

Cliffhanger

Word of the month

a cura di Sarah Gudgeon

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1. Do you like watching films? Have you got a favourite TV series? Write four more elements that you think make a film / TV series EXCITING:

- a. Suspense and drama
- b.
- c.
- d.
- e.

2. What is a cliffhanger at the end of a film / TV scene? Complete the definition. Choose from these words: writers/viewers, beginning/end, first/next.

- a. A technique that use to make the reader/viewer excited at the of a scene. Readers/viewers want to find out what happens in the story.

3. Match each of these scenes from a TV series to their cliffhanger ending.

- | | |
|---|---|
| a. David wants to ask Lucia to marry him | 1. but where will they land? In enemy territory? |
| b. The two businessmen get in the back of the taxi | 2. but he sees her hugging another guy. Who is it? |
| c. Jack has got to tell Maria his secret | 3. Can they escape before they see them? |
| d. The men get ready to jump out of the plane | 4. but then they see that the driver has got a gun. |
| e. Sandy and Jane are in the bank when the robbers run in | 5. but will she leave him when she knows the truth? |

4. Complete the sentence.

That was a brilliant episode. What a! I can't wait to see what happens next week!

5. Write the prologue to a story and end it with a cliffhanger.

At the end of the scene/film/episode.....

- 6. Talk to a classmate. Read them your prologue with the final cliffhanger. Discuss together what they think will happen next in your story. Compare with your original idea.**

Teacher's Notes

1. Before the exercise ask the students about the kinds of films and TV series that they like and why.
Suggested answers:

Strong characters
An interesting plot
Not knowing what will happen next
Unexpected twists
Real life

2. A technique that **writers** use to leave the reader/viewer in suspense at the **end** of a scene.
Readers/viewers want to find out what happens **next** in the story.

3. Match each scene to its cliffhanger ending.

a 2 b 4 c 5 d 1 e 3

4. That was a brilliant episode. What a **cliffhanger**! I can't wait to see what happens next week!

5. Sample answer:

Sandra looked out over the clear blue water. She waited for the fishing boats to pass and then she threw her mobile phone into the sea. She climbed over the side of the bridge. She was ready. 'Sandra! No!'

6. Discussion: The cliffhanger is that we don't know what happens next; does Sandra jump or not? Maybe she just wanted to go fishing. Maybe she threw her phone into the water because she was tired of it ringing all the time. Maybe she was getting ready to do a bungee jump. Who knows? You have to read the story to find out.

* Sarah Gudgeon

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