

PROPUESTA A

TATTOOS

Jack lay, quiet and unmoving, for thirty minutes while a stranger repeatedly stabbed him with sharp needles, causing blood to pour steadily out of his leg. Jack was getting a tattoo. His friend Tony had recently gotten a tattoo, and Jack was so impressed by Tony's bravery and his tattoo that he decided to get one too. Getting a tattoo because your friends and peers have them is just one of the reasons why a lot of young people in North America get tattoos. Peer pressure, media influence, and personal expression are some of the common reasons for wearing tattoos today.

The desire to be part of a group, to be accepted by one's friends or peers, can have a great influence on what a person does. Sometimes, wearing a tattoo can be a sign that you belong to a certain group.

The media is another big influence behind the popularity of tattoos. A wide variety of media images show tattoos. Famous sports heroes with tattoos are shown in magazines. Fashion models are often seen in magazines and on TV wearing designer clothes that show their bodies tattooed with detailed and colourful patterns. These media images link tattoos to ideas of wealth, success, and status. As a result, many people decide to get a tattoo for its fashion and status value.

It is not always the influence of other people or the media that results in a person getting a tattoo. Many people decide to wear tattoos in order to express their artistic nature, their beliefs, or their feelings - in other words, to show their individuality. A musician in a rock band may get a tattoo of a guitar on the arm. Some environmentalists may tattoo pictures of endangered animals on their shoulders. Lovers may tattoo each others' names over their hearts. A tattoo can be a public sign to show what is important in a person's life.

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Answer the following questions using the information given in the text.

1. Why did Jack decide to get a tattoo?
2. Why do a lot of people decide to get tattoos in North America?
3. Why do a lot of people decide to get tattoos in general?
4. Are people wearing a tattoo members of a specific group?
5. Is television important in the decision of getting a tattoo?
6. Where can we find famous people with tattoos?
7. Why do people connect the idea of success and tattoos?
8. What do people manifest with a specific tattoo?
9. Where do lovers usually tattoo each others' names?
10. 'If you don't wear a tattoo that means no one is important in your life'. Is this statement true?

PROPUESTA B**HOLLYWOOD- ITS LIFE AND TIMES**

At the start of the 20th century, a new city was beginning to grow on some flat land near the sea in southern California; its name was *Los Angeles* - the name of the old Spanish mission that had been there for many years. At the same time, a new industry was just being born; the cinema. In America, they talked of "motion pictures", but this soon became shortened to "movies".

The movie-makers found what they needed a few miles outside Los Angeles; and before long, large new studios were being built in an area called Hollywood, at the foot of some small dry hills. Movies quickly became very popular, particularly after "talkies" first appeared in 1925. Nevertheless, movies were expensive to make, and film companies needed money - lots of it. For this reason, Hollywood rapidly became dominated by a small number of big companies such as *MGM*, *20th Century Fox*, *Warner Bros.* and *Paramount*.

Since then, the big companies have had their ups and downs, but most of them are still there. Naturally, Hollywood has changed a lot in 80 years! Today the biggest studios belong to huge international firms. It is only huge companies like *Fox* that can afford to make today's very expensive films; and for *Titanic* - which was at the time the most expensive film ever - *Fox* had to get help from another big company, *Paramount*!

Perhaps we dreamed differently in the past. Today, thanks in part to Hollywood, people everywhere have similar dreams. We now live in the age of global culture. Hollywood did not invent this culture - but for better or for worse, it has become one of the most powerful elements in it. Like it or not, we all now live on planet Hollywood.

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Answer the following questions using the information given in the text.

1. When did the cinema start in America?
2. Which names were used to make reference to the word "*cinema*"?
3. Were the new studios located in Los Angeles?
4. How much money was needed to make a film in 1925?
5. 'Small film companies worked in Hollywood'. Is this statement true or false?
6. Are big film companies such as *MGM*, *20th Century Fox*, *Warner Bros.* or *Paramount* working now?
7. Has Hollywood been transformed significantly in the last 60 years?
8. Which kind of companies can make films today?
9. What is the main difference between dreaming in the past and dreaming today?
10. How much influence does Hollywood have in our culture?