

## e-lesson

Week starting: February 15, 2010

### 1. *Avatar*

This week's lesson is about the recently-released movie that has already broken box-office records: James Cameron's *Avatar*.

### Level

Intermediate and above (equivalent to CEF level B1 and above).

### How to use the lesson

1. Ask your students what they consider the best movies they have ever seen at the movie theater, and why. Ask them if they have seen *Avatar* yet, and encourage those who have seen it to describe it (possibly without giving away the ending, for the sake of those who haven't seen it). Some movie critics have said it is the most visually spectacular movie of recent years – in what ways, if any, would the students who have seen it agree?
2. Give your students between five and ten minutes to read through Worksheet A, encouraging them to look up new vocabulary. Note that many of the words that might be new are not in the glossary because they form part of Exercise 1.
3. Give each student a copy of Worksheet B, then divide the class into pairs and ask students to work together to complete Exercise 1, in which they have to find the words to match the definitions. (You might want to mention that the verbs defined on Worksheet B are not necessarily in their infinitive form on Worksheet A, and note also that answer 13, "obtain," is contained within the word "unobtainium.")
4. Check answers in open class.
5. Keeping the students in their pairs, hand out Worksheet C and ask the students to complete the crossword.
6. Check answers in open class.

**Answers:**

**Exercise 1** (definitions)

1. exploit 2. conflict 3. release 4. modify 5. triumph 6. clan  
7. understatement 8. loyalty 9. operation 10. alien 11. inhabitant 12. critic  
13. obtain 14. box office 15. cutting-edge

**Exercise 2** (crossword)

1. existed 2. commander 3. atmosphere 4. wrote 5. moon 6. taller  
7. accepted 8. human 9. military 10. *Titanic* 11. imagined 12. project  
13. connected 14. skin

If the sentences have been completed correctly, *Sam Worthington* will read from top to bottom.

**2. Related Websites**

Send your students to these websites, or just take a look yourself.

<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0499549/>

The *Avatar* entry in the Internet Movie Database. Intermediate level and above.

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

The movie's official website. Intermediate level and above.

<http://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/avatar/?critic=creamcrop>

Numerous reviews from top US movie critics on the Rotten Tomatoes website. Intermediate level and above.