

Student 3

Why should you go to the English Film Club

I've been going to the English Film Club for almost exactly 5 years. In the past, I have done some "normal" language courses and educational periods in English and remember that it was sometimes difficult to motivate myself to go after work. One of the first training periods is still somewhat negative in my memory because the participants had such different levels that some group work was difficult.

At first I couldn't bring myself to attend a language course on a Friday evening (I couldn't do the other days) because it was already the weekend. But the film club is really a relaxed weekend activity. Of course you have to be interested in film and films and then it's a trip to the cinema and learning the language. Even though it is now possible to watch films in the cinema in the original (with German subtitles) or at home via streaming services (with English subtitles), the film club has some clear advantages.

Because you receive the film guide a few days in advance (receiving the email is like opening a door on the Advent calendar), you know what kind of film it is and can spend a little time with the content, read excerpts from its dialogues, read and learn/edit vocabulary and idioms. If you have time (unfortunately I usually don't), there are opportunities to see (and listen to) additional material such as interviews with the director and actors.

I spend about 30-60 minutes per week on homework, usually 2 evenings before class. When I go home on Friday evening, I will have seen, read and heard the new words and idioms 4-5 times, and perhaps used them in the discussion after the film. In particular, the combination of words and images, the filmic situation in which new words or idioms are used, help to remember them. Any different language levels between the participants can be compensated for with preparation through homework.

It is also very nice that the event has fairly consistent participants. I've known some people for 5 years now and that means we also talk about many other topics.