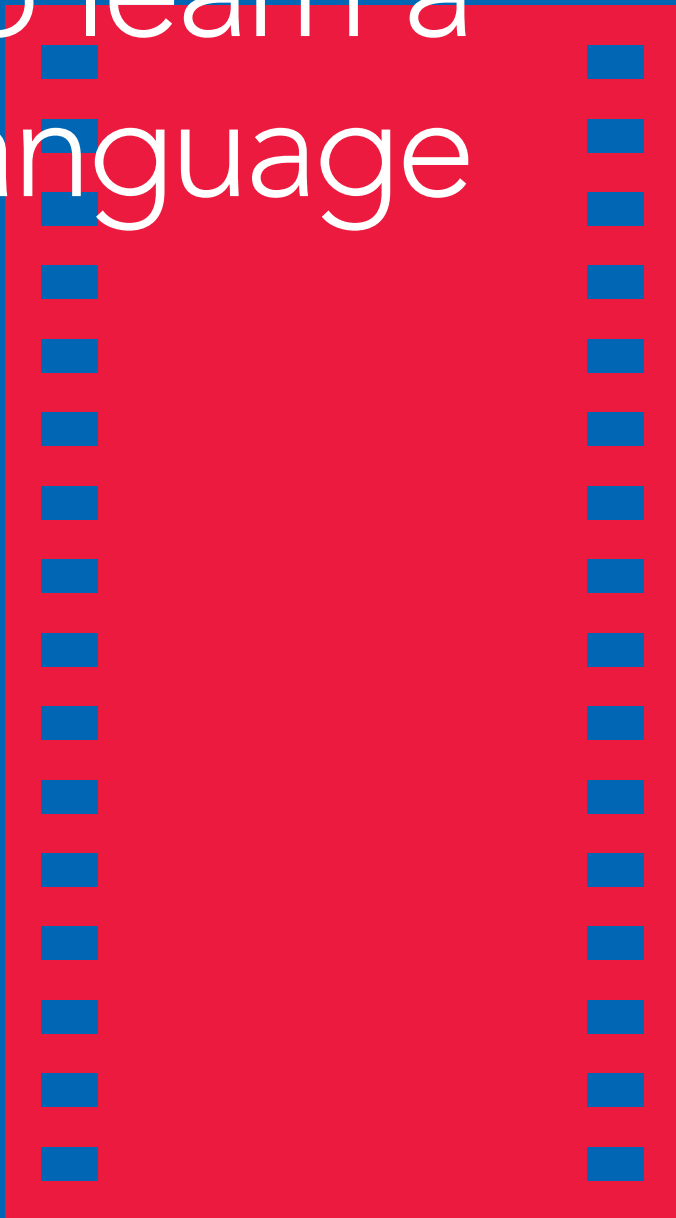


# Using films to learn a language



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It's hard to say which films are the easiest to understand... Choosing a **familiar film** and using subtitles in the language of the film can be a great help.

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To **prepare** for watching a film, you can search for information about the plot, the director, etc. On the Internet you will find sites both in your own language and in the one you are learning.

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Watch the film and don't worry if you don't understand everything. **Try to lose yourself** in the images and the story: the intonation, the facial mimicry and the gestures of the actors will be of great help in the general understanding of the story.

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As you watch the film, write down the **words and expressions** that strike you or that you want to learn more about later. It can easily be paused to read or copy part of the subtitle.

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To focus on the individual **phrases** and on the **pronunciation** of the words, we suggest you follow a scene with your eyes closed. Or watch a scene with the volume turned off and try to recite the dialogue between the characters. Then compare your version with the original!

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If the film does not have subtitles, look for a section you like and try to **write the subtitles yourself**. This exercise is very useful for improving listening skills, understanding and producing written text.

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Watching the film **with another person** can be an opportunity to exchange views, ask questions and help each other understand the content.

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Another exercise could be **describing** a character or the setting of the film orally or in writing.

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Films are a **window on the world**, able to show us distant people, places, cultures and traditions up close. They will bring you closer to authentic customs, colours, and sounds, to the everyday language used in the places they are set in and even to dialect expressions.

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#### **Languages at the Cinema:**

this is a free initiative that presents films in original language with subtitles, introduced by an expert in languages and cinema. The language information for the films presented are available online: [www.provincia.bz.it/languages/cinema](http://www.provincia.bz.it/languages/cinema)

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