

## 'Barbie' the movie breaks box office records

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The new movie "Barbie" is the biggest film of the year in the USA. It has broken several box office records. One of these is for making the most money for a non-superhero movie. Movie-goers in the USA paid a total of

\$162 million in the movie's opening weekend. Ticket sales worldwide were over \$356 million. The film also made the most money for a movie made by a female director. "Barbie" was directed by Greta Gerwig, who also worked on the indie films "Lady Bird" and "Little Women". Gerwig also co-wrote "Barbie". It is likely that there will be sequels to the movie, so fans should get ready for "Barbie 2" and "Barbie 3". There may also be a spin-off that focuses on Barbie's friend Ken.

Ms Gerwig's movie is about the Barbie fashion doll, made by the American toy company Mattel. The toy was created by American businesswoman Ruth Handler and launched in 1959. It has become one of the best-selling toys ever made. Over a billion Barbie dolls have been made worldwide. Since the 1980s, Barbie has been the star of video games, animated movies and TV series. In Gerwig's film, Barbie unexpectedly leaves her near-perfect animated world of Barbieland to live in the human world. Movie experts say it is refreshing that "Barbie" is such an original movie. People may be getting tired of superhero films. A critic said "Barbie" was a funny, entertaining and feminist movie.

Sources: [axious.com](https://axious.com) / [apnews.com](https://apnews.com) / [wikipedia.org](https://wikipedia.org)

## Writing

Movies are the best form of entertainment. Discuss.

## Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

movie / box office / records / superhero / movie-goers / female / director / sequels / fashion / doll / toy / businesswoman / video games / experts / funny / entertaining

## True / False

- 1) The article says "Barbie" has broken seven box office records. T / F
- 2) Over \$356 million was spent at the US box office in one weekend. T / F
- 3) The movie is the biggest money-making movie directed by a woman. T / F
- 4) A movie company has almost finished the spin-off movie "Ken". T / F
- 5) Barbie has been around since 1959. T / F
- 6) Over a billion Barbie dolls have been made over the decades. T / F
- 7) Movie experts agreed that "Barbie" was not such an original movie. T / F
- 8) A critic said "Barbie" was a feminist movie. T / F

## Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                         |                |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| 1. <b>several</b>       | a. introduced  |
| 2. <b>worldwide</b>     | b. probably    |
| 3. <b>made</b>          | c. authorities |
| 4. <b>likely</b>        | d. globally    |
| 5. <b>get ready</b>     | e. reviewer    |
| 6. <b>launched</b>      | f. delightful  |
| 7. <b>unexpectedly</b>  | g. a number of |
| 8. <b>experts</b>       | h. prepare     |
| 9. <b>critic</b>        | i. suddenly    |
| 10. <b>entertaining</b> | j. earned      |

## Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) Why are dolls so popular with children?
- c) What do you know about Barbie's near-perfect world?
- d) What's your favourite movie?
- e) What's your favourite movie genre?
- f) What is a 'feminist movie'?
- g) Are animated movies or movies with actors best?
- h) What questions would you like to ask Barbie?

## Phrase Match

- |  |                           |
|--|---------------------------|
| 1. Movie-goers                             | a. of superhero films     |
| 2. Ticket sales worldwide were             | b. to the movie           |
| 3. a movie made                            | c. selling toys ever made |
| 4. It is likely that there will be sequels | d. and feminist movie     |
| 5. a spin-off that focuses                 | e. in the USA             |
| 6. launched                                | f. movies                 |
| 7. one of the best-                        | g. on Barbie's friend Ken |
| 8. animated                                | h. in 1959                |
| 9. People may be getting tired             | i. by a female director   |
| 10. a funny, entertaining                  | j. over \$356 million     |

## Discussion – Student B

- What do you think of movies?
- Do you prefer to watch movies on TV, your phone or at the cinema?
- What's the most you would pay to watch a movie?
- What do you know about Barbie?
- Would you like to watch the movie 'Barbie'?
- What do you think of movie sequels?
- What do you think of superhero movies?
- Does it matter if a director is male or female?

## Spelling

- It has broken aeelvsr box office records
- a movie made by a female ioerrdct
- ediin films
- there will be luqesse to the movie
- There may also be a psni-ffo
- that ocuefss on Barbie's friend
- uhncalde in 1959
- a billion Barbie dolls have been made redwoiwd
- adnmitea movies and
- Barbie eneedpluyxtc leaves
- "Barbie" is such an inagirlo movie
- itmfnies movie

### Answers – Synonym Match

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

## Role Play

### Role A – Barbie

You think Barbie is the best toy. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their toys. Also, tell the others which is the least fun of these (and why): Lego, frisbee or Game Boy.

### Role B – Frisbee

You think a frisbee is the best toy. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their toys. Also, tell the others which is the least fun of these (and why): Barbie, Lego or Game Boy.

### Role C – Lego

You think Lego is the best toy. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their toys. Also, tell the others which is the least fun of these (and why): frisbee, Barbie or Game Boy.

### Role D – Game Boy

You think Game Boy is the best toy. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their toys. Also, tell the others which is the least fun of these (and why): Lego, frisbee or Barbie.

## Speaking –

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

- |            |            |
|------------|------------|
| • Barbie   | • Yo-yo    |
| • Jenga    | • Lego     |
| • Toy cars | • Monopoly |
| • Frisbee  | • Game boy |

### Answers – True False

1	F	2	F	3	T	4	F	5	T	6	T	7	F	8	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.