

Name & Date:

Objective: IELTS Reading

A) Please read the texts below. When you are finished, answer questions 1-14.

Elephants' Early Warning System

A new study shows that elephants may communicate with other herds through seismic vibrations.

A Few sights in nature are as awesome as a six-ton elephant guarding her baby from a hungry predator. Rather than retreat, the threatened mother is likely to launch a mock charge – a terrifying display of ground stomping, ear flapping and frantic screaming designed to frighten off lions and hyenas.

B But elephant researchers have discovered that there is more to a mock charge than meets the eye. According to a new study in the Journal of the Acoustical Society of America (JASA), foot stomping and low-frequency rumbling also generate seismic waves in the ground that can travel nearly 20 miles along the surface of the earth. More astonishing is the discovery that elephants may be able to sense these vibrations and interpret them as warning signals of a distant danger. 'Elephants may be able to detect stress from a herd many miles away,' says Caitlin O'Connell-Rodwell, an affiliate of the Stanford Centre for Conservation Biology. 'They may be communicating at much farther distances than we thought,' adds O'Connell-Rodwell, author of the JASA study.

C In the early '90s, O'Connell-Rodwell began to suspect there was more to long-distance elephant communication than airborne

rumblings alone. 'I started working with elephants in Etosha National Park in 1992,' she recalls. 'I was observing them at a drinking hole when I noticed this strange set of behaviours. They would lean forward, pick up one leg and freeze – or begin stomping their feet for no apparent reason.' She theorized that the elephants were responding to vibrations in the ground from approaching herds. 'When I returned to the University of California at Davis, I teamed up with my Ph.D. adviser, Lynette Hart, and geophysicist Byron Aranson to find out if there really are seismic communications among elephants,' she says.

D To test the theory that elephants transmit and receive underground messages, O'Connell-Rodwell and her colleagues conducted several experiments with elephants in Africa, India and at a captive elephant facility in Texas, USA. 'We went to Etosha National Park in Namibia and recorded three acoustic calls commonly made by wild African elephants,' she says. 'One is a warning call, another is a greeting and the third is the elephant equivalent of *Let's go!*'

E The researchers wanted to find out if elephants would respond to recordings played through the ground, so they installed seismic transmitters at a tourist facility in Zimbabwe where eight trained, young elephants were housed. The idea was to convert audible 'Greetings!', 'Warning!' and 'Let's go!' calls into underground seismic waves that an elephant could feel but not hear directly through the air. 'We

used a mix of elephant calls, synthesized low-frequency tones, rock music and silence for comparison,' says O'Connell-Rodwell. 'When the *Warning!* calls were played, one female got so agitated she bent down and bit the ground,' she notes. 'That's very unusual behaviour for an elephant, but it has been observed in the wild under conditions of extreme agitation.' The young female had the same agitated response each time the experiment was repeated.

F Researchers also played recorded calls to seven captive males. 'The bulls reacted too, but their response was much more subtle,' notes O'Connell-Rodwell. 'We think they're sensing these underground vibrations through their feet,' she adds. 'Seismic waves could travel from their toenails to the ear via bone conduction, or through somatosensory receptors in the foot similar to ones found in the trunk. We think it may be a combination of both.'

G 'Elephants may be able to sense the environment better than we realize,' O'Connell-Rodwell contends, pointing to studies showing that elephants can detect and move toward thunderstorms from great distances. 'When it rains in Angola, elephants 100 miles away in Etosha start to travel north in search of water,' she says. 'It could be that they are sensing underground vibrations generated by thunder.' These findings could have an impact on the way we treat captive elephants in city zoos. 'If elephants are really that sensitive to seismic noise,' she argues, 'then more could be done to protect them from loud traffic noise.'

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Questions 1-6

Do the following statements agree with the information in the passage? Write

True	if the statement agrees with the information in the passage
False	if the statement disagrees with the information in the passage
Not Given	if there is no information on this

- 1** Elephants may use foot stomping to communicate danger to other elephants over long distances.
- 2** Elephants are known to make a maximum of three different calls.
- 3** For their experiment, the scientists played loud recordings of different sounds.
- 4** This was the first time an elephant has been known to bite the ground.
- 5** Scientists believe elephants can detect weather changes over a distance of 120 miles.
- 6** Elephants in zoos are distressed by loud city noises.

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Bollywood Business

The appeal and success of Bollywood movies has become a worldwide phenomenon

Indian films are the most widely seen movies in the world. And the audiences are not found solely within India itself, where 12 million people are said to go to the cinema every day. They are also found in Russia, China, the Middle East, South East Asia, Britain and Africa. People from very different cultural and social worlds have a great love for Indian popular cinema, and many have been fans of Hindi films for over fifty years.

India releases a staggering number of films. Recent sources estimate that around 800 films a year are made in different cities including Madras, Bangalore, Calcutta and Bombay. However, of this astonishing number, the films made in Bombay, in both the Hindi and Urdu languages, have the widest distribution within India and internationally. The two sister languages are spoken in six northern states and understood by over 500 million people. For this reason, they were chosen to become the languages of Indian popular cinema when sound came to the Indian silver screen in 1931.

In the early 1990s, there was an incredible growth of cable, satellite and television channels in Asia. Many of these were beamed in from Hong Kong. At first, Indian film producers feared that the popularity of Hindi films would decrease because of the new multi-channel competition. However, they soon realised that television gave their films an even greater reach, not only in India but

throughout Asia. Half-hour programmes showing film songs, star interviews and the movies themselves have become a major part of television programming. As a result, Hindi cinema has never enjoyed as much influence as it has today; it is at the heart of popular culture in Indian big cities, influencing music, fashion and the world of entertainment.

Recently, the Hindi film industry has become universally known as 'Bollywood' – some people claim a journalist from the popular Indian film magazine *Cineblitz* first introduced the term in the 1980s. The Bollywood name has divided critics, filmmakers and stars, many of whom refuse to use it. They believe it sets up Hindi cinema against Hollywood movies in an overly simplified way. But despite such valid protests, the term has become common currency in both India and elsewhere. Most people find it a useful way of identifying Bombay productions, perhaps seeing Bollywood movies as a product of large-scale entertainment much in the same way as Hollywood films are regarded.

Any Bollywood film juggles several genres and themes at the same time. However, audiences are used to the sometimes extreme shifts in tone and mood. A violent action scene can be followed by a dialogue in which a mother tells her son never to be dishonest, and this exchange can then be followed by a comic scene led by one of the film's secondary characters. It is precisely



this mix of genres that makes the Bollywood film unique. The multi-genre film was known in the 1970s and 80s as the 'masala' film – the term comes from the idea that, like curry cooked with different spices, or masala, the Hindi film offers a variety of flavours.

The average Hindi film does not pretend to offer a unique storyline. If the audience is looking for originality, they know it is principally to be found in the music. The song and dance sequences are the most important moments – even more so today. Film music is of such primary importance in today's Bollywood that it more or less determines the box-office fate of most movies. Leading choreographer Farah Khan believes that, 'What is saving Indian cinema from being engulfed by Hollywood is our song and dance routines, because they just can't imitate that.'

Audiences know that the films offer more than just happy endings. The stories are full of hope, showing that good inevitably triumphs: the poor man defeats the rich man; the rich heroine is able to marry below her class and continue to enjoy a good lifestyle; people live modern westernised lives and still respect traditional Indian values; the hero always beats the villain and the dark side of life is banished forever. The most famous of all Indian film stars, Amitabh Bachchan, sums it all up: 'Hindi films provide poetic justice in just three hours – a feat that none of us can achieve in a lifetime.'

Name & Date:

Objective: IELTS Reading

Questions 7-14

Do the following statements agree with the information in the passage? Write

True	if the statement agrees with the information in the passage
False	if the statement disagrees with the information in the passage
Not Given	if there is no information on this

- 7** More people go to the cinema in India than in China.
- 8** Bollywood films have only recently become popular internationally.
- 9** Bollywood films are produced in six different languages.
- 10** Talking movies were first introduced in India in the 1930s.
- 11** Bollywood films have a direct effect on Indian lifestyles.
- 12** The popularity of Indian films increased the popularity of Indian food.
- 13** Hollywood's mastery of song and dance is a direct threat to Bollywood.
- 14** Bollywood films generally focus on the dark side of life.

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ANSWER KEY