reviews**. If they don't like a book/film they **give it a bad review**. We can say that a novel or film is **based on a true story**. We say that a **book/film captures** an atmosphere or that a **book/film deals with** a topic. We talk about the **opening/closing scenes** of a film and the **opening/closing chapters** of a book. We talk about the **beginning and end of a book/film** (NOT **start** and **finish**). If everything works out well for the **central characters**, we say that the book/film **has a happy ending**. You may **recommend a book/film** that you enjoyed to a friend. If a lot of people have enjoyed it, it is **highly recommended**.

### B Just about films and acting

I've never had any desire to **go on the stage**<sup>1</sup> myself but I'd love to produce a film. I think historical dramas work particularly well on **the big screen**<sup>2</sup> and I'd love to make a film about Vikings in Britain. There'd be plenty of opportunities to use **special effects**<sup>3</sup> during battle scenes. I'd want the **male lead**<sup>4</sup> to be played by Hugh Grant, while Nicole Kidman could have the **female lead**. Sean Penn could **play the role of** a Viking warrior and I'd like Judi Dench to take on a **cameo role**<sup>5</sup>. I'm sure that, as always, she would **give an excellent performance**. My dream is to make a film that would be **nominated for an Oscar**<sup>6</sup>. Of course, I'd also like it to be an immediate **box-office hit**<sup>7</sup>, playing to **full houses**<sup>8</sup> worldwide.

<sup>1</sup> become an actor

<sup>2</sup> the cinema

<sup>3</sup> powerful visual effects, often created using technology

<sup>4</sup> main male part

<sup>5</sup> small but special part

<sup>6</sup> put on the official list of people in the film world who may receive a special prize (an Oscar)

<sup>7</sup> extremely successful with audiences

<sup>8</sup> cinemas/theatres with no empty seats

Other strong collocations are **cast a film** [select the actors for a film], **star in a film**, **shoot a film**, **make a film**.

### C Just about books

collocation	example
be engrossed/absorbed in a book	Sal was so <b>engrossed/absorbed in her book</b> that she didn't hear me.
compulsive reading	Many people find articles about the private lives of film stars <b>compulsive reading</b> . [so interesting you can't stop reading]
bedtime reading	I don't think a horror story makes good <b>bedtime reading</b> .
an easy read	Detective stories are good for train journeys as they're <b>an easy read</b> .
take out / borrow / return / renew a library book	You can <b>take out/borrow</b> six <b>library books</b> at one time. You should <b>return your library book</b> tomorrow. I'm going to <b>renew my library book</b> for another week.
flick/skim through a book	Mona <b>flicked/skimmed through the book</b> without reading it in detail.
beautifully written	The book is <b>beautifully written</b> – I highly recommend it.



Critics **review** books and films, NOT ~~criticise~~ them. To *criticise* a book or film means to say negative things about it.

Remember that you **watch television**, NOT ~~see~~ television, but you can **see** or **watch a film** or **programme** on television. We usually say **see a film** at the cinema.

## Exercises

**24.1** Use collocations from A opposite instead of the underlined words in this conversation. The conversation has no errors, but the changes will improve it.

Matthew: Have you read that new book that has just appeared about Ireland?

Lorna: No, I don't go to bookshops and I don't read articles discussing new books. What's it about?

Matthew: Well, it concerns the Irish War of Independence. It's very authentic and it manages to give the atmosphere of Ireland at the beginning of the 20th century.

Lorna: Is it just historical facts, then?

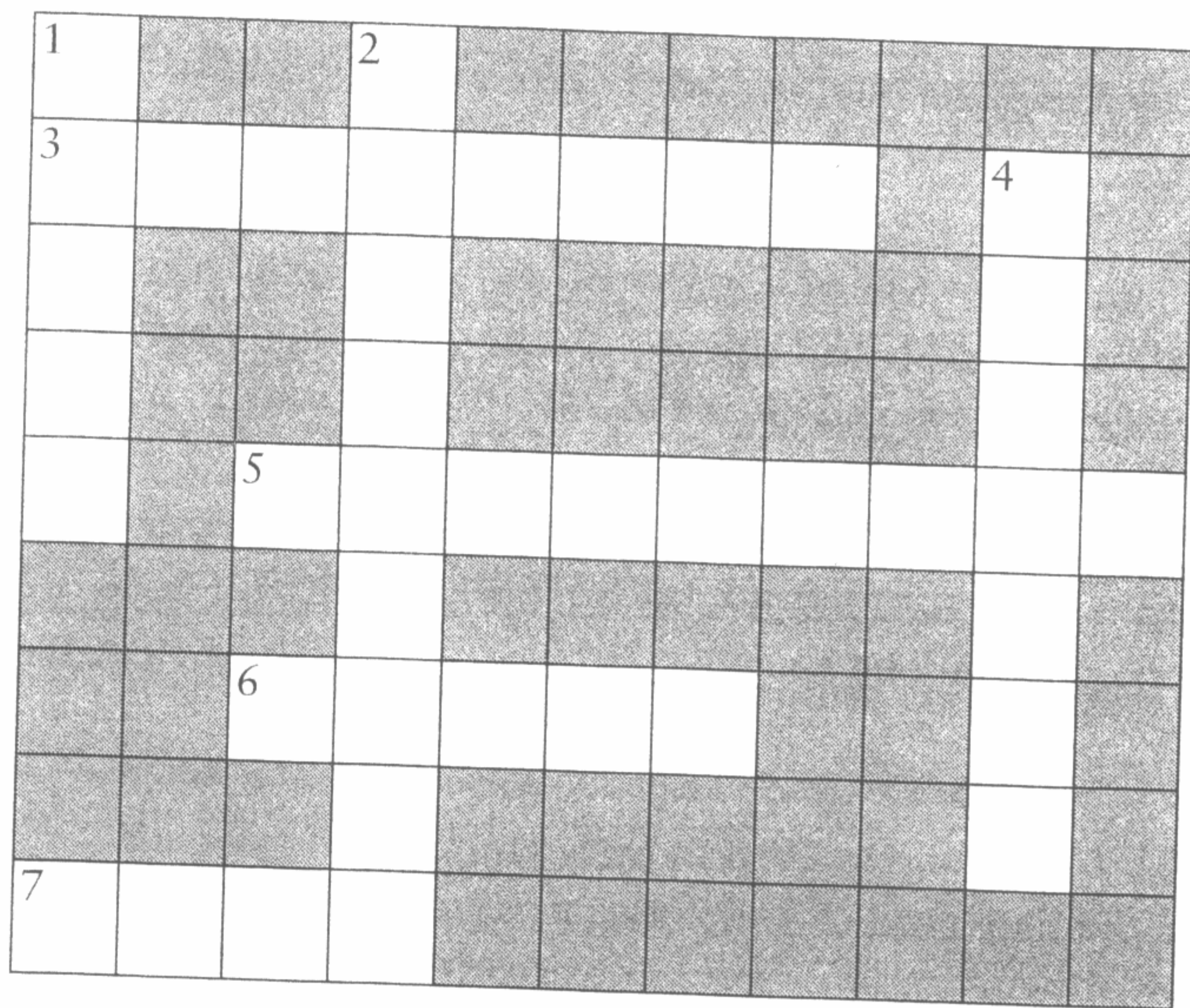
Matthew: No, the main people are two brothers who have different opinions about the war and this divides their family. In the first chapters they're happy and do everything together, but by the last chapter they have become enemies.

Lorna: Mm, it sounds a bit depressing to me.

Matthew: Well, it certainly doesn't finish in a happy way, but I liked it, and it's recommended very much by all the critics.

Lorna: So, a book with a pleasant start and a sad finish. Not for me, I'm afraid. I prefer the opposite.

**24.2** Complete the crossword.



### Across

3 I was completely ..... in my book and didn't realise how late it had got.

5 An alternative to 3 across.

6 He wants to go on the ..... He's always wanted to be an actor.

7 Who played the male ..... in *Destination Saturn*?

### Down

1 ..... role means 'small but special part in a film/play'.

2 The film was ..... for an Oscar but it didn't win.

4 It was an amazing film about space travel, with fantastic special .....

**24.3** Match the words in the box on the left with their collocations on the right.

full	big	bedtime	screen	reading
female	box-office		lead	hit
				house

**24.4** Complete these collocations.

- shoot / star in / make a .....
- renew / borrow / return a .....
- flick / skim through a .....
- compulsive / bedtime .....

**FOLLOW UP**

Online bookshops, for example, *Amazon*, often have mini-reviews and descriptions of books and DVDs. Find a review of a book or film that you know and note down any interesting collocations in it.