

**ESL
Seminars**



THE MOVIE LIST



ESL Seminars



In this book is a list of movies that ESL Seminars recommends for viewing by all of its students. The English spoken in these movies is superior to anything else you will be able to find.

Immerse in these movies. Listen carefully to the English. Listen for idioms. Listen to the use of articles and prepositions. You will improve your English skills by listening to these movies, but only if you pay attention to the English as it is spoken by the actors.

Yes, most of them are old and in black and white. That should pose no obstacle to you. We have developed this list after years and years of research. Take them seriously and use them as an important tool to improve your English skills.

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1222 Hazel Street North, Saint Paul, Minnesota, 55119-4500 USA

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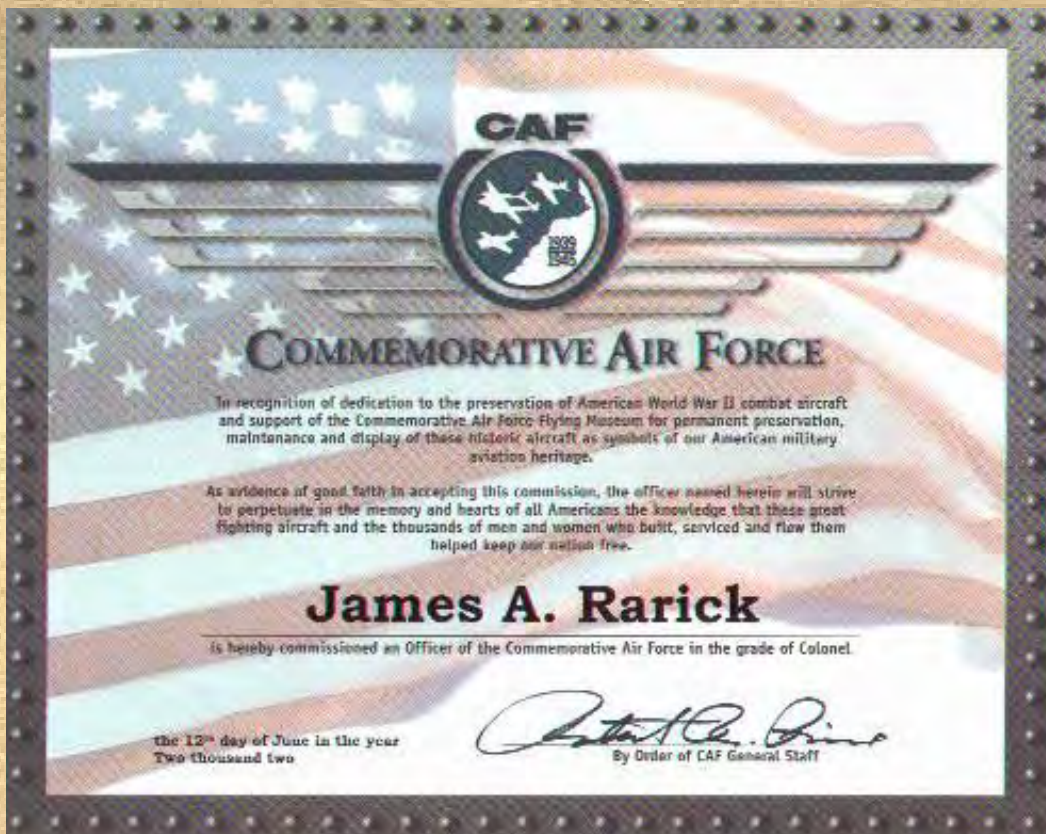
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Here are two links that you will find important. The first is a free program to allow you to download movies. It is called a “bit torrent”.

[Free Bit-Torrent Program](#)

The next is a link to find the movies themselves. You will find all the information you need on that site to have you downloading movies in minutes. The best thing is that both of those services are FREE.

[Movie Site Link](#)

Send your writing samples, and any other correspondence to:

jim@sanpedrocollege.org or

jim@eslseminars.org



Use an anti-virus program.

One program that works well, and does not interfere with Skype is Avira: There are many anti-virus programs available, but Avira is free and it is effective. Consider using it.

<http://www.avira.com/en/avira-free-antivirus>

Avira is free and very useful.

Record your classes.

Below are two links for free audio recorders to be used on your computer. Record each class so that you can review them at a later time. More importantly, you can listen to your own English progress.

<http://www.ifree-recorder.com/>

<http://www.aplian.com/frecorder4/>



Measure your Internet speed.

You must have a minimum of 500kbps to enjoy clear communication with Skype. If you have a wireless connection — well, no one can help that. If we have trouble maintaining good communications you may have to contact your Internet Service Provider (ISP) to increase your connection speed. A way to measure your connection speed is given below as a link.

<http://us.mcafee.com/root/speedometer/default.asp>

You will be asked go to the *Voice Of America* web pages to find articles. You are expected to read and to listen to the article at least three times, and preferably more. It is better to listen without reading at least two times. Then you can read the narrative to locate words that you had trouble understanding when they were spoken. The link is given below. Please use only the "Standard" English articles. They are more challenging.

http://www.51voa.com/VOA_Standard_English/

Here are some other good links with native English speakers.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/england/>

<http://www.kstp.com/index.shtml>

<http://www.kare11.com/>



Increase the speed of your computer by using CCleaner. CCleaner is a FREE program that deletes temporary Internet files and other temporary items that end up clogging your computer. Once you have it downloaded and operating on your computer, contact us on how to configure it for the best performance.

<http://www.piriform.com/ccleaner/download/standard>

One last item would be a good video and audio player. We highly recommend VideoLan. You can download it from:

<http://www.videolan.org>



THE MOVIE LIST

This book is a listing of the recommended movies from ESL Seminars. Many of you, if not most, wonder why we encourage our students to watch movies. That is a very good question, but the answer is even better.

We encourage, or more directly, we instruct our students to watch these movies to improve their English skills. We have selected older movies because of the perfect English. The English in these movies was created by screenwriters and playwrights that were English experts. The English is delivered by actors and actresses that speak their lines perfectly, with perfect pronunciations, diction, and intonations.

The reason these perfect English factors came together is a result of the “Hays Code”. In 1930, Will Hays created the Hays (Production) Code, which set censorship guidelines for movies, and went into effect in 1930. However, the code was never enforced until 1934.

Before 1934, movie content was restricted by local laws, negotiations between the Studio Relations Committee, the major studios, and popular opinion rather than strict adherence to the Hays Code, which was often ignored by Hollywood filmmakers.

Not only was the level of English in the movies raised to a more formal and academic manner, but also moral issues that were regulated. Kisses could only last a few seconds, married couples had to have double beds, and so on.

In the early 1960’s, films again began to deal with adult subjects and sexual matters that had not been seen since the early 1930’s. British films such as Victim (1961), A Taste of Honey (1961) and The Leather Boys (1963) challenged traditional gender roles and openly con-



fronted the prejudices against homosexuals, all in clear violation of the Hollywood Production Code. In keeping with the changes in society, sexual content that would have previously been banned by the Code, was being included in movies. It was downhill from there..

This also affected the English being used. English degraded back to slang. There was also improper English sentence syntax and sentence construction. The quality of movies started to decline after 1960 and has never recovered.

What we have then is a time period in which movies, for the most part, demonstrate a high level of English. That English is formal and academic and is perfect for our use.

Movies also have an advantage. You see the “action” as you listen to the English. You are able to put action with dialog, and that will give you English in “context”, exactly what you need to progress in your English skills.

Watch as many of these movies as you can. Download them and enjoy them, but above all, listen to the English and immerse in that English language!

THE MOVIE LIST

1934

The Thin Man***

1936

After the Thin Man

Mr. Deeds Goes To Town

1939

Mr. Smith Goes To Washington***

Another Thin Man

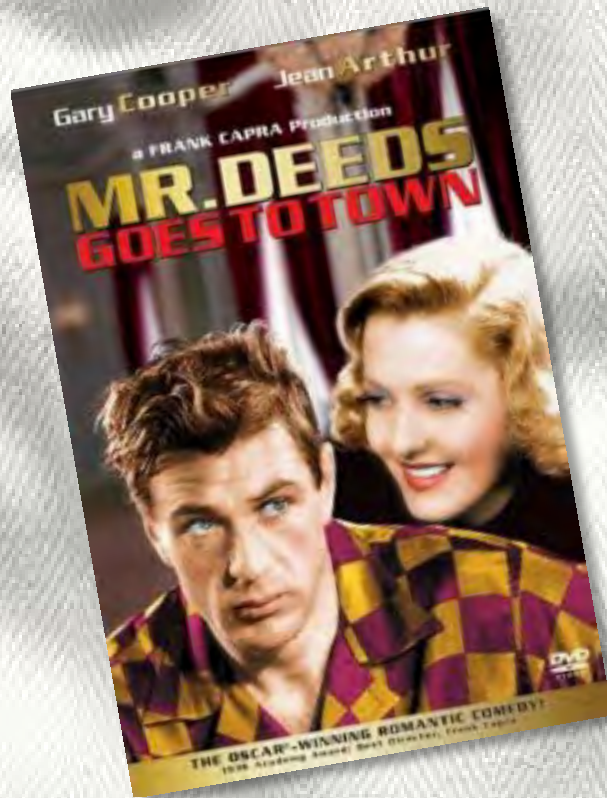
Code of the Secret Service

It's a Wonderful World

Only Angels Have Wings

Stagecoach

The City



THE MOVIE LIST



1940

- The Shop Around The Corner***
- Foreign Correspondent
- The Grapes of Wrath
- His Girl Friday (Very Difficult!)
- They Drive By Night
- The Devil and Miss Jones***
- Shadow of the Thin Man
- Suspicion

1941

- The Maltese Falcon***
- His Girl Friday
- Citizen Kane



THE MOVIE LIST

1942

- The Talk of the Town
- Across the Pacific
- The Man Who Came To dinner
- Roxie Hart (Difficult dialog, but extremely funny!)
- Saboteur
- To Be Or Not To Be
- Casablanca



1943

- Shadow of a Doubt
- The More The Merrier
- George Washington Slept Here
- Sherlock Holmes and the Secret Weapon



THE MOVIE LIST



1944

Passage To Marseille
To Have and Have Not
Double Indemnity

1945

The Bells of St. Mary's***
The Thin Man Goes Home
State Fair



THE MOVIE LIST

1946

- The Best Years Of Our Lives***
- The Big Sleep
- It's A Wonderful Life

1947

- Song of the Thin Man
- Out Of The Past
- The Fugitive
- Gentleman's Agreement



THE MOVIE LIST



1948

A Foreign Affair
Red River
Force Of Evil

1949

Adam's Rib



THE MOVIE LIST

1950

People Will Talk***
Sunset Boulevard
All About Eve

1951

The Treasure Of The Sierra Madre
A Place In The Sun
The Day The Earth Stood Still
The African Queen



THE MOVIE LIST



1952
High Noon

1954
Sabrina***
The Caine Mutiny
The High and the Mighty
Rear Window
Dial M for Murder



THE MOVIE LIST

1955

Mister Roberts

Bad Day At Black Rock

1956

Giant

Written on the Wind

The King and I



THE MOVIE LIST



1957

- An Affair To Remember
- Kiss Them For Me
- The Bridge On The River Kwai
- Will Success Spoil Rock Hunter

1958

- The Big Country
- South Pacific
- High School Confidential
- Vertigo



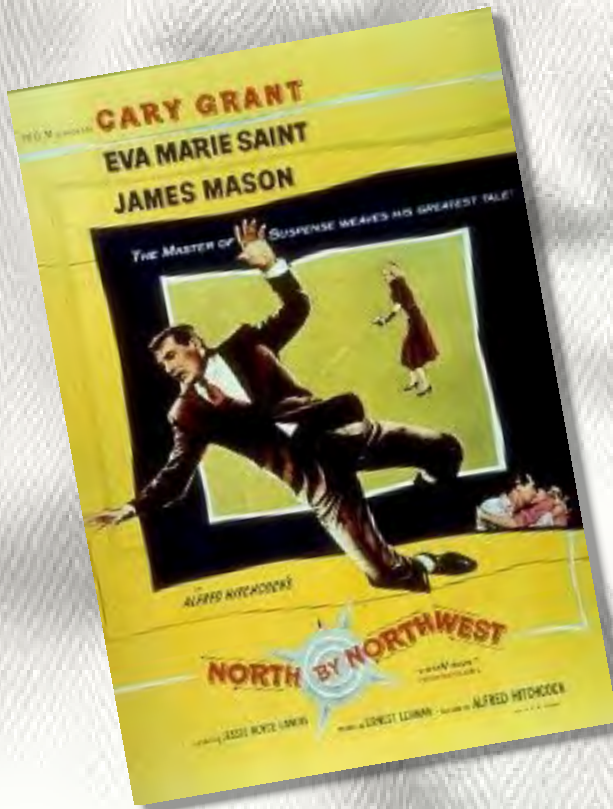
THE MOVIE LIST

1959

- North By Northwest
- Pillow Talk
- The Wreck of the Mary Deare

1960

- The Apartment
- Inherit The Wind
- The World Of Suzie Wong
- Exodus



THE MOVIE LIST

18

1961

The Parent Trap
Lover Come Back

1963

Donovan's Reef





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