



The magic of films

1. Films in Hollywood

The film industry started in Hollywood in 1911. Hollywood is a suburb of Los Angeles, California. This suburb soon became home to many great film stars. Between 1930 and 1945 the city and the whole area changed into a huge entertainment factory controlled by two giant studios, MGM (Metro Goldwyn Mayer Inc.) and Paramount. When TV was developed, the Hollywood studios began to decline, because fewer people went to the cinemas. Making films also became more expensive. The film industry moved to other US-states such as Florida and Texas. There the costs were lower and working conditions better. But even today films are still made in Hollywood and Universal Studios – where you can watch stars on the set – is one of California's greatest tourist attractions. American films are seen all over the world and for a lot of people this is the only way they learn about the USA. Since films often show unrealistic, made-up stories, many people have a rather distorted view of American life!

Vocabulary:

suburb	Vorstadt
huge	groß
giant	riesig
decline	nachlassen
fewer	weniger
to distort	verzerrern
view	Sicht

Questions on the text: Right or wrong?

	R	W
1) The film industry started in Hollywood in 1911.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
2) MGM and Paramount, the two biggest movie studios, once controlled the whole town.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
3) With the beginning of television, the Hollywood studios became even more famous.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
4) The film industry went to other states because costs were lower and working conditions were better.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
5) US films can only be seen in the USA.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

2. American English vs. British English

As you can see in the article above there is always written "film". In American English you don't say "film", but "movie". And there are a lot of different words in the same language! Here are some examples:

Anhänger (Auto)	caravan	trailer
Arbeit	labour	labor



arbeitslos, überflüssig	redundant	laid off
Arznei, Medizin	medicine	drugs, medicine
Auseinandersetzung	row	argument
ausfüllen (Formular)	to fill in	to fill out
Autobahn	motorway	freeway, interstate
Bahnsteig	platform	track
Baumwolle	cotton	thread
Benzin	petrol	gas
böse, irr, verrückt	mad	crazy
Briefkasten	letterbox	mailbox
Briefträger	postman	mailman
Drogerie	chemist's shop	drugstore
Etage	floor	storey
Fahrstuhl/Aufzug	lift	elevator
Farbe	colour	color
Film	film	movie
Firma	company	enterprise
Friseur (Frauen)	hairdresser	hairdresser, beauty shop
Friseur (Männer)	hairdresser	barber shop
Fußball	football	soccer
Fußgängerüberweg	pedestrian crossing	crosswalk
Gepäck	luggage	baggage, luggage
Geschmack, Aroma	flavour	flavor
Grundschule	primary school	elementary school grade school
Halbjahr, Semester	term	semester
Herbst	autumn	fall
Kino	cinema	movie theater
Kleiderschrank	wardrobe	closet
Kneipe	pub	bar
Papiertaschentuch	tissue	Kleenex
Programm	programme	program
Schulleiter	headmaster, head teacher	principal
Schulzeugnis	school report	report card



streiten	to quarrel	to argue
Stundenplan	timetable	schedule
Tankstelle	filling station	gas station
Taschenlampe	torch	flashlight
Urlaub, Ferien	holiday	vacation
Verkäufer/in	shop assistant	sales clerk
Wohnung	flat	apartment (flat: eingeschossige Wohnung)
Zentrum	centre	center

3. The portrait of a star

This chapter is about the magic of films – or as Americans say „movies“. At the end you should be able to do a group project on your favourite film star. When you start, try to collect homepage-adresses, pictures, articles and your own notes in a separate exercise book:

3.1. The homepage of a star: Johnny Depp

Look at www.johnnydepp.com and you will find everything you want to know about this Hollywood actor. There's one link to his biography and filmography where you can find out nearly everything about his life. Here's an excerpt:

“**Johnny Depp**, born in Kentucky on June 9th 1963 has followed a bizarre road, consequently landing him as one of today's top Hollywood actors. Born John Christopher Depp II, young Depp was originally interested in pursuing a music career. Following a move to Florida, and his parents divorce by age 16, Depp strayed from his peers and siblings and reclused within a life of drugs and alcohol. Teenage Depp dropped out of school to pursue a career in rock and roll music. Over the next few years, Depp fronted numerous garage bands - the most famous entitled The Kids, opened for Iggy Pop. Perhaps more importantly, the success of The Kids furnished Depp with a rising sense of popularity and accomplishment - ironically shot down by Iggy Pop himself during a back-stage confrontation. [.....]

In 1998, Depp split with supermodel Kate Moss and started a relationship with French singer Venessa Paradis, relocating to Paris with his two children (Lily-Rose and Jack) in hope to pursue a more normal life. [.....]

When Depp returned to Hollywood, it was with none other than the smash hit Pirates of the Caribbean (2003) - which made \$200 million in only four weeks. [.....]”

Vocabulary:

to stray	weglaufen, umherirren
peer	Gleichaltriger
siblings	Geschwister
to recluse	als Einsiedler leben
to pursue	fortführen



3.2. The homepage of a star: Cameron Diaz

Now look at "www.hollywood.com/celebrity/Cameron_Diaz and you will find a lot of information about this Hollywood actress. There's a link towards her profile where you can read about her biography and filmography. This homepage is completely different to the first one of Johnny Depp, but all in all you'll see the same information. Here's an excerpt of the Diaz-homepage:

"While her teen contemporaries were struggling with mundane things like school and dating, Southern California native Cameron Diaz was employed by the Elite Modeling agency appearing on magazine covers and in campaigns for clients like Calvin Klein and Levi's. And just like many women in the modeling industry, she harbored dreams of an acting career. Diaz, of Cuban and Native American descent, burst onto the big screen as the torch-singing moll in 1994's Jim Carrey blockbuster "The Mask" [.....]

Family

- father: Emilio Diaz (second-generation Cuban/American; appeared as a prisoner in "There's Something About Mary")
- mother: Billie Diaz (of Native American, German and English descent)
- sister: Chimene A Diaz (born in June 1970; has daughter Chloe)

Companion(s)

- Carlos de la Torre, Companion, born in 1967; together from 1990 to 1995
- Matt Dillon, Companion, together from 1996 until September 1998
- Jared Leto, Companion, began dating in 1999; split in 2003
- Justin Timberlake, Companion, began dating June 2003; reportedly split December 2006

Education

- Los Cerritos Elementary School Los Cerritos, California
- Long Beach Polytechnic High School Long Beach, California"

Vocabulary:

mundane things
harbored (AE) – harboured (BE)
torch (BE)
torch (AE)
client

banale Dinge
beherbergt
Taschenlampe
Brandstifter
Kunde

Question:

Describe one film with your favourite film star and tell all the things you want to say about him or her: Tell us if he or she is a good actor/actress, if he or she looks good in your eyes, if he or she act well when he or she played the role of ... in the film ...! Write down if he or she usually plays positive or negative characters, if he or she likes to try difficult roles etc.



4. A group project

If you have the task to work on a group project with the subject "Portrait of a film star", you have to complete the following steps.

- 1st step: Decide who you want to work on
 2nd step: Where and how can you get the necessary material?
 Think of websites, photos and texts from magazines, books, newspapers or material from fan clubs.
 3rd step: Collect and organize your material
 Make a list of everything you have, mark important parts in each text, decide who will do what in your group and then give each persons the texts and material he or she needs.
 4th step: Make a plan for your presentation but think about the dos and don'ts of presentation:

DON'TS	DOS
Don't just read a finished text because your listeners will go to sleep.	Try to speak freely with notes you made. There must be key words on your notes. It's easier to speak freely if you look at one person in the audience.
Don't give the whole job to one person – it's a group project!	Try to give all group-members something to do!
Don't let one person do all the talking!	Try to give every group member something to say.
Don't just use one medium!	Try to use different media. Hang up a poster, play a CD with film music and – if you have the possibility – show parts of a video!

5. Preparing an interview

Imagine you have the possibility to interview your favourite star or someone you find really interesting. Make a list of questions you would like to ask him or her. Here are some examples:

- "Can I ask you some questions?"
 "Where are you from?"
 "How old are you?"
 "When did you start your career?"
 "Where did you go to school?" etc.

Questions:

1. Write a dialogue between you as a reporter and a star you like. You are the interviewer!
2. Now tell something about your interview you made yesterday. Use Reported Speech!
(See § Grammar)

6. Your favourite star / group

Write a short text about your favourite star or group (about 100 words) and by using the following questions: Who is your favourite star or group?, What do you know about him, her or them? Have you seen your favourite star or group on TV? – When? Have you see him, her or them live on stage? What do your parents think of him, her or them? Do they have any reasons for their thoughts? Do you buy shirts or other products with the name or picture of him, her or them?



7. Harry Potter and his author Joanne Kathleen Rowling

The adventures of the young wizard are international bestsellers. Harry Potter is the central character in a series of books for children and adults alike that has swept the world. Since 1997, when the first book, "Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone" was published, more than 30 million copies have been sold worldwide. The books follow the brave and exciting actions of a boy who learns on his eleventh birthday that he is the orphaned son of two powerful wizards and that he possesses magical powers. He is called from his life as an unwanted foster child to become a student at Hogwarst, an English boarding school for wizards. Harry meets several friends there. They become his closest allies and help him discover the truth about his parents' mysterious deaths.

The author of the books is Joanne K. Rowling. When she was interviewed by internet users she talked about the way she wrote Harry Potter:

Q.: Where do you get your ideas from?

Rowling: I wish I knew. Sometimes they just come like magic and at other times I have to sit and think about a week before I manage to work out how something will happen. Where the idea for Harry Potter actually came from I really couldn't tell you. I was travelling on a train between Manchester and London and it just popped into my head. I spent four hours thinking about what Hogwarts would be like – the most interesting journey I've ever taken. By the time I got off the train many of the characters in the books had already been invented.

Q.: Are any of the characters in the books based on real people?

Rowling: Tricky question! The answer is yes, and no. I have to confess that Harry's friend Hermine is a little bit like I was at her age, though I was never as clever or as annoying (I hope!). Ron is a little bit like my oldest friend and Professor Snape is a lot like one of my old teachers, but I'm not saying which one.

Q.: Did you expect the Harry Potter books to be this successful?

Rowling: Never. I just wrote the sort of thing I liked reading when I was younger (and still enjoy them now!). In fact, I didn't expect lots of people to like them.

Ms. Rowling's talent as a writer has made her one of Britain's wealthiest women. She is the third paid woman in the country, with an income of 14.5 British Pounds. In June 2000 she was honoured by the Queen for her service to children's literature in a special ceremony.
(Quelle: The Daily Telegraph, July 3 2000)

Vocabulary:

brave	tapfer
orphaned	verwaist
foster child	Pflegekind
annoying	langweilig
wealthiest	wohlhabendste

Questions on the text:

Complete the sentences by using suitable phrases or facts from the text.

- 1) The first volume of the series appeared in _____.
- 2) Since then people all over the world bought _____.
- 3) That's why Joanne K. Rowling became one of the _____.
- 4) If you had magical power, how would you use it?



5) What do you prefer: reading or seeing a film? Give reasons for your answer.

Translation:

Translate the following sentences:

- 1) „Welches Buch magst du lieber? Harry Potter Band I oder Band II?“
- 2) „Was lesen Sie am liebsten?“
- 3) „Ich möchte einen guten Reiseführer in Deutsch kaufen.“
- 4) „Haben Sie auch Kalender mit Photos aus dieser Gegend?“
- 5) „Ich brauche ein Geburtstagsgeschenk. Haben Sie den neuen Harry Potter?“