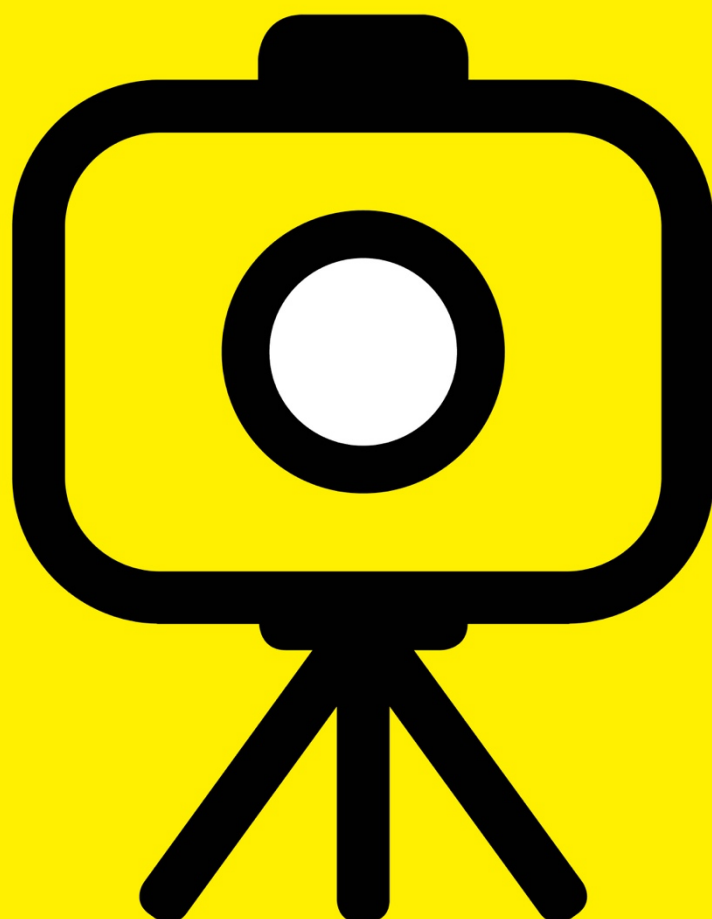


Frida



A Viewing Guide by Kieran Donaghy

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Frida

Directed by: Julie Taymor

Release date: August 2002

Running time: 123 mins

Genre: Biographical drama film

VIEWING RECOMMENDATIONS

Read the recommendation before viewing the film

- **Read the Pre-viewing discussion questions.** Carefully read through the Pre-viewing discussion questions in preparation for discussing what you already know about the topic, setting and genre of the film in class or online.
- **Discuss the Pre-viewing questions.** After preparing your answers to the Pre-viewing questions, discuss them with your classmates in class or online.
- **Read the film synopsis.** Reading the synopsis will help you understand the film's narrative. Use the short glossary under the synopsis to help you with more difficult vocabulary.
- **Watch the film in English.** Watching films in English is an excellent way to improve your English because films are an example of multimodal input – the simultaneous presentation of audio, images and text – which makes comprehension easier.
- **Use subtitles.** Research findings strongly indicate that subtitles help students improve listening comprehension and learn more vocabulary.
- **Use subtitles in your first language at lower levels.** When watching a film, a minimum level is necessary to deal with subtitles in English. Therefore, for lower levels (A1, A2 and B1) it is better to watch with subtitles in your first language and progress to subtitles in English when you have reached a higher level.
- **Use subtitles in English at higher levels.** Students at higher levels (B1+, B2, C1 and C2) should watch films with subtitles in English.
- **Work on vocabulary before viewing.** Just watching films in English with subtitles will help you improve your vocabulary, but research shows that if you work on the words and expressions in the film before you watch, you learn even more vocabulary. So carefully read the glossary of words and expressions before viewing.
- **First viewing – watch the whole film for enjoyment and entertainment.** Before viewing the film for the first time read through the glossary and then watch the whole film without pausing. Try to follow the story and use the subtitles to help you understand the dialogues.



- **Second viewing – watch the film section by section.** After having watched the whole film, re-read the first section of the glossary and watch the corresponding section of the film a second time. As you watch try to notice how the vocabulary in the glossary is used in the film. Follow the same procedure for the other sections of the film.
- **Read the Post-viewing discussion questions.** After viewing the film for a second time, carefully read through the Post-viewing discussion questions in preparation for discussing the film and your reaction to it in class or online.
- **Discuss the Post-viewing questions.** After preparing your answers to the Post-viewing questions, discuss them with your classmates in class or online. Notice how you are analysing the multiple facets of the film and making a personal response to the film.
- **Make a personal multimodal response to the film.** After discussing the Post-viewing questions, make a personal response to the film by writing a multimodal review of the film using print text, screenshots, video clips, music etc. or writing an analysis of key scenes using print text and screenshots from the film, or recording a video summary of the film and your response to it. Try to use some vocabulary in the glossary in your response to the film.
- **If you enjoyed the film, watch other films of the same genre.**

TALK ABOUT THE FILM BEFORE VIEWING (Pre-viewing questions)

Discuss the questions before viewing the film.



SELF

- What are your expectations of films in the biographical drama film genre? Can you think of any examples that you have seen?
- What do you know about Frida Kahlo? Have you seen any of her paintings? Did you like them? Why/Why not?
- The film is directed by a woman. Considering the subject matter, do you think it's especially important for this to be made by a female filmmaker or not?
- What do you know about Diego Rivera? Have you seen any of his paintings? Did you like them? Why/Why not?
- What do you associate with the stereotype of the 'troubled artist'? Can you think of any figures that fit the idea of a tortured artist e.g., afflicted by alcoholism?
- Who are the most famous artists in your country? Do you like their paintings? Why/Why not?
- How much do you know about Mexico and its culture?



FILM SYNOPSIS

Read the synopsis before viewing the film.

In 1922, Frida Kahlo is a student who lives with her middle-class family in Mexico City. Frida suffers a traumatic accident at the age of 18 onboard a bus. To help her through **convalescence**¹, her father brings her a canvas to paint upon. She paints her own **portrait**² and portraits of her sister. Once regaining the ability to walk with a cane, Frida visits artist Diego Rivera, asking for an honest **critique**³ of her paintings. Diego goes to her home, tells her she has real talent and should continue painting. They fall in love and get married. The couple travel to New York City in 1934 so Diego can paint a **mural**⁴ inside the Rockefeller Center. Throughout the marriage, Diego has affairs with a wide array of women, while the bisexual Frida has male and female lovers. While living in the United States, Frida suffers a **miscarriage**⁵ and travels back to Mexico for her mother's funeral. The pair return to Mexico, with Diego more reluctant. Frida's sister, Cristina, moves in with them at their studio home as Diego's assistant. Soon afterward, Frida discovers Diego is sleeping with her. Leaving him, she subsequently sinks into **alcoholism**⁶ after moving back to her family's home. They reunite during a Día de los Muertos celebration where he asks her to welcome and house Leon Trotsky, who has been granted political **asylum**⁷ in Mexico. Trotsky expresses his love for Frida's work and they begin an affair. Soon, Trotsky's wife learns of the affair, forcing the couple to leave the safety of Frida's home. Diego realises she was **unfaithful**⁸ to him with Trotsky. Frida leaves for Paris and her exhibition is a great success. When she returns to Mexico, Diego asks for a divorce. In 1940, Trotsky is murdered in Mexico City. Initially, Diego is suspected by police of organising the **assassination**⁹. When they fail to locate him, Frida is arrested. Cristina arrives and escorts Frida out of prison. Frida has her toes removed when her doctor notices they had become **gangrenous**¹⁰. Diego asks Frida to remarry him and she agrees. Her health continues to worsen. In 1953, Frida's bed is carried from her home to a museum to attend her first solo exhibition in her native country.

¹ convalescence: a period of time when you get well again after an illness or a medical operation

² portrait: a painting, drawing or photograph of a person

³ critique: a piece of criticism of a set of ideas, a work of art, etc.

⁴ mural: a large picture that has been painted on the wall of a room or building

⁵ miscarriage: the process of giving birth to a baby before it is fully developed and able to survive

⁶ alcoholism: the medical condition caused by drinking too much alcohol regularly

⁷ asylum: protection that a government gives to people who have left their own country

⁸ unfaithful: having sex with someone who is not your husband, wife or usual partner

⁹ assassination: the murder of an important or famous person, especially for political reasons

¹⁰ gangrenous: decaying (= becoming destroyed by natural processes) because the blood supply to it has been stopped because of an illness or injury



GLOSSARY

Read the section summaries, and glossary of words and expressions before viewing the film.

In 1922, Frida Kahlo is a student and lives with her middle-class family in Mexico City. In 1922, Frida suffers a traumatic accident at the age of 18 onboard a wooden-bodied bus which collides with a streetcar. Impaled by a metal pole, the injuries she sustains plague her for the rest of her life. To help her through convalescence, her father brings her a canvas to paint upon. She paints her own portrait and portraits of her sister. She starts to learn how to walk again.

careful /'keəfl/ (**adj**) giving attention or thought to what you are doing so that you avoid hurting yourself, damaging something or doing something wrong

- *Be careful what you say.*
- *Be careful! I don't want you to fall!*
- *He's a very careful driver.*

guys /gaɪz/ (**n**) a group of men

- *Hey, guys. How's it going?*
- *Are you guys coming to the party?*
- *Come on, guys, let's get going!*

breathe /bri:ð/ (**v**) to take air into and out of your lungs through your nose or mouth

- *The room was full of smoke and it was difficult to breathe.*
- *She breathed in the mountain air deeply.*
- *Just breathe deeply and try to relax.*

professor /prə'fesə(r)/ (**n**) UK a university teacher of the highest rank

- *He's the professor of economics at Leeds University.*
- *Professor Gordon will be delivering the plenary address.*
- *She's been named the professor of French.*



care /keə(r)/ **(v)** to feel that something is important and worth worrying about

- *I don't care what he thinks.*
- *I don't really care how much it costs.*
- *She doesn't care much about her appearance.*

naked /'neɪkɪd/ **(adj)** not wearing any clothes

- *The children were running naked around the garden.*
- *The man was naked from the waist up.*
- *The police found the half-naked body lying in the grass.*

whore /hɔ:(r)/ **(n) offensive** a woman who has sex for money

- *Julia Roberts plays the role of a whore in the film Pretty Woman.*
- *The stockbrokers paid for whores to go to the party.*
- *He insulted her by calling her a whore.*

idiot /'ɪdiət/ **(n)** a very stupid person or someone who is behaving in a stupid way

- *When I lost my mobile, I felt such an idiot.*
- *Some idiot almost ran me over this morning.*
- *Why are you being such an idiot?*

slut /slʌt/ **(n) offensive** a woman who has many sexual partners

- *He accused her of being a slut.*
- *Don't ever call me a slut again!*
- *I don't care if you think I'm a slut.*

speech /spi:tʃ/ **(n)** a formal talk a person gives to an audience on a special occasion

- *She gave a really inspiring speech on tolerance and respect.*
- *The prime minister delivered a speech at the party conference.*
- *Her speech was received with a standing ovation.*



reputation /ˌrepjuˈteɪʃn/ **(n)** the opinion that people have about what someone or something is like

- *This university has an excellent academic reputation.*
- *The company's got a very good reputation with customers.*
- *She has the reputation of being a good lawyer.*

piece of shit /pi:s ɒv ʃɪt/ **(n)** an impolite expression to say you do not like or respect someone

- *I think he's a piece of shit.*
- *What an arrogant piece of shit you are!*
- *What kind of piece of shit does something like that?*

watch out /wɒtʃ aʊt/ **(phr v)** used to warn someone about something dangerous

- *Watch out! There's a car coming!*
- *Watch out, he's got a gun!*
- *Watch out for pickpockets at night.*

fucking /'fʌkɪŋ/ **(adj) offensive** used to emphasise a comment or an angry statement

- *I'm fucking sick of my boss!*
- *He's a fucking idiot!*
- *What are you fucking looking at?*

punk /pʌŋk/ **(n) US** a young man or boy who fights and breaks the law

- *Listen, you little punk – you do that again and I'm gonna kill you.*
- *I'd like to catch the punks who stole my car.*
- *He's just a little punk.*

honest /'ɒnɪst/ **(adj)** always telling the truth, and never stealing or cheating

- *Do you want my honest opinion?*
- *She one of the most honest people I've ever met.*
- *He's a hardworking honest man.*



wedding /'wedɪŋ/ (n) a marriage ceremony, and the meal or party that follows it

- *We're going to a wedding next weekend.*
- *I met her at my sister's wedding.*
- *Do you know the date of Marie and Sean's wedding?*

fantastic /fæn'tæstɪk/ (adj) extremely good

- *You've done a fantastic job.*
- *We had a fantastic time on holiday.*
- *He scored a fantastic goal.*

fortune /'fɔ:tju:n/ (n) a large amount of money

- *She made a fortune in real estate.*
- *He inherited a fortune from his parents.*
- *The house must have cost a fortune.*

marry /'mæri/ (v) to become the husband or wife of someone

- *She married an Australian.*
- *He never got married.*
- *He doesn't want to marry Kath.*

artist /'ɑ:tɪst/ (n) someone who creates things with great skill and imagination

- *In Paris I met a group of young artists: poets, film-makers and painters.*
- *The person who made this cake is a real artist.*
- *She's an artist who works in different media.*

excited /ɪk'saɪtɪd/ (adj) feeling very happy and enthusiastic

- *I'm excited that they're coming to visit.*
- *She's excited about going to university.*
- *Are you excited about your holiday?*



suppose /sə'pəʊz/ (v) to think or believe that something is probably true, based on your knowledge

- *I suppose that's why they were late.*
- *'Where are they?' 'In the park, I suppose.'*
- *Why do you suppose she lied?*

marriage /'mæɪɪdʒ/ (n) the legal relationship between two people who are married to each other

- *My parents have a very happy marriage.*
- *This is her second marriage.*
- *I've got two daughters from my first marriage.*

matter /'mætə(r)/ (v) to be important or have an important effect on someone or something

- *'I'm sorry I forgot to bring my homework.' 'It doesn't matter.'*
- *'What did you say?' 'Oh, it doesn't matter.'*
- *Will it matter if I'm a little late?*

memory /'meməri/ (n) your ability to remember things

- *She has a great memory for detail.*
- *I have a terrible memory for names.*
- *People have short memories.*

concentrate /'kɒnsntreɪt/ (v) to give all your attention to something and not think about anything else

- *You need to turn the music off and to concentrate on your homework.*
- *I can't concentrate with all that noise.*
- *Now please concentrate.*

hurry up /'hʌɪ ʌp/ (phr v) to do something more quickly because there is not much time

- *Hurry up! We're going to be late.*
- *Hurry up or we'll miss the bus.*
- *Hurry up with that coffee, will you.*



come on /kʌm ɒn/ (**phr v**) used in orders to tell someone to hurry or to try harder

- *Come on! We haven't got all day.*
- *Come on! Try again.*
- *Come on – we're going to be late if you don't hurry.*

miss /mɪs/ (**v**) to be or arrive too late for something

- *If you don't hurry up, we're going to miss the bus.*
- *I overslept and missed the train.*
- *I'm sorry I'm late. Have I missed anything?*

anyway /'eniweɪ/ (**adv**) used when changing the subject of a conversation, ending the conversation or returning to a subject

- *Anyway, I'd better go now or I'll be late for work.*
- *So, anyway, back to what I was saying.*
- *Anyway, as I said, I won't be here next week.*

ridiculous /rɪ'dɪkjələs/ (**adj**) silly, stupid or unreasonable

- *Do I look ridiculous in these shoes?*
- *Don't be ridiculous! I can't afford to spend \$1,000 on a phone!*
- *It's ridiculous to expect people to live on \$50 a week.*

truth /tru:θ/ (**n**) the state or quality of being true

- *Just tell me the truth.*
- *Do you think she's telling the truth?*
- *So now we know the truth.*

operation /ˌɒpə'reɪʃn/ (**n**) the process of cutting open a part of a person's body in order to remove or repair a damaged part

- *She came through the operation very well.*
- *He needs to have another operation.*
- *We met the surgeon who performed the operation.*



portrait /'pɔːtreɪt/ /'pɔːtrət/ **(n)** a painting, drawing or photograph of a person, especially of the head and shoulders

- *She's a famous portrait painter*
- *We visited a portrait gallery when we were in London.*
- *He's commissioned an artist to paint his portrait.*

adore /ə'dɔː(r)/ **(v)** to love someone or something very much

- *He adores his wife.*
- *I adore her music.*
- *As a child, I adored adventure stories.*

miss /mɪs/ **(v)** to feel sad because you can no longer see someone you like

- *I'm going to miss you.*
- *I really missed her when she went away.*
- *She misses her parents a lot.*

virginity /və'dʒɪnəti/ **(n)** the state of never having had sex

- *When did you lose your virginity?*
- *She had taken a vow of lifelong virginity.*
- *She lost her virginity at the age of 16 to the boy next door.*

wonderful /'wʌndəfl/ **(adj)** very good, pleasant or a lot of fun; making you feel very happy

- *We had a wonderful time in Cambridge.*
- *She's a wonderful person.*
- *It's wonderful that you can come to the party!*

pain /peɪn/ **(n)** the feeling of physical suffering you have in your body when you have been hurt or are ill

- *She was in so much pain we called an ambulance.*
- *He's in constant pain.*
- *These tablets should ease the pain.*



horrible /'hɒrəbl/ (**adj**) unfriendly, unpleasant or unkind

- *I'm so sorry. I was horrible to you.*
- *He's a horrible person.*
- *That was a horrible thing to say!*

specialist /'speʃəlɪst/ (**n**) a doctor who has specialised in a particular area of medicine

- *I was sent to see a back specialist at the local hospital.*
- *Specialists believe that this condition is genetic.*
- *You need to see a specialist.*

plan /plæn/ (**n**) something that you intend to do or achieve

- *Do you have any plans for the summer?*
- *We can't change our plans now.*
- *Let's stick to our original plan.*

burden /'bɜːdn/ (**n**) something difficult, unpleasant or worrying that you are responsible for

- *She doesn't want to become a burden to her children when she gets old.*
- *I don't like being a burden on other people.*
- *At the age of 18, Mike had to bear the burden of providing for his family.*

cripple /'krɪpl/ (**n**) **old-fashioned or offensive** a person who is unable to walk or move normally because of a disease or injury

- *He used to get bullied at school because he was a cripple.*
- *It's wrong to make fun of a cripple.*
- *He has gone from being a healthy, fit and sporty young man to being a cripple.*

surprise /sə'praɪz/ (**n**) an event, a piece of news, etc. that is unexpected or that happens suddenly

- *The news was a real surprise.*
- *What a lovely surprise!*
- *Life's full of surprises.*



worry /'wʌri/ (v) to keep thinking about unpleasant things that might happen or about problems that you have in a way that makes you unhappy or frightened

- *I wouldn't worry about it.*
- *He's worried he won't find a new job.*
- *Don't worry. We've got plenty of time.*

Once regaining the ability to walk with a cane, Frida visits painter Diego Rivera, asking for an honest critique of her paintings. Rivera goes to her home, tells her she has real talent and should continue painting. He takes her to a party where she meets other artists and radicals. They fall in love and begin a dysfunctional relationship. When he proposes, she tells him she expects loyalty from him if not fidelity. Frida accepts the proposal and they get married. Frida becomes friends with Diego's ex-wife who teaches her how to cook Diego's favourite dishes.

chat /tʃæt/ (v) to talk in a friendly, informal way to someone

- *They chatted away to each other.*
- *What were you chatting about?*
- *We chatted briefly about the weather.*

fun /fʌn/ (n) the feeling of enjoying yourself; activities that you enjoy

- *We decided to start the company for fun – we love what we do.*
- *Did you have fun at the party?*
- *I haven't had so much fun in years.*

flirt /flɜ:t/ (v) to behave as if you are sexually attracted to someone, without seriously wanting to have a relationship with them

- *His wife accused him of flirting with other women at the party.*
- *He flirts outrageously with female journalists.*
- *It really embarrasses me when you flirt with other men in front of me.*

fool around /fu:l ə'raʊnd/ (phr v) to behave in a humorous or silly way in order to make other people laugh

- *Hey, I'm just fooling around.*
- *He gets into a lot of trouble because he's always fooling around in class.*
- *Will you stop fooling around and get on with some work?*



vanity /'vænəti/ (n) the condition of being too proud of your own appearance, abilities or achievements

- *He wants the job purely for reasons of vanity.*
- *She has no personal vanity.*
- *He has none of the vanity normally associated with Hollywood actors.*

tremendous /trə'mendəs/ (adj) great in amount, size or degree

- *The result was a tremendous disappointment.*
- *She has been under tremendous pressure recently.*
- *I have tremendous respect for my parents.*

trash /træʃ/ (n) US things that you throw away because you no longer want or need them

- *The trash really smells – why don't you take it out?*
- *Just put it in the trash.*
- *What are these books doing in the trash?*

cut /kʌt/ (v) to reduce the amount of something

- *We're going to have to cut three players from the squad.*
- *They've cut her salary by 30 percent.*
- *Just cut the propaganda!*

talent /'tælənt/ (n) a natural ability to do something well

- *You've got a natural talent for photography.*
- *She showed a talent for writing at an early age.*
- *You're a woman of many talents.*

look for /lʊk fə/ (phr v) to try to find something that you have lost, or someone who is not where they should be

- *I'm looking for Jade – have you seen her?*
- *Police are still looking for the escaped prisoner.*
- *'What are you doing?' 'I'm looking for my glasses. They were here a minute ago'*



compliment /'kɒmplɪmənt/ **(n)** a comment that expresses approval, admiration or respect

- *It's a great compliment to be asked to speak at the conference.*
- *We all paid our compliments to the chef.*
- *When people say I have my mother's character, I take it as a compliment.*

sincere /sɪn'sɪə(r)/ **(adj)** showing what you really think or feel

- *I'm being perfectly sincere.*
- *We offer our most sincere apologies.*
- *I would like to express my sincere gratitude for your care and concern during this past month.*

trust /trʌst/ **(v)** to believe that someone is good, fair and honest and will not harm you

- *We trust each other.*
- *I just don't trust Richard.*
- *Can they be trusted to do the job properly?*

brilliant /'brɪliənt/ **(adj)** extremely clever or impressive

- *His theory is quite brilliant.*
- *She has a brilliant mind.*
- *What a brilliant idea!*

photographer /fə'tɒɡrəfə(r)/ **(n)** a person who takes photographs, especially as a job

- *They've hired a professional photographer for the wedding.*
- *She's a famous fashion photographer.*
- *He's training to be a photographer.*

taste /teɪst/ **(n)** what a person likes or prefers

- *You've got great taste in music.*
- *Her taste in books is really similar to mine.*
- *He has very expensive taste in clothes.*



dangerous /'deɪndʒərəs/ (**adj**) able or likely to harm or kill you

- *It's quite a dangerous neighbourhood.*
- *It was a highly dangerous situation.*
- *The prisoner who escaped is violent and dangerous.*

shy /ʃaɪ/ (**adj**) nervous or embarrassed about meeting and speaking to other people

- *He's a quiet, shy man.*
- *As a teenager I was painfully shy.*
- *You don't have to be shy with me, you know.*

bad-mouth /'bæd maʊθ/ (**v**) to say unpleasant things about someone

- *Her former colleagues accused her of bad-mouthing them in public.*
- *You'll never hear him bad-mouth an opponent.*
- *Divorced parents shouldn't bad-mouth each other in front of their kids.*

incredible /ɪn'kredəbl/ (**adj**) extremely good

- *She's an incredible painter.*
- *The view was incredible.*
- *You're pretty incredible, Maggie.*

beauty /'bju:ti/ (**n**) the quality of giving pleasure to the senses or to the mind

- *There's so much beauty in the world.*
- *This song is a thing of beauty.*
- *The beauty of Rome amazed us.*

irresistible /ˌɪrɪ'zɪstəbl/ (**adj**) impossible to refuse, oppose, or avoid because it is too pleasant, attractive or strong

- *Men find Laura irresistible.*
- *You'll find our offer irresistible.*
- *Her arguments were irresistible.*



wonder /'wʌndə(r)/ (n) someone or something that fills you with surprise and pleasure

- *You're a real wonder!*
- *No wonder that you're so happy!*
- *The painting is a wonder to behold.*

luck /'lʌk/ (n) good things that happen to you by chance, not because of your own efforts or abilities

- *Poor Peter doesn't have much luck.*
- *I feel I've had a lot of luck in my life.*
- *Good luck with your exam.*

socialism /'səʊʃəlɪzəm/ (n) a set of political and economic theories based on the belief that everyone has an equal right to a share of a country's wealth and that the government should own and control the main industries

- *They are trying to build socialism in their own country.*
- *Equality is one of the pillars of socialism.*
- *All her life she had absolute faith in socialism.*

achieve /ə'tʃi:v/ (v) to succeed in reaching a particular goal, status or standard, especially by making an effort for a long time

- *She has worked very hard to achieve her goal.*
- *He has achieved considerable success as a writer.*
- *They achieved very good exam results.*

throw out /θrəʊ aʊt/ (phr v) to force someone to leave a place

- *His landlord threw him out because he hadn't paid the rent for six months.*
- *She was thrown out of university for taking drugs.*
- *He was thrown out of the pub for fighting.*

reject /rɪ'dʒekt/ (v) to refuse to accept someone for a job, position, etc.

- *I was rejected for the job.*
- *I've been rejected by all the universities I applied to.*
- *It's obvious why his application was rejected.*



educate /'edʒukeɪt/ **(v)** to teach someone about something or how to do something

- *Children need to be educated on the dangers of drug-taking.*
- *The campaign is intended to educate people to respect the environment.*
- *We recognise the need to educate doctors on how to deal with these patients.*

communist /'kɒmjənɪst/ **(n)** a person who believes in or supports communism (= a political movement that believes in an economic system in which the state controls the means of producing everything for the people. It aims to create a society in which everyone is treated equally.)

- *The communists seized power in 1949.*
- *He studied at Cambridge University, where he became a communist.*
- *The policy has also been opposed by communists and socialists.*

disagree /dɪsə'ɡriː/ **(v)** to not have the same opinion, idea, etc. as another person

- *I'm sorry but I disagree with you on that point.*
- *Jonny and I often disagree with each other.*
- *I strongly disagree with this policy.*

revolution /,revə'luːʃn/ **(n)** an attempt, by a large number of people, to change the government of a country, especially by violent action

- *The activists were charged with fomenting revolution.*
- *The country is on the brink of revolution.*
- *The role of women in society has changed since the revolution.*

wealthy /'welθi/ **(adj)** having a lot of money and possessions

- *She's a very wealthy woman.*
- *Jordan comes from a very wealthy family.*
- *They're fabulously wealthy.*

hire /'haɪə(r)/ **(v)** to give someone a job or pay someone to do a particular job

- *They hired a lawyer to handle the case.*
- *I'm sorry, we're not hiring at the moment.*
- *I hired someone to paint the house.*



guilt /gɪlt/ (n) a feeling of worry or sadness that you have because you have done something wrong

- *He suffers terrible guilt over leaving his family.*
- *She felt an enormous sense of guilt over the way she'd treated him.*
- *He had absolutely no feelings of guilt over what he had done.*

vain /veɪn/ (adj) too proud of your own appearance, abilities or achievements

- *He's too vain to wear glasses.*
- *She's very vain about her looks.*
- *He's so vain!*

intelligent /ɪn'telɪdʒənt/ (adj) good at learning, understanding and thinking in a logical way about things; showing this ability

- *She's a highly intelligent child.*
- *That's a really intelligent question.*
- *You can have an intelligent conversation with her.*

enemy /'enəmi/ (n) a person who hates someone or who acts against someone

- *He's made a lot of enemies in his career.*
- *They used to be close friends but now they're sworn enemies.*
- *He's a dangerous enemy to have.*

stupid /'stjuːpɪd/ (adj) showing a lack of good sense or good judgment

- *It was such a stupid thing to do.*
- *I made a stupid mistake.*
- *How could he be so stupid?*

benefit /'benɪfɪt/ (n) an advantage that something gives you; a helpful and useful effect that something has

- *The method has many additional benefits.*
- *What are the benefits to investors?*
- *The benefits easily outweigh the cost.*



mural /'mjʊərəl/ (n) a large picture that has been painted on the wall of a room or building

- *One of the walls enclosing the park is decorated with a huge mural showing Hollywood stars.*
- *Today the art teacher and several students are working on the mural in the entrance foyer.*
- *Diego Rivera painted one of his largest murals in Detroit.*

swear /sweə(r)/ (v) to promise that you are telling the truth

- *I swear to God I had nothing to do with it.*
- *I don't know what happened to the car, I swear.*
- *He swore blind, he'd never seen her before.*

colleague /'kɒli:g/ (n) a person that you work with, especially in a profession or a business

- *I've talked to colleagues at other universities about the idea.*
- *I was sad to say goodbye to all my colleagues.*
- *She's a colleague of mine from the office.*

scar /ska:(r)/ (n) a mark that is left on the skin after a wound has got better

- *He's got a scar on his cheek.*
- *The burn will leave a bad scar.*
- *The cut left a permanent scar on her leg.*

perfect /'pɜ:fɪkt/ (adj) complete and correct in every way, of the best possible type or without fault

- *Today's been a perfect day.*
- *She thought she'd found the perfect man.*
- *Her English was perfect.*

nonsense /'nɒnsns/ (n) ideas, statements or opinions that you think are silly, stupid or not true

- *'Nobody loves me.' 'That's complete nonsense, Paula.'*
- *He was talking absolute nonsense as usual.*
- *That's a load of nonsense!*



serious /'sɪəriəs/ (**adj**) not joking or intended to be funny

- *I'm not joking – I'm completely serious.*
- *Please don't laugh – I'm being serious.*
- *I thought she was joking but she was deadly serious.*

successful /sək'sesfl/ (**adj**) achieving what you wanted or what was intended

- *She's always been highly successful in her career.*
- *The company was successful in winning the contract.*
- *Her heart operation was successful.*

faithful /'feɪθfl/ (**adj**) (of a wife, husband, girlfriend or boyfriend) not having a sexual relationship with anyone else

- *Do you think Mike has always been faithful to you?*
- *Anne has always been faithful to her husband.*
- *I've always been faithful to you; I've never cheated on you.*

unfaithful /ʌn'feɪθfl/ (**adj**) having sex with someone who is not your husband, wife or usual partner

- *Have you ever been unfaithful to him?*
- *Rob had been unfaithful to her on many occasions.*
- *Jack promised he'd never be unfaithful again.*

loyalty /'lɔɪəlti/ (**n**) the quality of remaining faithful to your friends, principles, country, etc.

- *She shows great loyalty to her employees.*
- *He was touched by the loyalty of his friends.*
- *Her loyalty was never in question.*

loyal /'lɔɪəl/ (**adj**) remaining constant in your support of someone or something

- *She's always been a loyal friend.*
- *The staff are incredibly loyal and hard-working.*
- *He's always been loyal to his political principles.*



bride /braɪd/ (n) a woman on her wedding day, or just before or just after it

- *The bride and the groom walked down the aisle together.*
- *Everyone turned as the bride entered the church.*
- *In many countries it's traditional for the bride to wear white.*

divorce /dɪ'vɔːs/ (v) to legally end a marriage to someone

- *If you don't change, I'm going to divorce you.*
- *His parents divorced last year.*
- *They're getting divorced.*

atheist /'eɪθiɪst/ (n) a person who does not believe that God exists

- *Although I'm an atheist, I don't dismiss other people's faith.*
- *I was born a Catholic, but am in fact an atheist.*
- *I've been an atheist for about 10 years.*

generous /'dʒenərəs/ (adj) willing to give money, help, kindness, etc., especially more than is usual or expected

- *That's very generous of you.*
- *He's been very generous with his time.*
- *She's always very generous to the kids.*

mortgage /'mɔːɡɪdʒ/ (n) a legal agreement that allows you to borrow money from a bank, especially in order to buy a house, or the amount of money itself

- *They took out a \$500,000 mortgage to buy the house.*
- *They had to give up their house because they couldn't pay the mortgage.*
- *The bank helped us arrange a mortgage.*

believe in /bɪ'liːv ɪn/ (phr v) to feel certain that someone or something exists; to trust someone because you think that they can do something well or that they are a good person

- *Do you believe in God?*
- *He doesn't believe in marriage.*
- *My parents have always believed in me.*



tradition /trə'dɪʃn/ (n) a belief, custom or way of doing something that has existed for a long time among a particular group of people; a set of these beliefs or customs

- *This country is steeped in tradition.*
- *This tradition dates back to the 16th century.*
- *There is a strong tradition of sport at this school.*

delusion /dɪ'luːʒən/ (n) a belief or idea that is not true

- *John was suffering from paranoid delusions and hallucinations.*
- *He's under the delusion that he's some sort of genius.*
- *I was under the delusion that he would help me.*

miserable /'mɪzrəbl/ (adj) making you feel very unhappy or uncomfortable

- *I can't stand my miserable job!*
- *What a miserable grey day!*
- *She spent a miserable weekend at home alone.*

courageous /kə'reɪdʒəs/ (adj) having or showing courage

- *It was a very courageous decision*
- *He was wrong and courageous enough to admit it.*
- *I think you were very courageous.*

romantic /rəʊ'mæntɪk/ (adj) connected to love or a close loving relationship

- *'What did you do for your anniversary? 'We had a really romantic dinner in our favourite restaurant.'*
- *I'm hopelessly romantic.*
- *I'm not ready for a romantic relationship.*

son of a bitch /,sʌn əv ə 'bɪtʃ/ (n) **offensive** a person that you think is bad or very unpleasant

- *I'm going to kill the son of a bitch when I see him!*
- *He's a lying son of a bitch!*
- *I hate that son of a bitch!*



give up /ɡɪv ʌp/ (**phr v**) to stop doing or having something

- *You should give up smoking.*
- *He gave up working when his children were born.*
- *I gave up trying to persuade him to continue with his studies.*

defend /dɪˈfend/ (**v**) to protect someone/something from attack

- *The role of the army is to defend the country.*
- *Troops have been sent to defend the borders.*
- *The city was heavily defended against attack.*

match /mætʃ/ (**n**) a person or thing that combines well with someone or something else

- *Simon and Peter are a perfect match for each other.*
- *The shirt and trousers are a good match.*
- *We have to make sure the candidate is the right match for the project.*

damn /dam/ (**adj, adv, exclam.**) used informally for emphasising what you are saying, especially when you are annoyed or angry

- *I'm sick of this damn job!*
- *She's so damn inconsiderate.*
- *Damn it, why don't you ever listen to me?*

sick /sɪk/ (**adj**) physically or mentally ill

- *His mother's very sick.*
- *He has to look after a sick relative.*
- *Her father has been off sick for a long time.*

furious /ˈfjʊəriəs/ (**adj**) very angry

- *I was furious at the way I'd been treated.*
- *I'm still furious with him.*
- *She was absolutely furious at having been deceived.*



cheat /tʃi:t/ (**v**) to be unfaithful to your romantic partner

- *His wife found out he'd been cheating on her for months.*
- *Everyone in town knows she's cheating on him.*
- *If you ever cheat on me, I'll leave you.*

what the hell /wɒt ðə hel/ (**phr**) **impolite** used when you are annoyed or surprised or to emphasise something

- *What the hell do you think you're doing?*
- *What the hell does he want?*
- *What the hell did you say?*

let's go /lets gəʊ/ (**idm**) used to tell someone to do something or go faster

- *OK, let's go! Do it now.*
- *Are you still getting dressed? Let's go. We need to leave in ten minutes.*
- *The report has to be finished by 5 O'clock. Let's go!*

drunk /drʌŋk/ (**adj**) having drunk so much alcohol that it is impossible to think or speak clearly

- *He was too drunk to remember what he'd done at the party.*
- *Paula got drunk and I had to take her home.*
- *They got drunk on vodka.*

belong to /bɪ'lɒŋ tʊ/ (**phr v**) to be owned by someone or something

- *Who do these glasses belong to?*
- *This house used to belong to my grandparents.*
- *I don't belong to you.*

commission /kə'mɪʃn/ (**n**) a formal request to someone to design or make a piece of work such as a building or a painting; the fact of making such a request

- *Sometimes she takes commissions for portraits.*
- *Eventually he agreed to accept the commission.*
- *Who won the commission to design the new town hall?*



scream /skri:m/ (v) to give a loud, high shout, because you are hurt, frightened, excited, angry, etc.

- *After the first few shots, people starting screaming.*
- *She screamed for help.*
- *He was screaming in pain.*

affection /ə'fekʃn/ (n) the feeling of liking or loving someone/something very much and caring about them

- *You can't buy people's affection.*
- *Children need lots of love and affection.*
- *He just wants a bit of affection.*

fascist /'fæʃɪst/ (n) a way of referring to someone that you think is bad because they have right-wing and nationalistic attitudes

- *I think my boss is a real fascist.*
- *The police at the demonstration behaved like a bunch of fascists.*
- *You're just a fascist and bully!*

traitor /'treɪtə(r)/ (n) a person who is not loyal to their country, friends or beliefs

- *He turned traitor and joined the opposition.*
- *The leaders of the rebellion were hanged as traitors.*
- *She was considered a traitor to the cause of women's rights.*

kid /kɪd/ (v) to tell someone something that is not true, especially as a joke

- *She said that? You're kidding me.*
- *I'm just kidding you!*
- *I forgot to get you a present. Hey, only kidding!*

kick out /kɪk aʊt/ (phr v) to make someone leave or go away

- *They kicked him out of school for fighting.*
- *His wife kicked him out.*
- *She was kicked out of university for cheating.*



quit /kwɪt/ (v) to voluntarily leave your job, school, university, etc.

- *I quit my job in protest over the decision.*
- *If you hate your job so much, why don't you quit?*
- *My dad quit school when he was 14.*

exhibition /ˌeksɪˈbɪʃn/ (n) a collection of things, for example works of art, that are shown to the public

- *There is a series of special exhibitions throughout the year.*
- *Have you seen the Picasso exhibition?*
- *She is to be the subject of a major exhibition next year.*

The couple travel to New York City in 1934 so Rivera can paint the mural *Man at the Crossroads* inside the Rockefeller Center. Throughout the marriage, Rivera has affairs with many women, while the bisexual Kahlo has male and female lovers, including, in one case, with the same woman as Rivera. While living in the United States, Kahlo suffers a miscarriage and travels back to Mexico for her mother's funeral. Rivera refuses to compromise his communist vision of the work to the needs of the patron, Nelson Rockefeller; as a result, the mural is destroyed. The couple return to Mexico, with Rivera more reluctant.

impression /ɪmˈpreʃn/ (n) an idea, a feeling or an opinion that you get about someone/something, or that someone/something gives you

- *I think I made a good impression.*
- *My first impression of her was favourable.*
- *I had the wrong impression about him.*

magnificent /mæɡˈnɪfɪsnt/ (adj) extremely attractive and impressive; deserving praise

- *You've all done a magnificent job.*
- *The palace was absolutely magnificent.*
- *They gave a magnificent performance.*



inspiration /ˌɪnspə'reɪʃn/ (n) a person that you admire and that makes you want to be better, more successful, etc.

- *She was an inspiration to everyone who knew her.*
- *Nelson Mandela was an inspiration to many human rights activists.*
- *J.K. Rowling is an inspiration to many young people.*

power /'paʊə(r)/ (n) the ability to control people or things

- *The president has the power to appoint ministers.*
- *Some people will do anything to get power.*
- *The Queen has no real political power.*

sadness /'sædnəs/ (n) the feeling of being sad

- *He saw the sadness on her face.*
- *There was a hint of sadness in his voice.*
- *I felt a deep sadness.*

myth /mɪθ/ (n) something that many people believe but that does not exist or is false

- *There is a great myth that all football players are stupid.*
- *The propaganda of both sides relies heavily on historical myth.*
- *We are trying to lay to rest the myths surrounding Alzheimer's disease.*

starve /stɑ:v/ (v) to suffer or die because you do not have enough food to eat; to make someone suffer or die in this way

- *He locked them in a room and left them to starve.*
- *She refused food and literally starved herself to death.*
- *The animals were left to starve to death.*

show /ʃəʊ/ (n) an occasion when a collection of things are brought together for people to look at

- *A local artist is holding a show of her recent work.*
- *We went to a show organised by a small gallery.*
- *The paintings are on show until July.*



record /'rekɔ:d/ (n) the best result or the highest level, especially in sport

- *Usain Bolt has set a new world record in the 100 metres.*
- *She hopes to beat the Olympic record.*
- *She has broken all previous records in the sport.*

friendly /'frendli/ (adj) behaving in a kind and pleasant way to someone

- *The staff in the restaurant are all really friendly.*
- *Our neighbours have always been very friendly to us.*
- *Everyone was so friendly towards me.*

ambition /æm'biʃn/ (n) something that you want to do or achieve very much

- *His burning ambition was to study law.*
- *She had only one ambition in life.*
- *He was young and full of ambition.*

succeed /sək'si:d/ (v) to achieve something that you have been aiming for

- *She succeeded in getting a place at Oxford University.*
- *There's absolutely no reason why we shouldn't succeed.*
- *He has an incredibly desire to succeed.*

somebody /'sʌmbədi/ (n) an important person

- *I've wanted to be somebody all my life.*
- *You have to be a somebody to get ahead in this town.*
- *Since she's got promotion, she really thinks she's somebody.*

upset /,ʌp'set/ (adj) worried, unhappy, disappointed or angry because of something unpleasant that has happened

- *He was really upset that I forgot his birthday.*
- *Why are you so upset?*
- *She was upset about the way her boss had treated her.*



put up with /pʊt ʌp wɪð/ (**phr v**) to accept someone or something that is annoying, unpleasant, etc. without complaining

- *I don't know how Anna has put up with Carl for so long.*
- *How do you put up with their constant complaining?*
- *I'm not going to put up with their noise any longer.*

congratulations /kənˌgrætʃəˈleɪʒnz/ (**n**) an expression communicating to someone how happy you are for his or her success or happiness

- *'I passed all my exams.' 'Congratulations!'*
- *Give her my congratulations when you see her.*
- *'We're getting married.' 'Congratulations!'*

pregnant /ˈpregnənt/ (**adj**) (of a woman) having a baby or babies developing inside her body

- *She's five months pregnant.*
- *My wife's pregnant with twins.*
- *Her sister's heavily pregnant.*

optimistic /ˌɒptɪˈmɪstɪk/ (**adj**) expecting that good things will happen in the future

- *We're optimistic of our chances of winning.*
- *I'm optimistic that I'll pass all my exams.*
- *She took a more optimistic view.*

manifesto /ˌmæniˈfestəʊ/ (**n**) a written statement in which a group of people explain their beliefs and aims, especially one published by a political party to say what they will do if they win an election

- *Labour won the election on this manifesto.*
- *The manifesto promised reform of the education system.*
- *I'm not very keen on the Liberal Party's election manifesto.*

blood /blʌd/ (**n**) the red liquid that your heart pumps around your body

- *He lost a lot of blood in the accident.*
- *The victim was found in a pool of blood.*
- *Her hands were covered in blood.*



take care of something /teɪk keə əv 'sʌmθɪŋ/ (**idm**) to be responsible for a situation or task

- *I'll take care of everything.*
- *Marta takes care of our online marketing.*
- *Don't worry about hotels. I've already taken care of the accommodation arrangements.*

promise /'prɒmɪs/ (**v**) to tell someone that you will definitely do or not do something

- *She's promised to do everything she can to help.*
- *'Promise not to tell anyone.' 'I promise.'*
- *He promised to call me this evening.*

kill /kɪl/ (**v**) to cause someone to die

- *Why did she kill her husband?*
- *The driver was killed instantly in the accident.*
- *The gunman threatened to kill the bank clerk.*

fight /faɪt/ (**v**) to have an argument with someone about something

- *It's normal for couples to fight.*
- *The thing we fight about most is money.*
- *I'm always fighting with my sister.*

regret /rɪ'ɡret/ (**v**) to feel sad because of something that has happened or something that you have done or not done, and a wish that it could have been different and better

- *I don't regret leaving school at 16.*
- *I regret not having gone to university when I had the chance.*
- *She doesn't regret resigning from her job.*

damage /'dæmɪdʒ/ (**n**) harm caused to someone or something

- *You've done enough damage already.*
- *The corruption scandal has done a lot of damage to the company's reputation.*
- *The children suffered severe emotional damage.*



influence /'ɪnfluəns/ (v) to have an effect on the way that someone develops, behaves or thinks

- *Don't let me influence you – make up your own mind*
- *She was strongly influenced by African-American musicians.*
- *He's easily influenced by his friends.*

thrilling /θrɪlɪŋ/ (adj) extremely exciting and a lot of fun

- *Travelling around Latin America was a thrilling experience.*
- *It was a thrilling game in which both sides played brilliantly.*
- *I find skiing really thrilling.*

offend /ə'fend/ (v) to make someone feel upset because of something you say or do that is rude or embarrassing

- *I'm really sorry – I didn't mean to offend you.*
- *He's very sensitive and easily offended.*
- *The politician's remarks deeply offended many people.*

principle /'prɪnsəpl/ (n) a moral rule or a strong belief that influences your behaviour

- *She doesn't eat meat on principle.*
- *She's a woman of principle.*
- *It's against his principles to drink alcohol.*

reconsider /ˌrɪːkən'sɪdə(r)/ (v) to think again about a decision or opinion in order to decide if you want to change it

- *She should reconsider her decision to resign.*
- *I begged her to reconsider but she wouldn't.*
- *Please reconsider. We'd love you to come.*

crowd /kraʊd/ (n) a large number of people gathered together in a public place, for example in the streets or at a sports game

- *He pushed his way through the crowd.*
- *I want to get there early to avoid the crowds.*
- *I saw some familiar faces in the crowd.*



devil /'devl/ (n) an evil being, often represented in human form but with a tail and horns

- *Do you believe in the Devil?*
- *He thinks all socialists are devils.*
- *Elijah Muhammad claimed the white man was the devil.*

hero /'hɪərəʊ/ (n) a person, especially a man, who is admired by many people for doing something brave or good

- *The fireman was hailed as a hero after the fire.*
- *My grandfather was a war hero.*
- *When I was small, Paul Newman was my hero.*

foolish /'fu:lɪʃ/ (adj) stupid or not showing good judgement

- *It was a foolish idea.*
- *That was a very foolish thing to do.*
- *It would be foolish to ignore their advice.*

risk /risk/ (v) to put something valuable or important in a dangerous situation, in which it could be lost or damaged

- *They risked their lives for us.*
- *I wouldn't risk my money on this investment.*
- *He risked losing his house when he left his job.*

passionate /'pæʃənət/ (adj) having or showing strong feelings of enthusiasm for something or belief in something

- *She's really passionate about teaching children.*
- *He's passionate about his work.*
- *She's a passionate supporter of animal rights.*

compromise /'kɒmprəmaɪz/ (n) an agreement in which two people or groups accept they cannot have everything they want

- *In a marriage, you have to make compromises.*
- *Neither of them is willing to make compromises.*
- *We're very hopeful we can reach a compromise.*



vision /'vɪʒn/ (n) the ability to think about or plan the future with great imagination and intelligence

- *Steve Jobs was a leader of great vision.*
- *She's a person of enormous artistic vision.*
- *We need a leader with vision and strong principles.*

fee /fi:/ (n) an amount of money that you pay for professional advice or services

- *She negotiated a fee of \$2,000 a week.*
- *Freelance writers often set their own fees.*
- *Their fees are quite reasonable.*

bastard /'bɑːstəd/ /'bæstəd/ (n) used to insult a person you think is unpleasant or cruel

- *He was a bastard to me.*
- *You lying bastard!*
- *They're complete bastards!*

cancel /'kænsəl/ (v) to decide that an organised event will not happen, or to stop an order for goods or services that you no longer want

- *She cancelled her piano classes six months ago.*
- *The 10.30 train to Brighton has been cancelled.*
- *I've cancelled my subscription to Netflix.*

belong /bɪ'lɒŋ/ (v) to feel happy or comfortable in a particular situation or with a particular group of people

- *After three years at Princeton, she finally felt she belonged.*
- *I don't feel that I belong here.*
- *I've only worked here for three months, but I already feel as if I belong.*



Kahlo's sister, Cristina, moves in with the couple at their studio home as Rivera's assistant. Soon afterward, Kahlo discovers Rivera is sleeping with her. Leaving him, she subsequently sinks into alcoholism after moving back to her family's home. They reunite during a Día de los Muertos celebration where he asks her to welcome and house Leon Trotsky, who has been granted political asylum in Mexico. During an excursion to Teotihuacan, Trotsky expresses his love for Kahlo's work and they begin an affair. Soon, Trotsky's wife learns of the affair, forcing the couple to leave the safety of Kahlo's home. Diego realises she was unfaithful to him with Trotsky; although Rivera had little problem with Kahlo's other affairs, Trotsky was too important to him to be intimately involved with his wife.

critic /'krɪtɪk/ (n) a person who expresses opinions about the good and bad qualities of art, books, music, etc.

- *She's a famous art critic.*
- *The film was panned by critics.*
- *The critics loved the book.*

depressed /dɪ'prest/ (adj) suffering from the medical condition of depression

- *He's severely depressed.*
- *The doctor says she's clinically depressed.*
- *She's very depressed about losing her job.*

stupid /'stjuːpɪd/ (adj) showing a lack of good sense or good judgment

- *It was such a stupid thing to do.*
- *I made a stupid mistake.*
- *How could he be so stupid?*

blame /bleɪm/ (v) to think or say that someone or something is responsible for something bad

- *He blames his family for all his problems.*
- *Don't blame me – it's not my fault.*
- *You can't blame anyone else except for yourself.*



desperate /'despəɪt/ (**adj**) wanting or needing something very much feeling

- *We're desperate for help.*
- *I was desperate to work so I accepted the first job I was offered.*
- *I'm desperate for a cigarette.*

oh my God /əʊ maɪ ɡɒd/ (**exclam.**) used to express surprise, excitement, etc.

- *Oh my God! How embarrassing!*
- *Oh my God! What a disaster!*
- *Oh my God, I've never seen anything like it.*

goddamn /'ɡɒdəm/ (**adj, adv, exclam.**) used informally for emphasising what you are saying, especially when you are annoyed or angry

- *Where's my goddamn phone!*
- *She's so goddamn rude.*
- *Goddamn it, how much longer will I have to wait?*

idiot /'ɪdɪət/ (**n**) a very stupid person or someone who is behaving in a stupid way

- *When I lost my mobile, I felt such an idiot.*
- *Some idiot almost ran me over this morning.*
- *Why are you being such an idiot?*

mean /mi:n/ (**v**) to be of value or importance to someone

- *All the money doesn't mean anything to me.*
- *My children mean the world to me.*
- *Winning this award means a lot to me.*

accident /'æksɪdənt/ (**n**) a situation in which someone is injured or something is damaged without anyone intending them to be

- *She lost her life in a tragic accident.*
- *He died in a climbing accident.*
- *She had an accident at work and had to go to hospital.*



afford /ə'fɔ:d/ (v) to have enough money to be able to buy or do something

- *We can't afford to go on holiday this year.*
- *Can we afford to buy a new fridge?*
- *There's no way I could afford to buy a flat in London.*

bill /bɪl/ (n) a document that shows how much you owe someone for goods or services

- *We can't afford to pay our bills.*
- *I've just got a huge tax bill.*
- *They presented us with a very large bill.*

lonely /'ləʊnli/ (adj) unhappy because you have no friends or people to talk to

- *She was desperately lonely at boarding school.*
- *I've been lonely since my friends moved away.*
- *Don't you get lonely being on your own all day?*

guess /ges/ (v) to try to give an answer or opinion about something without knowing all the facts

- *This is a shock for you, I guess.*
- *I guess he's upset because we forgot his birthday.*
- *I guess he might come later.*

remind /rɪ'maɪnd/ (v) to help someone remember something, especially something important that they must do

- *Remind me what I've got to do tomorrow.*
- *I called to remind him about the meeting.*
- *Could you remind Carla about dinner on Friday?*

trouble /'trʌbl/ (n) a problem, worry, difficulty, etc. or a situation causing this

- *He's been in a lot of trouble with the police.*
- *I didn't mean to cause any trouble.*
- *I'm having trouble with the new computer system.*



favour /'feɪvə(r)/ (n) a thing that you do to help someone

- *Could you do me a favour?*
- *I'll ask Dave. He owes me a favour.*
- *I'll return the favour when I can.*

nerve /nɜːv/ (n) a way of behaving that other people think is rude or not appropriate

- *She had the nerve to ask me for more money.*
- *He had the nerve to criticise my cooking.*
- *She's got a nerve telling me I should work harder.*

expel /ɪk'spel/ (v) to officially make someone leave a school or an organisation

- *She was expelled from school when she was 14.*
- *The athlete was expelled for drug-taking.*
- *He was expelled from the party for making racist remarks.*

asylum /ə'saɪləm/ (n) protection that a government gives to people who have left their own country, usually because they were in danger for political reasons

- *She was granted political asylum by Canada in 2009.*
- *Those fleeing from the war have the right to asylum.*
- *She fled the country, and is now seeking asylum in Germany.*

warmth /wɜːmθ/ (n) the state or quality of being enthusiastic and/or friendly

- *She is a person who radiates warmth and kindness.*
- *We were touched by the warmth of the welcome.*
- *She seems to be a person without human warmth.*

danger /'deɪndʒə(r)/ (n) the possibility of something happening that will injure, harm or kill someone, or damage or destroy something

- *I think we're in real danger.*
- *No one foresaw the danger.*
- *We waited until all danger had passed.*



opportunity /ˌɒpəˈtjuːnəti/ **(n)** a time when a particular situation makes it possible to do or achieve something

- *Don't miss this opportunity!*
- *I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you all.*
- *She was never given the opportunity to go to university.*

philosopher /fəˈlɒsəfə(r)/ **(n)** a person who studies or writes about philosophy

- *Plato was a Greek philosopher.*
- *She was a fine writer, historian and philosopher.*
- *I attended a talk by a distinguished moral philosopher.*

regret /rɪˈɡret/ **(v)** used to say in a polite or formal way that you are sorry or sad about a situation

- *I very much regret I can't come to the meeting.*
- *We regret to inform you that flight to Berlin is delayed by two hours.*
- *We regret to inform you that your contract will not be renewed.*

generosity /ˌdʒenəˈrɒsəti/ **(n)** the quality or condition of being generous

- *Her friends take advantage of her generosity.*
- *He's known for his generosity to his family.*
- *How can I repay your generosity?*

charming /tʃɑːmɪŋ/ **(adj)** used to describe a person who behaves in a very friendly, pleasant way that makes people like them

- *She's very beautiful and charming.*
- *Ray can be very charming when he wants to.*
- *He's very charming but I wouldn't trust him as far as I could throw him.*

honour /ˈɒnə(r)/ **(v)** to do something that shows great respect for someone or something

- *I feel incredibly honoured to receive this award.*
- *We're honoured to have you here tonight.*
- *I would be honoured to meet her.*



starving /ˈstaːvɪŋ/ (**adj**) to feel very hungry

- *I haven't eaten since breakfast – I'm starving!*
- *We were starving when we got home.*
- *The photos of starving children were deeply disturbing.*

feed /fiːd/ (**v**) to give food to a person or an animal

- *Have you fed the dog yet?*
- *They feed their children on junk food.*
- *I fed the kids and put them to bed.*

aggression /əˈɡreɪʃn/ (**n**) feelings of anger and hate that may result in threatening or violent behaviour

- *The research shows that some computer games may cause aggression.*
- *He managed to channel his aggression into sport.*
- *Our dogs have never shown aggression towards other dogs.*

monster /ˈmɒnstə(r)/ (**n**) a person who is very cruel and evil

- *What sort of monster could do such a thing?*
- *Only a monster could kill all those women.*
- *He described Stalin as a monster.*

insane /ɪnˈseɪn/ (**adj**) very stupid or crazy often in a dangerous way

- *Her story is completely insane.*
- *I must have been insane to give George a job.*
- *You must have been completely insane to agree to the idea.*

dull /dʌl/ (**adj**) not interesting or exciting

- *The film was quite dull.*
- *He's quite nice, but deadly dull.*
- *Life is never dull when Sarah is here.*



brutality /bru:'tæləti/ **(n)** violent and cruel behaviour; the fact of being violent and cruel

- *There were allegations of police brutality.*
- *The killings were an act of mindless brutality.*
- *The film showed the brutality of prison life.*

insanity /ɪn'sænəti/ **(n)** the state of being seriously mentally ill; an action that is very stupid and potentially dangerous

- *The judge found him not guilty by reason of insanity.*
- *It would be insanity to sell the company now.*
- *It was sheer insanity to drive in such bad weather.*

madness /'mædnəs/ **(n)** stupid or dangerous behaviour

- *This is total madness!*
- *It's sheer madness to trust a man like him.*
- *It would be madness to drive there alone.*

challenge /'tʃælɪndʒ/ **(n)** a difficult task that tests someone's ability and skill

- *He has to face a number of challenges.*
- *She's looking forward to the challenge of her new job.*
- *He loves a new challenge.*

experience /ɪk'spiəriəns/ **(n)** knowledge or skill that you gain from doing a job or activity for a period of time; process of gaining this

- *I've got 20 years of experience in baseball management.*
- *Do you have any previous experience of this type of work?*
- *She's got a lot of experience of teaching.*

destroy /di'strɔɪ/ **(v)** to take all the value and pleasure from someone's life

- *Drugs destroyed his life.*
- *The scandal destroyed his career.*
- *He threatened to destroy her life if she told the police.*



faith /feɪθ/ (n) great trust or confidence in something or someone

- *You have to have faith in us to do the job.*
- *You'll be fine – I have great faith in you.*
- *I've lost faith in the government's promises.*

hope /həʊp/ (n) something good you want to happen in the future; a feeling that something you desire will happen

- *Where there is life, there is hope.*
- *She had lots of hopes and dreams, when she arrived in New York.*
- *I'm full of hope for the future.*

flattery /'flætəri/ (n) praise that is not sincere, especially in order to obtain something from someone

- *She persuaded him with flattery.*
- *Salespeople are often accused of using artificial flattery.*
- *Flattery will get you nowhere with me.*

rob /rɒb/ (v) to steal from a bank, shop, person, etc. especially using violence or the threat of violence

- *The bank got robbed last week.*
- *An armed gang robbed the drugstore.*
- *The terrorists financed themselves by robbing banks.*

fool /fu:l/ (v) to trick someone into believing something that is not true

- *You can't fool me!*
- *He fooled a lot of people.*
- *She was fooled into handing over the money.*

assassin /ə'sæsn/ (n) a person who murders an important or famous person, especially for political reasons

- *He was killed by a hired assassin.*
- *They hired a professional assassin to do the job for them.*
- *John Lennon's assassin was Mark Chapman.*



hurt /hɜːt/ (v) to cause physical pain to someone or yourself; to cause emotional pain to someone:

- *What you said really hurt me.*
- *I hurt my back when I was playing tennis.*
- *Stop it. You're hurting me.*

endure /ɪn'djʊə(r)/ (v) to suffer something that is difficult, painful or unpleasant without giving up

- *I had to endure a ten-hour delay at the airport.*
- *I don't know how she endured the pain.*
- *The black footballers had to endure racist insults from the crowd.*

message /'mesɪdʒ/ (n) a written or spoken piece of information, etc. that you send to someone or leave for someone when you cannot speak to them yourself

- *I'll make sure they get the message.*
- *She left a message on my voicemail.*
- *I never got the message.*

execute /'eksɪkjʊ:t/ (v) to kill someone, especially as a legal punishment

- *He was executed for murder.*
- *Thousands have been executed for political crimes.*
- *She was condemned to death and executed three months later.*

joy /dʒɔɪ/ (n) a feeling of great happiness and pleasure.

- *She wept with joy.*
- *You should do what brings you joy.*
- *There was a look of joy on her face.*

make sense /meɪk sens/ (idm) to be clear and easy to understand

- *You're not making sense.*
- *It makes perfect sense to save money while you can.*
- *This sentence doesn't make sense.*



sacrifice /'sækrɪfaɪs/ **(v)** to give up something important to you in order to get or have something you consider more important

- *He sacrificed his career to look after his disabled daughter.*
- *She sacrificed herself for the poor.*
- *She sacrificed her holidays to write the book.*

pleasure /'pleɪʒə(r)/ **(n)** a feeling of happiness, enjoyment or satisfaction

- *Music brings me so much pleasure.*
- *Her books have given enormous pleasure to many children.*
- *I get a lot of pleasure from travelling.*

lose your mind /luːz jə maɪnd/ **(idm)** to become mentally ill, or to start behaving in a very strange way

- *Have you completely lost your mind?*
- *I feared I was losing my mind.*
- *I'm going to lose my mind if I have to work here any longer.*

consequence /'kɒnsɪkwəns/ **(n)** a result of something that has happened, especially an unpleasant result

- *He knew the potential consequences of his decision.*
- *You must accept the full consequences of your actions.*
- *Actions have consequences.*

break someone's heart /breɪk 'sʌmɪwʌnz hɑːt / **(idm)** to make someone feel very unhappy

- *You're breaking my heart.*
- *She broke his heart when she left him.*
- *It breaks my heart to see her like this.*

best friend /best frend/ **(n)** the friend that you know and like better than anyone else

- *Margot was my best friend at primary school.*
- *I'm going to my best friend's birthday party tomorrow.*
- *We've been best friends since college.*



Kahlo leaves for Paris and her exhibition is a great success. When she returns to Mexico, Rivera asks for a divorce. In 1940, Trotsky is murdered in Mexico City. Initially, Rivera is suspected by police of orchestrating the assassination. When they fail to locate him, Kahlo is arrested. Cristina arrives and escorts Kahlo out of prison, explaining that Rivera convinced President Cárdenas to release her.

nightmare /'naɪtmɛə(r)/ **(n)** an experience that is very frightening and unpleasant

- *The whole experience was a nightmare.*
- *The journey was a nightmare – our flights were delayed and we lost our luggage.*
- *Traffic in the city centre is a nightmare.*

pretentious /prɪ'tenʃəs/ **(adj)** trying to appear important, intelligent, etc. in order to impress other people; trying to be something that you are not, in order to impress

- *He's so pretentious!*
- *He's a pretentious art critic.*
- *It's such a pretentious film.*

bore /bɔː(r)/ **(n)** a person who is very boring, usually because they talk too much

- *I had to sit next to Rupert at dinner – he's such a bore.*
- *He turned out to be a crashing bore.*
- *I wouldn't mind talking to her if she weren't such a terrible bore.*

lie /laɪ/ **(n)** something you say that you know is not true

- *How could you believe her lies?*
- *His story was nothing but lies.*
- *I told a lie when I said I liked her shoes.*

hopeful /'həʊpfl/ **(adj)** believing that what you want is likely to happen

- *I'm feeling pretty hopeful about the future.*
- *We're very hopeful that we can find a solution.*
- *We're hopeful of a successful outcome.*



rumour /'ru:mə/ (n) a piece of information or a story that people talk about, but that may or may not be true

- *I heard a rumour that they are getting a divorce.*
- *The prime minister has denied the rumours that she is ill.*
- *Someone has been spreading rumours about us.*

arrest /ə'rest/ (v) when a person is taken to a police station because the police think they have done something illegal

- *Police have arrested five suspects.*
- *He was arrested for drinking and driving.*
- *She was arrested and charged with corruption.*

proud /praʊd/ (adj) feeling pleasure and satisfaction about something that you own or have done, or are connected with

- *You must be so proud of your daughter.*
- *We're proud of our university's reputation for promoting diversity.*
- *She's justifiably proud of her achievements.*

care for /keə fə/ (phr v) to love or like someone very much

- *You know I care for you, Mike.*
- *They really care for each other.*
- *He told her he'd never really cared for her.*

refugee /ˌrefju'dʒi:/ (n) a person who has been forced to leave their country or home, because there is a war or for political, religious or social reasons

- *Thousands of refugees poured out of the city.*
- *She has been granted refugee status.*
- *The country has a long tradition of giving asylum to political refugees.*

murder /'mɜ:də(r)/ (v) to kill someone deliberately

- *He was convicted of murdering a police woman.*
- *The terrorists murdered 40 people in the attack.*
- *He denies murdering his wife's lover.*



fault /fɔ:lt/ (n) the fact of being responsible for something wrong that has happened or been done

- *It's never your fault.*
- *It's not her fault. She hasn't done anything wrong.*
- *I'm really sorry – it's my fault.*

crazy /'kreizi/ (adj) mentally ill; unbelievable, incredible

- *You're driving me crazy!*
- *I think I'd go crazy if I lived there.*
- *They looked at me as if I were crazy.*

Kahlo has her toes removed when her doctor notices they had become gangrenous. Rivera asks Kahlo to remarry him and she agrees. Her health continues to worsen, leading to the amputation of a leg and bronchopneumonia, which leaves her bedridden. In 1953, Kahlo's bed is carried from her home to a museum to attend her first solo exhibition in her native country. The film ends with a sequence of Kahlo sleeping in her bed as it is consumed by flames. She slowly smiles as the screen fades into a painting of the fire.

disaster /di'zɑ:stə(r)/ or /di'zæstər/ (n) a complete failure

- *The date was a total disaster.*
- *As a manager, he's a disaster.*
- *Our holiday was a complete disaster – it rained every single day.*

gangrene /'gæŋɡri:n/ (n) the decay that takes place in a part of the body when the blood supply to it has been stopped because of an illness or injury

- *Gangrene set in and she had to have her leg amputated.*
- *The doctor said he would die of gangrene.*
- *Once gangrene has developed the tissue is dead.*

lucky /'lʌki/ (adj) having good luck

- *You're lucky to live in such a beautiful part of the world.*
- *I feel I've been incredibly lucky in my career.*
- *We were lucky not to be injured in the accident.*



infection /ɪnˈfekʃn/ (n) the act or process of causing or getting a disease

- *The drugs slow down the progression of HIV infection.*
- *We are trying to trace the source of infection.*
- *Taking vitamin C builds up your resistance to infection.*

recommendation /ˌrekəmenˈdeɪʃn/ (n) a suggestion that something is good or suitable for a particular purpose or job

- *We went to the new Indian restaurant on your recommendation.*
- *She was offered the job on Mike's recommendation.*
- *He gave us some great recommendations for places to visit in California.*

believe /bɪˈli:v/ (v) to feel certain that something is true or that someone is telling you the truth

- *I'm sorry but I don't believe you.*
- *I find that hard to believe.*
- *I don't believe a word of it.*

disappear /ˌdɪsəˈpiə(r)/ (v) to be lost or to become impossible to find

- *Her son disappeared ten years ago.*
- *The teenager disappeared while walking home from school.*
- *His wife mysteriously disappeared.*

circumstance /ˈsɜ:kəmstɑ:ns/ /ˈsɜ:kəmstæns/ (n) the conditions that affect a situation, action, event, etc.

- *In normal circumstances, a child's language develops naturally.*
- *He died in suspicious circumstances.*
- *I think I coped quite well under the circumstances.*

gossip /ˈɡɒsɪp/ (n) informal conversation or stories about other people's private lives, that may be unkind, disapproving or not true

- *Have you heard the latest gossip?*
- *I've got no time for idle gossip.*
- *You believe all the gossip you hear.*



skinny /'skɪni/ (**adj**) very thin

- *You should eat more – you're too skinny.*
- *I was a really skinny kid.*
- *A lot of models are far too skinny.*

tender /'tendə(r)/ (**adj**) gentle and kind in a way that shows you care for someone

- *Naomi's so gentle and tender.*
- *What you need is some tender loving care.*
- *They gave each other a tender kiss.*

cruel /'kruːəl/ (**adj**) causing physical or mental pain and making someone suffer or feel unhappy

- *Children can be very cruel to each other.*
- *His father was cruel to him when he was a child.*
- *It was a cruel thing to say.*

shut up /ʃʌt ʌp/ (**phr v**) **impolite** used to tell someone to stop talking

- *Just shut up and listen!*
- *Oh, shut up! I don't want to hear your excuses.*
- *Shut up about your new car!*

order /'ɔːdə(r)/ (**n**) something that someone is told to do, especially by someone in authority

- *Go home now. That's an order!*
- *Soldiers have to follow orders.*
- *I don't take orders from you!*

funeral /'fjuːnərəl/ (**n**) a ceremony, usually a religious one, for burying or burning a dead person

- *The funeral will be held next Thursday.*
- *Over 300 people attended the funeral.*
- *She read out a poem at the funeral.*



TALK ABOUT THE FILM AFTER VIEWING (Post-viewing questions)

Discuss the questions after viewing the film.



STORY

- Describe what happened when Frida got injured.
- What did Frida's father give her when she was convalescing at home after the accident? Why do you think he gave her this gift?
- Why did Frida ask Diego to look at her paintings? What did Diego think of them?
- What does Frida tell Diego she expects from him before she accepts his marriage proposal?
- Describe Frida and Diego's time in New York.
- Why does Frida want to return to Mexico? How does Diego feel about going back?
- Why does Frida fall out with her sister Cristina?
- Why does Leon Trotsky go to live in Frida's family home?
- Describe Frida's time in Paris.
- Why do you think Diego asks Frida for a divorce?
- Why is Frida arrested and put in prison?
- Why do you think Diego asks Frida to remarry him?
- Describe Frida's exhibition in Mexico.



CHARACTER

- How would you describe the character of Frida? What difficulties and obstacles is she faced with throughout the course of the film, and how does she persevere?
- How would you describe the character arc of Diego? How does he compare at the end of the film to when we first met him?
- What is the relationship between Frida and Diego like? Do they have similar personalities or are they different from one another?
- How does Frida's relationship with her father compare to that with his mother? Does it change over the course of the story?
- How would you describe the relationship between Frida and her sister, Cristina? How does it change over the course of the story?



COMPOSITION

- How does actor Salma Hayek's physical appearance change to reflect the different stages of Frida's life? How effective is the make-up, hair and costume design in helping Hayek to portray Frida at different ages?
- What do you think of the design of the film – sets, costumes, props? How does it immerse you in the world of Mexico in the 1920s, 1930s and 1940s?
- Discuss what you think of Salma Hayek and Alfred Molina's performances in the film. Are they convincing? Why/Why not?



SOCIAL ISSUES

- How does the film explore family relationships? Do you think it was effective? Why/Why not?
- How does the film explore aspects of physical and mental health? Do you think it was effective? Why/Why not?
- How does the film present and deal with the issue of alcoholism? Do you think it was effective? Why/Why not?



SELF

- Describe the film in your own words. What happened in the story?
- Does the film live up to your expectations of a biographical drama? Does anything stand out that makes it different?
- What did you learn about Frida Kahlo's life and art from watching the film?
- What did you find most memorable about the film?
- How did the film make you feel throughout? How did it achieve this? Which elements of the film created this effect?
- How sympathetic did you feel toward Frida? Do you think her behaviour was understandable? How could she have behaved differently?
- *Frida* won Oscars for Best Makeup and Best Original Score? Do you think it deserved these awards? Why/Why not?
- Who do you think is the intended audience of the film?
- Who would you recommend the film to?



A PERSONAL MULTIMODAL RESPONSE TO THE FILM

Choose one of the three options to make your own personal response to the film.



Write a multimodal review of the film. Include:

- a summary of the film's plot
- descriptions and screenshots of the main characters
- descriptions and screenshots of the main settings
- the performances of the main actors
- the film's message
- what you particularly liked or disliked
- some vocabulary from the glossary



Write an analysis of a key scene in the film. Include:

- a screenshot of the key scene.
- a link to a video of the key scene
- an analysis of the key scene. Use the 5Ss (Story, Setting, Sound, Social Issues, Self) and 5Cs (Character, Camera, Colour, Composition, Culture and Language) framework to help you analyse the scene.
- some vocabulary from the glossary.



Make a short video (3–4 minutes) of yourself giving a review of the film. Include:

- a summary of the film's plot
- a description of the main characters
- the performances of the main actors
- the film's message
- what you particularly liked or disliked
- some vocabulary from the glossary.

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Kieran Donaghy is a freelance award-winning writer, international conference speaker and teacher trainer.

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He is the founder of the independent publisher *Film English* which has won a British Council ELTons Award, an English Speaking Union Award and the MEDEA Award.

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About Film English



Film English is an independent publisher founded in 2009 specialised in the field of English language teaching and learning. The lesson plans designed around short films, viewing guides for feature-length films and other teaching resources on Film English make up the largest online resource bank of materials for teaching and learning English using film and video. Film English has won numerous awards including a British Council ELTons Award for Innovation in Teacher Resources, the most prestigious European media in education prize, the MEDEA Award, and an English-Speaking Union Award.

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The School for Training is a centre of excellence in teacher development offering innovative courses to language teachers in the centre of Barcelona and online. The school offers innovative courses on important areas of language pedagogy not normally covered on CELTA or DELTA courses such as how to use short films and videos, the role of empathy in language education, how to introduce social justice issues in the language classroom, and the fifth skill of Viewing in the language curriculum.

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