

Exercise: Describing a film

In the following text, Simon and Rebecca are talking about and giving their opinions about the film 'Saving Private Ryan'.

From the context, try to guess what the meaning of the words/phrases in **bold** are. Then do the quiz at the end to check if you are right.

Rebecca: 'One of my favourite films is Saving Private Ryan. I know it's a war film, but I love it.'

Simon: 'It's a classic. It's got a brilliant **cast**, there are so many excellent actors in it like Matt Damon, Vin Diesel etc... And of course, there is Tom Hanks as the **main character** Captain Miller. It's one of his best films.'

Rebecca: 'Plus there are some very good **cameo roles**. The famous actor Ted Danson is in the film for about 3 minutes. It's a shame that he wasn't in the film for longer. Also, do you know that although the film is **set** in France during the D-Day invasion, it was actually **filmed** in the south of England?'

Simon: 'Yeah, I read it somewhere. I think it was one of the best films **directed** by Steven Spielberg. I love the opening **scene** when they are landing on the beach on D-Day. That scene has some of the best twenty minutes of action in the whole history of cinema for me. The **special effects** are excellent, with the explosions and the people being blown up. It looks so real.'

Rebecca: 'It's an excellent scene, I always remember the **stunt** of the men on fire. But for me, I like the scene when the men are walking in the countryside and talking about why they have to save Private Ryan. The **dialogue** is excellent, I can imagine that I would say that if I were in a similar situation.'

Simon: 'The film has an excellent **plot**. How they have to go and save a soldier whose 3 brothers have all died fighting and how they have to go behind enemy lines to do it.'

Rebecca: 'I think it's a real story, although they probably changed some things. To be honest, I can't remember the film's **score**. Can you remember the music in the film?'

Simon: 'Not really. I think there was some music with trumpets at the beginning in the graveyard. But apart from that, I only remember the Edith

Piaf song at the end. But that's not part of the score. Did I tell you that when the film **came out** in 1998, I was living in Madrid? So, the first time I saw it, it was **dubbed** into Spanish. I didn't speak much Spanish then, so I didn't understand a lot. It's a shame that it didn't have **subtitles**, so I could have read the dialogue.'

Rebecca: 'Dubbed films are strange. The voices are always very different to the original voices of the actors. Oh, by the way, have you seen the TV series Band of Brothers?'

Simon: 'No I haven't.'

Rebecca: 'Well, it's very similar to Saving Private Ryan. It's set during the second world war and it follows a group of American soldiers. It **stars** a lot of unknown young actors as the soldiers.'

Simon: 'I'll have to watch the series.'