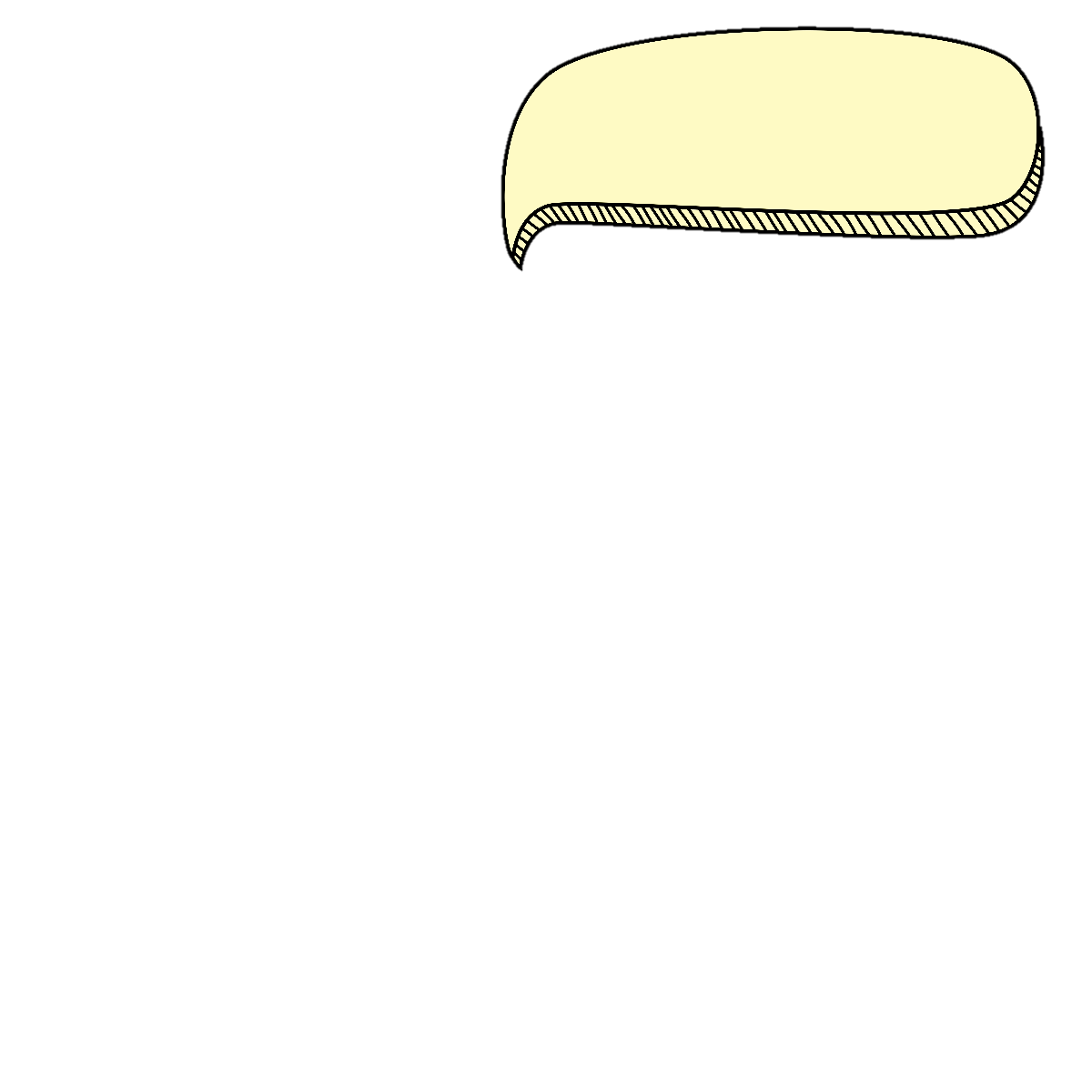


**Writing an effective**





Spicing up the review with more

Tip #1 –

sensory and emotional appeal

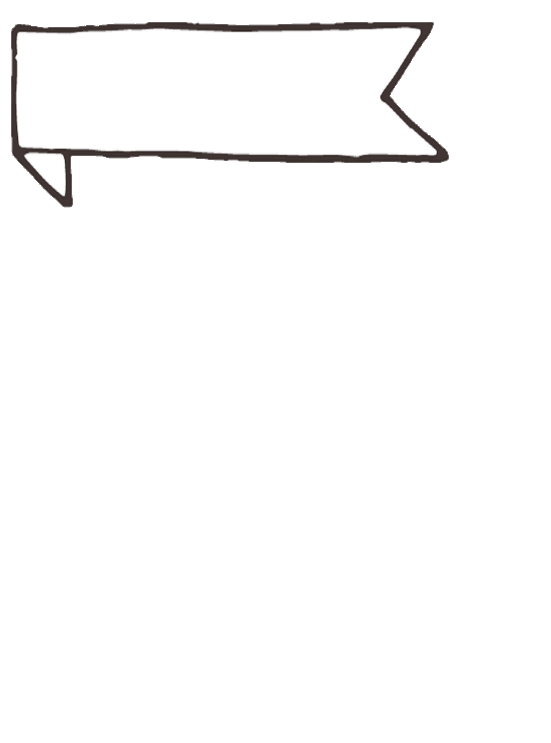
**Compound words**

A compound word links two or more words together to form a word with a new meaning. We can use compound words related to our body parts to comment on the plot of films/books to convey our feelings.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | e.g. The movie is exciting. |  | The movie is nail-biting.  The movie is a nail-biter. |  |
|  |  | | | |

*Complete the table below about different types of films.*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Body part** | **Action Verb** | **Suffix** | **Compound noun** | **Compound adjective** |  | **Feeling (Adjective)** |
| *e.g. nail* | *bite* | -er | *nail-biter* | *nail-biting* |  | *thrilling / thrilled*  *exciting / excited* |
| 1. hair | raise | -er | *hair-raiser* | hair-raising |  | *horrifying / horrified* |
| 1. head | scratch | *-er* | *head-scratcher* | *head-scratching* |  | *confusing / confused*  *disorienting / disorientated* |
| 1. *eye* | pop | *-er* | *eye-popper* | *eye-popping* |  | *surprising / surprised* |
| 1. heart | *warm* | *-er* | *heart-warmer* | *heart-warming* |  | *happy*  *pleasing / pleased* |
| 1. *mind* | blow | *-er* | *mindblower* | *mind-blowing* |  | *astonishing / astonished* |
| 1. blood | *curdle* | *-er* | *blood-curdler* | *blood-curdling* |  | *horrifying / horrified* |



**Try this**

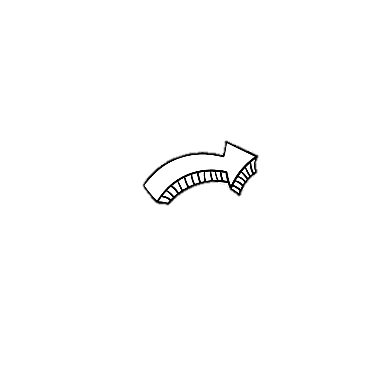
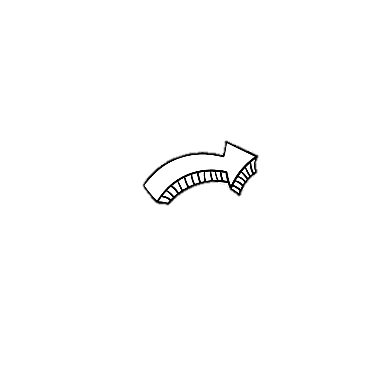
Rewrite the following sentences by adding sprinkles withcreative **compound words** and **idiomatic expressions**:

e.g. The movie is touching. I wept a little when I watched the scene where the siblings make peace with each other. I enjoyed it very much.

The movie is a *heart-warmer* . The scene where the siblings make peace with each other is moving. It  *is a pleasure to watch* .

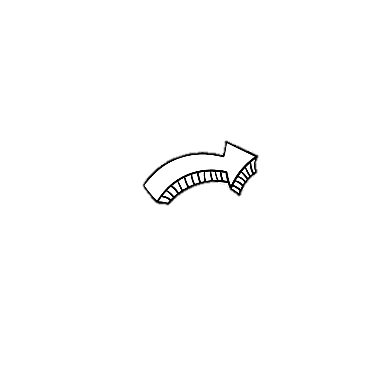
1. This film is supposed to be scary but some of the plots are very confusing and unimpressive.

The film is an epic failure that some of the plots are  *head-scratching* . I couldn’t help but  *raise a few eyebrows*  while watching.



1. This action movie is surprising. I felt so angry when I saw the protagonists being brutally attacked. The stunts in the fight scenes are also exciting to watch.

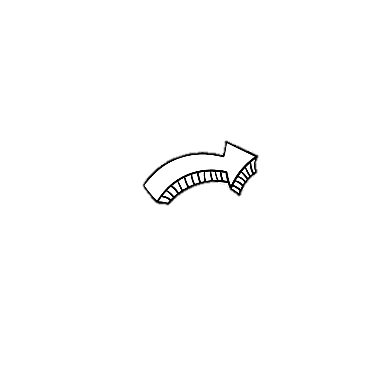
*The action movie is an eye-popper. I gritted my teeth when I saw the protagonists being brutally attacked. The stunts in the fight scenes are also nail-biting. I felt an adrenaline rush when I watched them.*



*(Compound noun)*

*(Idiomatic expressions)*

Notes: The compound words and idiomatic expressions useful for describing the plot and characters in a film review are also applicable to a book review.



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*(Idiomatic expressions)*

*(Compound adjective)*

Suggested answers only

**film review**

**Idiomatic expressions**

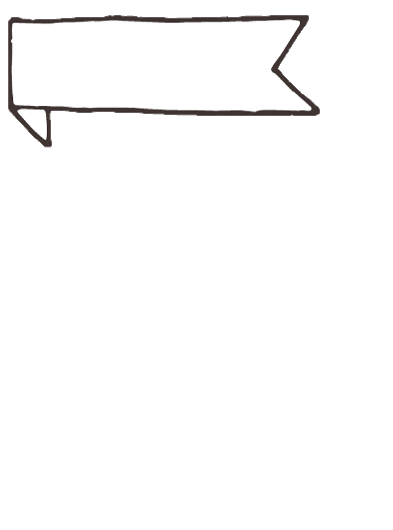
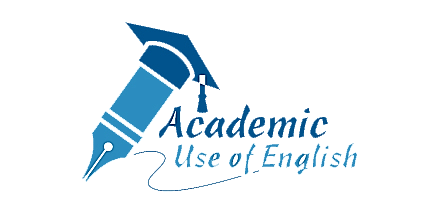
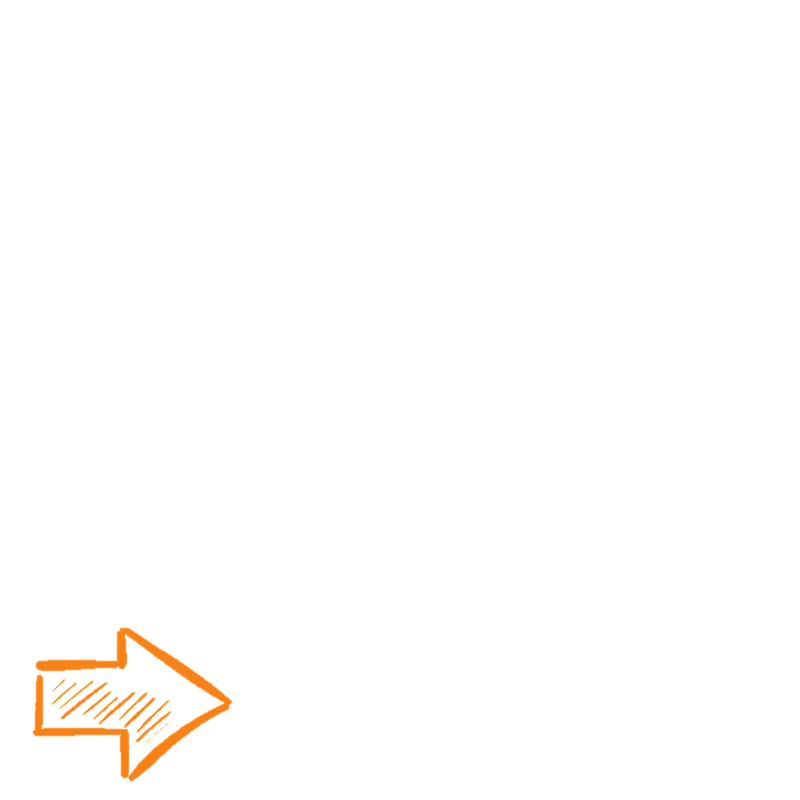
An idiomatic expression is a type of informal language. It usually has a figurative meaning.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| e.g. I watched the fight scenes attentively. |  | My eyes are glued to the fight scenes. |

*Fill in each blank with ONE word only: teeth, eyes, eyebrows, adrenaline, blood, spine, goosebumps*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Feeling** | **idiomatic expressions** |
| *excited* | *e.g. The cinematic effects are so mesmerising that my eyes are glued to the screen from start to finish.*   1. I feel an adrenaline rush at the exhilarating car-racing scene. |
| *angry* | 1. The scene where the poor are suppressed will make you grit your teeth . 2. Your blood will be boiling when you watch how the innocent woman is convicted of murder. |
| *scared* | 1. The eerie sound effects send chills down my spine . 2. I got goosebumps all over my body when the possessed boy talks to his mum. |
| *unimpressed* | 1. The protagonist’s sudden change is illogical and has raised a few eyebrows . 2. Most of the scenes don’t make sense. I can’t help rolling my eyes . |

P.1

****

P.2

are noun phrases providing more information about the subject or the object.

Appositives *Lam and his legal team go all out against the Chungs, one of the most powerful “old money” families in Hong Kong.*

**Appositives**

provide more information about the subject and the action.

*Circle the participles in the following examples and underline the subjects that they describe:*

1. Present participle (active voice) at the beginning of the sentence

*Learning the truth behind the secret, Adrian Lam goes all out against his enemies.*

1. Past participle (passive voice) at the beginning of the sentence

*Deftly directed by the renowned director Christopher Nolan, the film has been climbing box office records since its release.*

**Participle phrases**

**Try this**

*Rewrite the remarked sentences using participle phrases, relative clauses or appositives.*

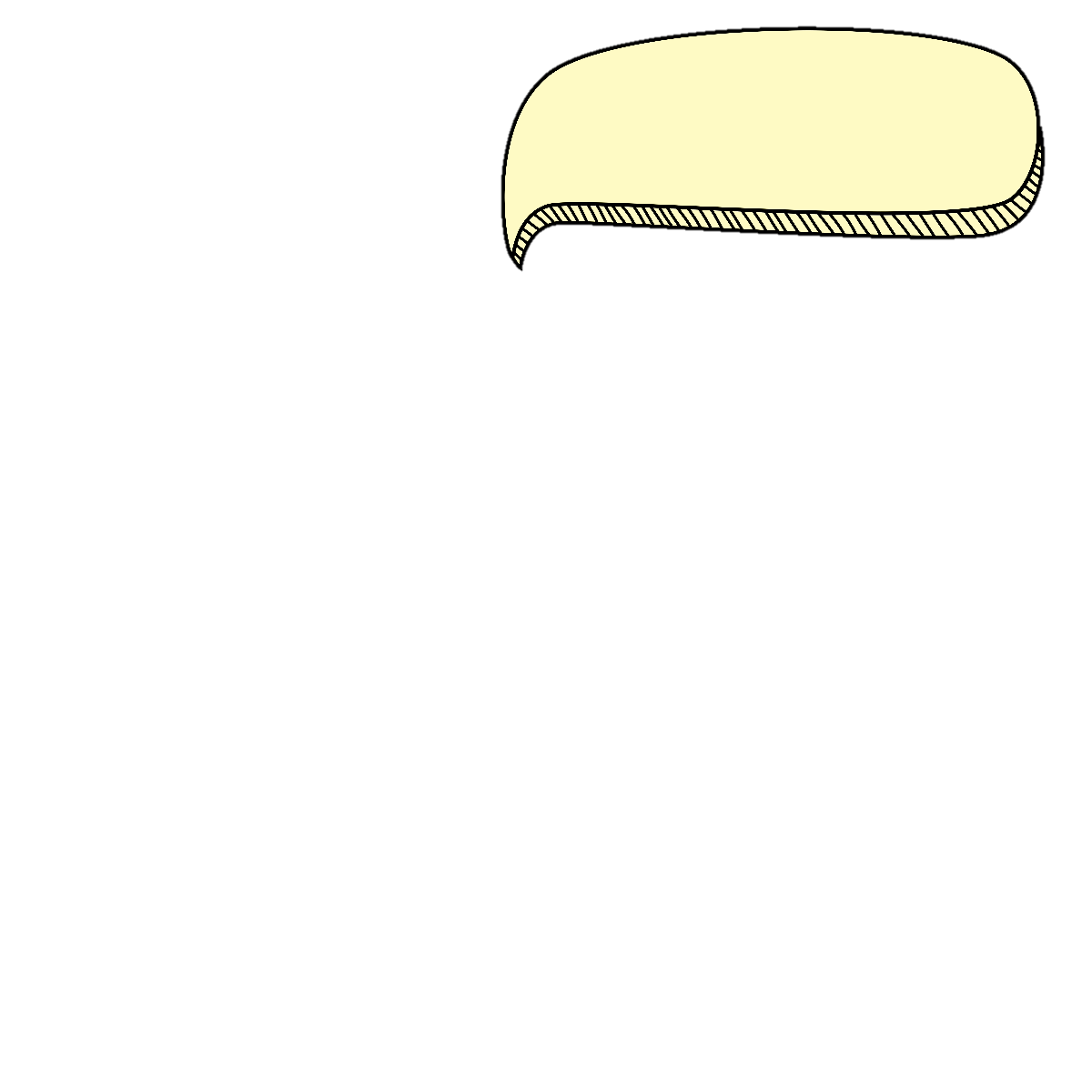
***‘A Guilty Conscience’* review: Hong Kong film highlights issues of class and justice in captivating legal thriller**

(1) *A Guilty Conscience* is deftly directed by long-time screenwriter Jack Ng Wai-lun. The film has been climbing box office records since its release in January 2023. It has grossed $104 million so far and become the highest-grossing Hong Kong film ever. The movie incorporates several genres and can be categorised as a mystery, comedy, legal drama and family film. (2) *A Guilty Conscience* is complemented by a cast of complex and well-developed characters. This movie has captivated audiences across Hong Kong.

(3) The movie is set in 2002. (4) The story revolves around Adrian Lam. He is a renowned lawyer (Dayo Wong). (5) The audience first meets Lam as a magistrate. He does not take his job seriously. (6) A legal friend persuaded Lam. (7) Lam joins his private law firm and his first case is to defend Jolene Tsang (Louise Wong), a single mother. She has been accused of murdering her seven-year-old daughter. (8) Due to his negligence, Lam has not recorded the testimony of Desmond Chung (Adam Pak). He is Tsang’s lover and the girl’s biological father. It indirectly leads to Tsang being found guilty and sentenced to 17 years behind bars.

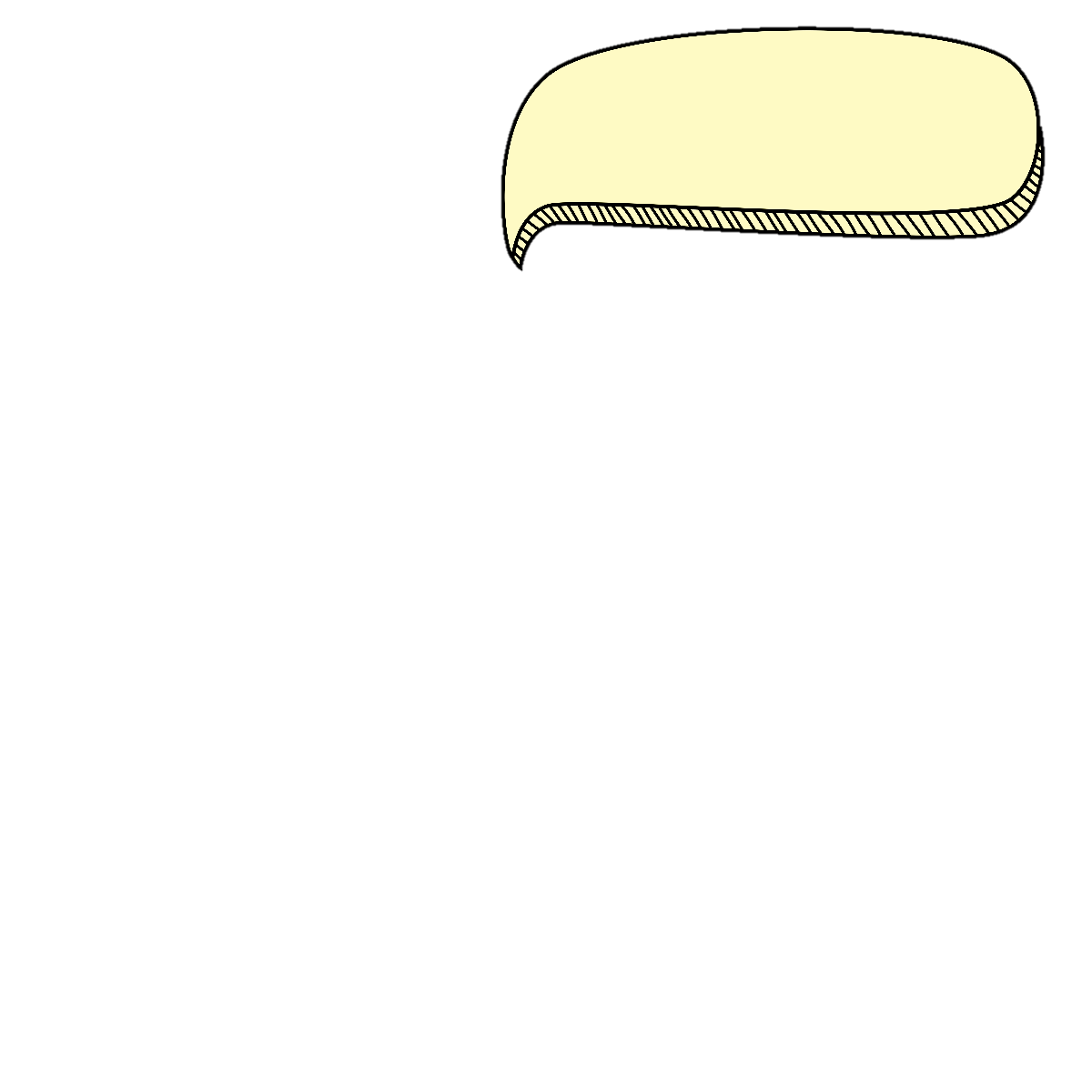
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**Complex sentences**

**are often used to provide additional information, description and details about the film and characters. They help make your film review more academic and analytical.**



Tip #2 –

with complex structures

Providing additional information

combine two sentences that share a common noun to provide more information, and they come in different forms:

1. Relative clause with relative pronouns (e.g. who, which, that)

*The story revolves around a lawyer. He is named Adrian Lam.*

*🡪 The story revolves around a lawyer who is named Adrian Lam.*

(Defining/ Non-defining relative clause)

*Adrian Lam learns the truth behind the secret. He goes all out against his enemies.*

*🡪 Adrian Lam, who learns the truth behind the secret, goes all out against his enemies.*

(Defining/Non-Defining relative clause)

1. Reduced relative clause

*The scene featuring the fight is well-received.*

(Present participle ‘featuring’ replaces ‘which features’)

*The story revolves around a lawyer named Adrian Lam.*

(Past participle ‘named’ replaces ‘who is named’)

**Relative clauses**

|  |
| --- |
| (1) *Deftly directed by long-time screenwriter Jack Ng Wai-lun,* the film *A Guilty Conscience* |
| has been climbing box office records since its release in January 2023. It has grossed $104 million so far and |
| become the highest-grossing Hong Kong film ever. The movie incorporates several genres and can be |
| categorised as a mystery, comedy, legal drama and family film. (2) *Complemented by a cast of complex and* |
| *well-developed characters,* this movie has captivated audiences across Hong Kong. |
| (3) *Set in 2002,* (4) the story revolves around Adrian Lam,  *a renowned lawyer*  (Dayo Wong). |
| (5) The audience first meets Lam as a magistrate *who does not take his job seriously* . (6) *Persuaded* |
| *by a legal friend,* (7) Lam joins his private law firm and his first case is to defend Jolene Tsang (Louise |
| Wong), a single mother  *who has been accused of murdering her seven-year-old daughter.*  (8) Due to his |
| negligence, Lam has not recorded the testimony of Desmond Chung (Adam Pak),  *Tsang’s lover and the* |
| *girl’s biological father.*  It indirectly leads to Tsang being found guilty and sentenced to 17 years behind |
| bars. |
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