

# Silent Movies



## Slapstick Comedy

Modern slapstick asks for tripping on banana peels, accidentally walking into unseen objects and banging heads together. It is often a violent form of comedy (fake violence)

Slapstick requires great timing, animated facial expressions and acrobatics.



## Key Features of Silent Movies

**Acting Style:** Exaggerated (non-naturalistic) Exaggerated gestures, movement and facial expressions.

- No recorded sound.
- Use of '**Intertitles**'.
- Showings of silent movies almost always had **live musical accompaniment**, to reinforce the atmosphere or mood of a film as well as providing the audience with emotional cues.
- Uses a lot of **slapstick comedy**.
- Silent film actors emphasized body language and facial expression so that the audience could better understand what an actor was feeling and portraying on screen.

## Tier 2 Vocabulary

Conventions/Key Features

Organisation  
Assessment  
Collaboration  
Participation  
Devising  
Interrelationships  
Spontaneous  
Prepared  
Evaluate  
Linking  
Interaction  
Improvise  
Listening  
Discussion


## Tier 3 Vocabulary

Facial Expressions  
Stance  
Gestures  
Body Language  
Staging  
Genre  
Silent Movies  
Slapstick  
Intertitles  
Slow Motion  
Mime  
Comedy


## Intertitles

Intertitles are frames of text that are drawn or printed and inserted between sequences of the film, to provide information to the audience, and add more detail to the film. There are two types of intertitles:

- **Dialogue Intertitles** – To convey dialogue of the characters.
- **Expository Intertitles** – Providing narrative to explain the situation or scene.



He had completed all  
arrangements — —  
except to notify the  
girl.



'I won't talk!  
I won't say a  
word !!!'