

# Cliffhanger

Word of the month

a cura di Sarah Gudgeon

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**1. Do you like watching films? Have you got a favourite TV series? Tick all the elements that you think make a film / TV series EXCITING:**

- a. Strong characters
- b. An interesting plot
- c. No action
- d. Suspense and drama
- e. Boring characters
- f. Not knowing what will happen next

**2. What is a cliffhanger at the end of a film / TV scene?  
Choose definition A or B:**

- a. A technique that writers use to make the reader/viewer excited at the beginning of the story. Readers/viewers know what happens next in the story.
- b. A technique that writers use to leave the reader/viewer in suspense. Readers/viewers want to find out what happens next in the story.

**3. Match each of these scenes from a TV series to their cliffhanger ending.**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| a. David wants to ask Lucia to marry him                  | 1. but where will they land? In enemy territory?    |
| b. The two businessmen get in the back of the taxi        | 2. but he sees her hugging another guy. Who is it?  |
| c. Jack has got to tell Maria his secret                  | 3. Can they escape before they see them?            |
| d. The men get ready to jump out of the plane             | 4. but then they see that the driver has got a gun. |
| e. Sandy and Jane are in the bank when the robbers run in | 5. but will she leave him when she knows the truth? |

**4. Complete the sentence.**

That was a brilliant episode. What a .....! I can't wait to see what happens next week!

**5. Can you think of a film or TV series that you really like with a good cliffhanger in it? Describe the cliffhanger:**

At the end of the scene/film/episode.....

**6. Talk to a classmate. Tell them about the cliffhanger and why it was so exciting.**

## Teacher's Notes

1. Before the exercise ask the students about the kinds of films and TV series that they like and why. Tick a, b, d and f.
2. Tick definition b.
3. Match each scene to its cliffhanger ending.  
a 2   b 4   c 5   d 1   e 3
4. That was a brilliant episode. What a **cliffhanger**! I can't wait to see what happens next week!

### \* Sarah Gudgeon

Sarah Gudgeon is a trained journalist and EFL teacher from Manchester, England. She has written numerous books for Pearson over the years and is a regular contributor to the Pearson Portal on [pearson.it](http://pearson.it).