

1 VOCABULARY



a Look at the words below and talk to your partner about what they mean. Match them with meanings 1–8.

- | | | | |
|----------|--------|----------------|---------|
| action | actors | the big screen | cinema |
| location | movie | producer | western |

- 1 the people you see in films _____
- 2 the boss of a film project _____
- 3 another word for 'film' _____
- 4 a film with cowboys _____
- 5 a real place where a film or a scene is filmed _____
- 6 a public place where you pay to watch films _____
- 7 what happens in a film; the movements of the actors _____
- 8 a big white wall that you see the film on; films at the cinema rather than at home _____

2 READING



BETTER READING: TOPIC SENTENCES

The first sentence in each paragraph is called the topic sentence, and it often gives you an introduction to what the paragraph will be about.

Read the topic sentences of the four paragraphs in the article on page 53 and match the paragraphs with a–d.

- a ☐ Famous westerns made in Spain
- b ☐ How people's tastes change in the world of films
- c ☐ The return of the cinema
- d ☐ Movie sets in the desert



a Read the article on page 53 and answer the question.

- 1 What is the Spanish Hollywood?

b Answer the questions.

- 1 Why did people stop going to the cinema in the years after the 1960s?
- 2 Why are cowboy films called westerns?
- 3 Why did they film westerns near Almeria in Spain?
- 4 Why are the films *Lawrence of Arabia* and *Cleopatra* mentioned?
- 5 What film sets did the film producers build?
- 6 Why is it surprising that cinema is becoming popular again?

c Find phrases in the text on page 53 with these meanings.

- 1 The west of the USA, when it was still a dangerous place (paragraph 2)
- 2 People who go to see films (paragraph 2)
- 3 Well-known and loved old films (paragraph 3)
- 4 Places made specially for filming a movie (paragraph 3)
- 5 Towns which look dead, with nobody around (paragraph 3)
- 6 A noun from *popular* (paragraph 4)
- 7 A noun from *entertain* (paragraph 4)

THE SPANISH HOLLYWOOD

★ by Ella Millen ★

1 In the movie business, fashions come and go, just as in other areas of life. Take the traditional cinemas, for example. In the 1960s, 70s and 80s there was a big fall in the number of cinemas. This was because at this time, more and more people got televisions, videos and then DVDs. Old cinema buildings were empty and forgotten. It's not just the places where we see films that have changed, but also the kinds of films we want to see. Take the western, for example – the old cowboy films from the American west. This was the most popular type of film for half of the last century; now, most people have forgotten it.

2 The desert around Almeria in southeast Spain has a strange connection with the golden years of the western. It is a wild place, with dry mountains. There is very little water and nothing grows. It looks just like the Wild West, and for this reason, it was the location for many of the most famous westerns ever made – *For a Few Dollars More* and *The Good, the Bad and the Ugly* with the great western actor Clint Eastwood are just two examples. Moviegoers thought they were seeing the deserts of Arizona or Mexico, but really the action was all happening in Spain. It was the Spanish Hollywood.

3 This Spanish desert has been the location for other kinds of film too. In the classic movies *Lawrence of Arabia* and *Cleopatra*, it was the deserts of the Middle East. But mostly, it was used for westerns. The producers built cowboy towns and Mexican villages specially for the films, and now these film sets are slowly disappearing into the sand. Today they are like ghost towns, and it feels very strange to walk around them.

4 Sometimes dying fashions come back again, and in recent years there has been a new rise in the popularity of cinemas. Today there are so many ways of finding entertainment on our small screens, but something makes people want to watch films on the big screen again. But will westerns ever get popular in the future? I don't think so, but you never know – perhaps the Spanish Hollywood will live again!



3 SPEAKING

a  Ask and answer the questions with a partner.

- 1 How often do you go to the cinema?
- 2 Have you seen any / many westerns?
- 3 What kind of films do you like or dislike?