

## The Force Awakens breaks pre-sales ticket records

23rd October, 2015



The new Star Wars movie will not open in cinemas until December, but it is already attracting huge interest online. Pre-sales tickets for 'Star Wars: The Force Awakens' went on sale yesterday and broke all ticket records. In the USA, the nation's largest online ticket seller, Fandango, said it had so many visitors that its site crashed. It had to apologise to people who could not visit the site. A Fandango spokesperson said: "For Star Wars, we have already sold eight times as many tickets as we did on the first day of sales for the previous record holder." He added: "The enthusiasm for this year's most anticipated movie is out of this world and we expect it to continue all the way to its debut on December 18."

'The Force Awakens' is the seventh movie to be released in the Star Wars franchise. Disney released the film's latest trailer on Monday night and it soon went viral worldwide. Many top international news stations covered the story in their prime time news bulletins. The trailer currently has 13 million views on YouTube and this number is likely to get a lot bigger. Box office analyst Phil Contrino said the movie could also break box office records when it opens. It is possible it will be the highest earning movie ever made. Mr Contrino said: "The Force Awakens will hit \$1 billion without blinking. If it's really good, it could cross \$2 billion." Star Wars fans will be happy to know that plans are already in place for Star Wars VIII and IX.

Sources: *ew.com / money.cnn / wikipedia*

## Writing

Science fiction movies like Star Wars are not good for us. Discuss.

## Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

*Star Wars / cinemas / online / tickets / visitors / crashed / apologise / record / debut / franchise / Disney / viral / worldwide / prime time news / box office / blinking*

## True / False

- The new Star Wars movie opens in cinemas early next year. T / F
- Pre-sales tickets for the movie broke all records. T / F
- The website of an online ticket seller crashed because of the demand. T / F
- A ticket seller sold eight times more tickets than the previous record. T / F
- "The Force Awakens" is the eighth Star Wars movie. T / F
- The movie's trailer has had 30 million views on YouTube. T / F
- The article said the movie has made a lot of people blink. T / F
- There are already plans to make the next two Star Wars movies. T / F

## Synonym Match

- |              |                   |
|--------------|-------------------|
| 1. cinemas   | a. think          |
| 2. huge      | b. earlier        |
| 3. largest   | c. presently      |
| 4. previous  | d. launched       |
| 5. expect    | e. very big       |
| 6. released  | f. there          |
| 7. worldwide | g. movie theatres |
| 8. currently | h. followers      |
| 9. fans      | i. globally       |
| 10. in place | j. biggest        |

## Discussion – Student A

- What do you think about the Star Wars movies?
- What is your favourite movie?
- What do you think of science fiction movies?
- What do you like about movie theatres?
- Is it better to watch a movie at home or at a cinema?
- Would you like to watch the new Star Wars movie?
- Why do people like movies?
- What are the bad things about movies?

# Breaking News English - The Mini Lesson

## Phrase Match

- |                               |                       |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. attracting huge            | a. times as many      |
| 2. we have already sold eight | b. box office records |
| 3. the previous               | c. on December 18     |
| 4. out of                     | d. worldwide          |
| 5. its debut                  | e. franchise          |
| 6. the Star Wars              | f. interest online    |
| 7. it soon went viral         | g. in place           |
| 8. prime time                 | h. this world         |
| 9. the movie could also break | i. news               |
| 10. plans are already         | j. record holder      |

## Discussion – Student B

- What do you think of movie trailers?
- What do you think of Disney?
- Which Star Wars character would you like to be?
- What do you think of all the merchandising that comes with a movie?
- What do you think of movie prequels and sequels?
- What does the term 'without blinking' in the article mean?
- What will movies be like in the future?
- What questions would you like to ask the movie's producer?

## Spelling

- it is already traticgtan huge interest online
- It had to oisapeglo (UK) / zoogpiaie (USA) to people
- the oviuesrp record holder
- this year's most titpiaaecnd movie
- we ectpxe it to continue
- its betdu on December 18
- the Star Wars nirachsfe
- the film's latest tiarerl
- it soon went viral rdwweiodl
- The trailer nrctyluer has 13 million views
- the highest eigrnan movie ever
- without nkignbli

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. g	2. e	3. j	4. b	5. a
6. d	7. i	8. c	9. h	10. f

## Role Play

### Role A – Science Fiction

You think science fiction is the best movie genre. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their genres. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): romance, action or comedy.

### Role B – Romance

You think romance is the best movie genre. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their genres. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): science fiction, action or comedy.

### Role C – Action

You think action is the best movie genre. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their genres. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): romance, science fiction or comedy.

### Role D – Comedy

You think comedy is the best movie genre. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their genres. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): romance, action or science fiction.

## Speaking – Genres

Rank these and share your rankings with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- |                   |           |
|-------------------|-----------|
| • thrillers       | • horror  |
| • science fiction | • action  |
| • animation       | • fantasy |
| • romance         | • war     |

### Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	T	d	T	e	F	f	F	g	F	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.