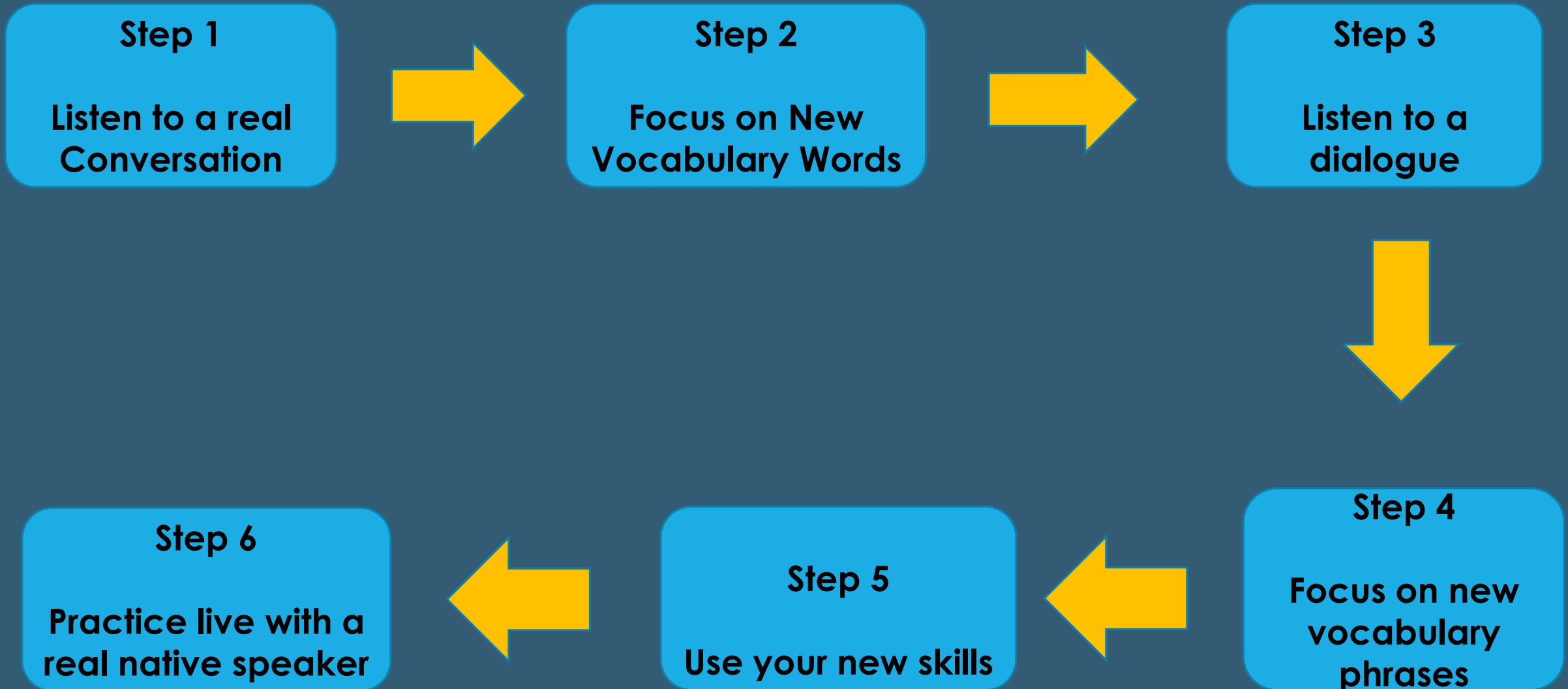




# How to Talk about a Movie in English

## A Vocabulary Lesson

# Our Method



# Step 1: Listen to a Real Conversation



Please see **Audio Step 1 – the Great Gatsby**

Lindsay and Georgia went to see **The Great Gatsby** last summer. What did they think of it? Listen to this conversation to find out!

To get the transcript, see **Transcript Step 1 - The Great Gatsby**

## Step 2: Study the Vocabulary Words

**Critic**

**To come  
out**

**Cinemat  
o-graphy**

**Scene**

**To  
capture**

**Vivid**

**In-your-  
face**

**To keep  
up with  
the  
Joneses**

**To stand  
out**

**Talented**

**To  
portray**

**Critic**

**Noun**



**A professional who watches films and gives them a rating based on their quality**

***“Siskel and Ebert were two very famous movie critics.”***

**To come out**

**phrasal verb**



**This means that a new movie is released**

***“When a new movie comes out, the actors show up for the screening.”***

# Cinematography

noun

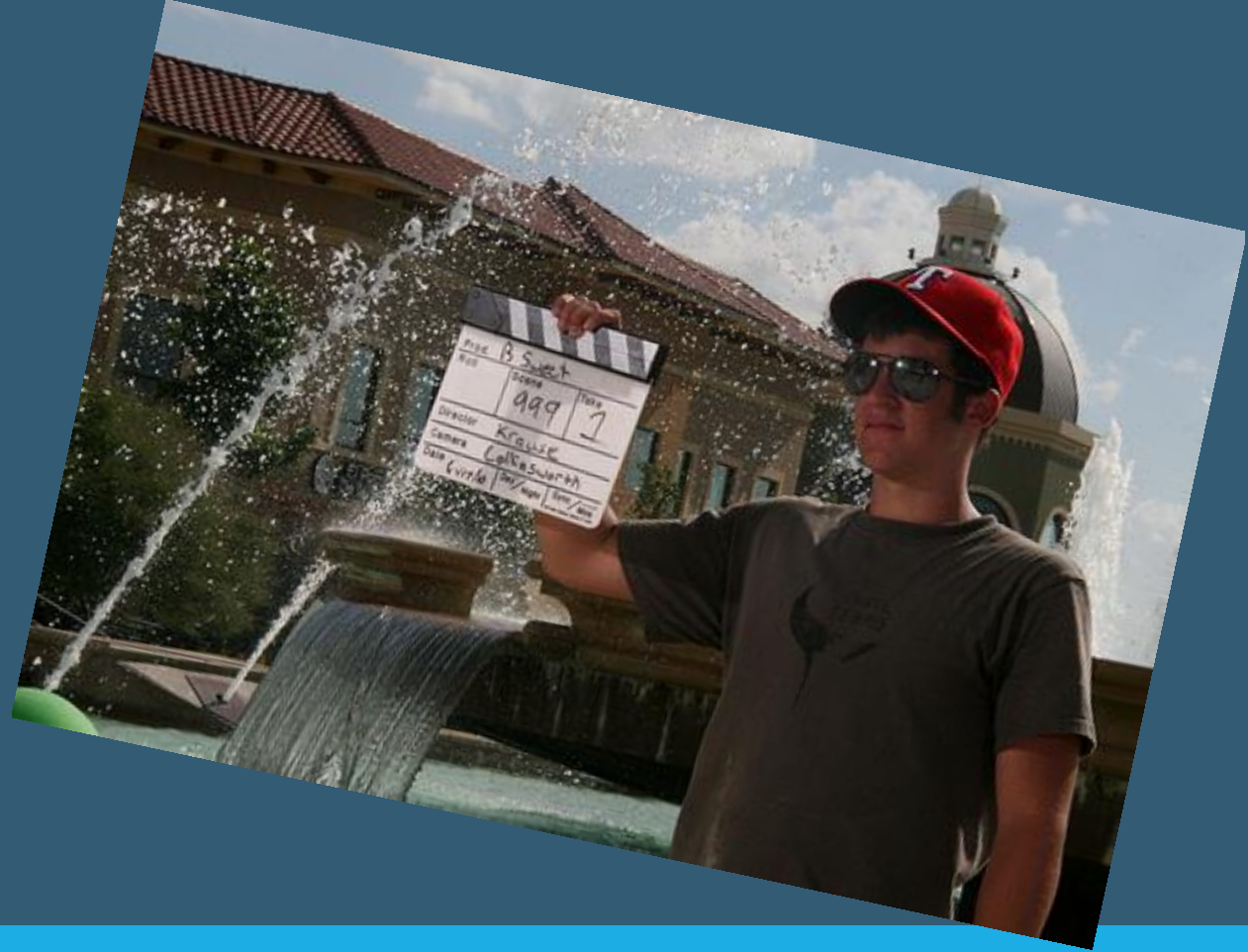


**The art and science of motion picture photography**

***“The cinematography in Titanic was beautiful.”***

# Scene

noun



One section of a movie or play where the time and location are fixed

*“How did you like the final scene in the movie?”*



**To capture**

**verb**



**To show clearly, to demonstrate, to catch**

***“This scene captures the sense of interest and curiosity on her face.”***

**Vivid**

**adjective**



**Strong, clear, appearing fresh, and vigorous**

***“The color in this picture is vivid.”***

**In-your-face**

**adjective**



**Done in a bold or aggressive way**

***“This kid has an in-your-face attitude.”***

# To keep up with the Joneses

idiom



To compare yourself with your neighbor as a social/economic status benchmark

*“We got a new sports car to keep up with the Joneses.”*

**To stand out**

**Phrasal verb**



**To be seen as different, to have distinctive qualities and features**

***“This white egg stands out in the carton of brown eggs.”***

**Talented**

**adjective**



**Having an excellent natural ability at something**

***“Leonardo DiCaprio is one of the most talented actors I know.”***

**To portray**

**verb**



**To depict or represent**

***“The movie portrays a man who is still in love with a woman he met a long time ago.”***

## Step 3: Listen for Main Idea

What is the best movie you have ever seen? Do you prefer comedies or dramas? Listen to two speakers debating these questions!

Listen to the conversation: see Audio step 3 and 4 – Your Favorite Movie.





## Step 4: Listen for New Vocabulary Phrases



Listen to the conversation again and pay attention to the new vocabulary phrases

Please open the document  
“Transcript Steps 3 and 4 – Your  
Favorite Movie”



# Bonus! Say It Another Way!

Please open the document called “Bonus – Say it Another Way!”



## Step 5: Use Your New Skills

Critic

To come out

In-your-face

Vivid

To capture

To stand out

To portray

Cinematography

Scene

To keep with the Joneses

- 1) I really want to see the next Steven King movie. When does it \_\_\_1\_\_\_ (get released)?
- 2) The yellow color of the woman's dress \_\_2\_\_\_ (contrasted) against the people wearing black and grey in the first scene.
- 3) In Wall Street, Leonard Dicaprio \_\_3\_\_\_ (played the role of) an investor who is obsessed with money.
- 4) Which \_\_4\_\_ (part) is your favorite in Forrest Gump?

# Answers to Step 5

- 1) come out
- 2) stood out
- 3) portrayed
- 4) scene

# Prepare your Vocabulary Cards

To come out



Cinematography

Scene



Critic



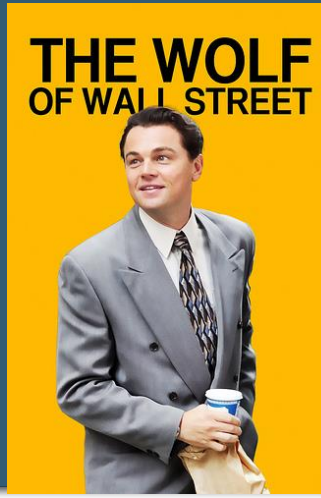
To capture



Vivid



To keep with the Joneses



Talented



In-your-face



To portray



To stand out

# Step 6: Practice with a Native Speaker

- What was the last movie you saw? When did it **come out**? What did the **critics** say about it? How was your opinion different from theirs? What was your favorite **scene**?
- In your opinion, what movies have amazing **cinematography**? How did that improve your experience watching the movie? How has cinematography changed over the past 20 or 30 years?

## Bonus Conversation 1: Please use the phrases from Say It Another Way:

A (student): What is the last movie you saw and what was your favorite \_\_\_\_\_ (scene)?

B: Oh a few months ago I saw Wolf of Wall Street. It \_\_\_\_\_ (came out) in early December. The \_\_\_\_\_ (critics) tore it apart but I liked it. I loved the scene where he threw a huge party at his house. It was really well done.

A: Oh I hated that movie. I thought it was way too long and it made me pessimistic about Wall Street.

B: Well I guess we have different taste in movies.

# Answers to Bonus Conversation 1

## Bonus Conversation 1: Please use the phrases from Say It Another Way:

*A (student): What is the last movie you saw and what was your favorite part?*

*B: Oh a few months ago I saw Wolf of Wall Street. It was released in early December. The reviewers tore it apart but I liked it. I loved the scene where he threw a huge party at his house. It was really well done.*

*A: Oh I hated that movie. I thought it was way too long and it made me pessimistic about Wall Street.*

*B: Well I guess we have different taste in movies.*

# Practice with a Native Speaker

- Do you like movies where a difficult topic or societal problem is **in your face?** (topics such as crime, drugs, poverty). What kind of effect do you think that has on people? Does it stimulate them to take action on the issue or problem? Does it make them feel that the problem cannot be changed?
- In your opinion, who is the most **talented** actor? Why is he or she talented? Do you think it's important for actors and actresses to be able to play different kinds of roles? Why or why not? If you were an actor/actress, what kinds of roles would you play (the funny person, someone serious, etc.)

## Bonus Conversation 2: Please use the phrases from Say It Another Way

A (student): What is the most \_\_\_\_\_(in your face) movie you have ever seen?

B: Saving Private Ryan was pretty intense.

A: Yeah, Tom Hanks is a really \_\_\_\_\_ (talented) actor isn't he?



# Answers to Bonus Conversation 2

## Bonus Conversation 2: Please use the phrases from Say It Another Way

*A (student): What is the most intense movie you have ever seen?*

*B: Saving Private Ryan was pretty intense.*

*A: Yeah, Tom Hanks is a really skilled, great actor isn't he?*

# Practice with a Native Speaker

- Describe a **scene** in your favorite movie that **stands out** in your mind. Why does it stand out? How did it make you feel?
- If you had the opportunity to be an actor/actress in a movie that is based on a true story, what story or historical event would you like the movie to **portray**? Which character would you like to be?
- Can you think of any movies where you have seen the social phenomenon that we call "**keeping up with the Joneses**"? Which movies did you see it in? Please describe their plots. What do you think of this social phenomenon? Is this way of thinking common in your country? How is it **portrayed** in movies?
- If you had the choice, would you rather watch a comedy, drama, horror or action movie? Why?
- How do you like to feel when you finish watching a movie? (motivated, scared, happy, relieved)

# Practice with a Native Speaker

- Do you prefer to go to the movie theatre or watch movies from home? Which option do you find more relaxing?
- How do you get your home movies (Netflix, live streaming online, video store?) What is the common way to get a video in your home country? What does the future of video viewing look like?
- Do you think Hollywood movies represent life in the USA accurately? Why or why not? If you are in the US, was your opinion different before you came to the US? How has it changed?
- If you could have dinner with any actor or actress in the world, who would it be? Why?
- Can you give an example of a movie that has changed your opinion about something? Why was the message so powerful?

# Practice with a Native Speaker

- When you go to the movie theatre and realize that the movie is terrible, do you walk out or do you sit through the whole movie? Why?
- Is there an industry for making movies in your home country? Please describe it.
- Do you have a system for rating a movie in your country? Do you think it's useful?

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10. Keeping up with the joneses: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/gareth1953/>
11. Stand out: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/booleansplit/>
12. Talented: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/goksanozman/>
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