



The Texas Chainsaw Massacre (B2 - Upper Intermediate)

A – Before you start

Answer the questions with a partner.

1. What is your favourite genre of film?
2. Do you watch a lot of horror films? Why (not)?
3. Have you seen *The Texas Chainsaw Massacre* or any of its sequels?
4. If so, what did you think of it/them?
5. Why do you think so many people enjoy being scared to death at the cinema?

B – Listen and answer

Read these statements. Then listen (without reading) and write T (true) or F (false).

1. The poster for *The Texas Chainsaw Massacre* was intended to make people feel uncomfortable.
2. The plot of the film was rather complicated.
3. All the film critics agreed it was an awful film.
4. The film was the true account of the crimes of a notorious serial killer of the 1950s.
5. The actors had to work long hours filming every day of the week.
6. The film has its origins in earlier horror films like *Halloween*.

C – Read and answer

Read the article and answer the questions.

1. What impact did the film have?
2. Who are the victims and who are their killers in the story?
3. How much did the film make in today's money?
4. How does the film manage to scare the audience?
5. What did the film crew use to create the set inside the farmhouse?
6. Why did the actors feel unwell while filming the final scene?
7. What did Tobe Hooper do besides directing the film?
8. Which elements of slasher films were seen here for the first time?

D – Learn it! Use it!

Complete these sentences with words from the glossary. (You may have to adapt the expression in some way; e.g. change from plural to singular.)

1. Someone who enters a building or property without the owner's permission is a _____.
2. Alex didn't intend to offend his best friend. His problem is that he's totally _____ of tact.
3. What meat do you use in this dish? Is it _____ or beef?
4. We had to cut down a tree in our garden, so we borrowed a _____.
5. This is a really _____ cheese, but surprisingly it tastes delicious.
6. If you sit too near the _____ in a cinema, you may get an aching neck.

E – Ready for the B2 FIRST Certificate in English? (Reading and Use of English, Part 3)

Use the word in brackets to form a word that fits in the space given.

1. The Texas Chainsaw Massacre is considered one of the _____ (SCARE) films ever made.
2. Some of the reviews contained contradictory comments, so they were _____ (CONFUSE).
3. One journalist called the film a _____ (MASTER) of fear and loathing.
4. The horror and gore are mostly _____ (SUGGEST) and felt, rather than seen.
5. According to one critic, the driving force of the film is fear and total _____ (SANE).
6. There were no famous actors. The cast were _____ (KNOW) who were made to work hard.
7. Some of the blood used came from actors, as the tubes of blood were _____ (FAULT).
8. The film was the first of its kind and proved to be _____ (ENORMOUS) influential.

F – Write about it

Write about a horror film or thriller you liked or didn't like. Include information about:

- the setting (time and place);
 - the plot;
 - the cast;
 - why you liked/disliked it.
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Answers: The Texas Chainsaw Massacre (B2 - Upper Intermediate)

B – Listen and answer

1. T 2. F – It was simple. 3. F – The reviews were mixed. 4. F – The film only had some elements of the story of the 1950s serial killer. 5. T 6. T

C – Read and answer

1. It shocked people around the world and influenced the genre for decades to come. 2. The victims are a group of hippies who go to an old farmhouse. The killers are a group of sadistic, grave-robbing cannibals who live nearby. 3. It made \$150 million. 4. It creates a claustrophobic atmosphere of madness, threat and imminent violence. 5. They used animal bones and remains, latex and blood from the local abattoir. 6. Because they had to film for over twenty-six hours in their costumes with a temperature of 46° and with the foul smell of themselves, dead animal parts and fetid cheese. 7. He also co-wrote it. 8. The new elements were the use of power tools as murder weapons, the killer as a large, silent, masked figure without a personality, and the sadistic killing of victims.

D – Learn it! Use it!

1. trespasser 2. devoid 3. lamb 4. chainsaw 5. foul-smelling 6. screen

E – Ready for the B2 FIRST Certificate in English?

1. scariest 2. confusing 3. masterpiece 4. suggested 5. insanity 6. unknowns 7. faulty 8. enormously