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Level 1 – 23rd July 2026

'The Odyssey' breaks records at the box office

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2607/260723-the-odyssey-1.html>

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Please try Levels 0, 2 and 3. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2607/260723-the-odyssey-1.html>

The movie 'The Odyssey' has broken box office records. The three-hour-long film made \$290,000 from just one London cinema. The previous record was held by 'Star Wars: The Last Jedi' in 2017. 'The Odyssey' is doing well in the US. It had the biggest opening weekend of the year for a non-animated film. The world's largest cinema group said its ticket sales were high. It had screenings at 2 am and 3 am in some cities. Almost all tickets were sold.

'The Odyssey' is an action fantasy film. It was directed by Christopher Nolan. It is based on a 2,700-year-old poem written by the Greek poet Homer. It is about a king called Odysseus. He goes on a ten-year journey to get home after fighting in the Trojan War. He meets many mythical creatures. Nolan has received a lot of praise. A movie expert said Nolan is the only director who could take an old story like this "and make it a pop culture event".

Sources: <https://variety.com/2026/film/box-office/the-odyssey-uk-ireland-box-office-1236816591/>
<https://www.nytimes.com/2026/07/19/business/media/the-odyssey-box-office-christopher-nolan.html>
<https://www.theguardian.com/film/2026/jul/20/the-odyssey-box-office>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2607/260723-the-odyssey-1.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. The three-hour-long film made | a. cities |
| 2. The previous record was held | b. well in the US |
| 3. 'The Odyssey' is doing | c. were sold |
| 4. It had the biggest opening | d. \$290,000 |
| 5. The world's largest cinema | e. 2 am and 3 am |
| 6. It had screenings at | f. by Star Wars |
| 7. in some | g. group |
| 8. Almost all tickets | h. weekend |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. 'The Odyssey' is an action | a. creatures |
| 2. It is based on a 2,700- | b. called Odysseus |
| 3. It is about a king | c. Trojan War |
| 4. He goes on a ten- | d. expert |
| 5. fighting in the | e. fantasy film |
| 6. He meets many mythical | f. of praise |
| 7. Nolan has received a lot | g. year-old poem |
| 8. a movie | h. year journey |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2607/260723-the-odyssey-1.html>

The movie 'The Odyssey' (1) _____ office records. The three-hour-long film made \$290,000 (2) _____ London cinema. The previous record (3) _____ 'Star Wars: The Last Jedi' in 2017. 'The Odyssey' is (4) _____ the US. It had the biggest opening weekend of the year for a non-animated film. The world's largest cinema group said (5) _____ were high. It had screenings at 2 am and 3 am (6) _____. Almost all tickets were sold.

'The Odyssey' (7) _____ fantasy film. It was directed by Christopher Nolan. It (8) _____ a 2,700-year-old poem (9) _____ Greek poet Homer. It is about a king called Odysseus. He goes on a ten-year (10) _____ home after fighting in the Trojan War. He meets many mythical creatures. Nolan has received a lot of praise. A movie expert said Nolan is (11) _____ who could take an old story like this "and make it a (12) _____".

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2607/260723-the-odyssey-1.html>

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THE ODYSSEY SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2607/260723-the-odyssey-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about The Odyssey in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper.
When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

- a) _____
- b) _____
- c) _____
- d) _____
- e) _____
- f) _____

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WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

- a) _____
- b) _____
- c) _____
- d) _____
- e) _____
- f) _____

WRITING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2607/260723-the-odyssey-1.html>

Write about **The Odyssey** for 10 minutes. Read and talk about your partner's paper.

[illegible]