



[http://www.LessonsOnMovies.com/sunset\\_boulevard.html](http://www.LessonsOnMovies.com/sunset_boulevard.html)

## CONTENTS

Listening / Reading Script	2	Mark The Spaces	9
Poster / Trailer	3	Discussion	10
Synonym / Phrase Match	4	Survey	11
Listening Gap Fill	5	Writing	12
Correct The Spelling	6	Homework	13
Punctuate The Text	7	Answers	14
Insert The Vowels	8		

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# THE LISTENING / READING SCRIPT

From: [http://www.LessonsOnMovies.com/sunset\\_boulevard.html](http://www.LessonsOnMovies.com/sunset_boulevard.html)

*Sunset Boulevard* is a 1950 American film noir directed and co-written by Billy Wilder. It was named after the boulevard that runs through Los Angeles and Beverly Hills, California. The film stars William Holden as Joe Gillis, an unsuccessful screenwriter, and Gloria Swanson as Norma Desmond, a faded silent movie star. She draws him into her fantasy world where she dreams of making a triumphant return to the screen. The story is set in 1950s Hollywood and depicts how cruel the effects of losing one's star status can be. The movie ends with murder and Swanson losing her mind. A BBC review of the film said it is, "the finest movie ever made about the narcissistic hellhole that is Hollywood".

The movie was praised by many critics when it was first released. It was nominated for eleven Academy Awards and won three. It is widely accepted as a classic and is often cited as one of the greatest films of American cinema. In 1998, it was ranked number twelve on the American Film Institute's list of the 100 best American films of the 20th century. *Time* magazine described it as a story of, "Hollywood at its worst told by Hollywood at its best", while *Box Office Review* wrote, "the picture will keep spectators spellbound". *RottenTomatoes.com* said it was: "Arguably the greatest movie about Hollywood." To promote the film, Gloria Swanson travelled throughout the United States, visiting 33 cities in a few months.

Source: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sunset\\_Boulevard\\_%28film%29](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sunset_Boulevard_%28film%29)





# TRAILER AND POSTER

From: [http://www.LessonsOnMovies.com/sunset\\_boulevard.html](http://www.LessonsOnMovies.com/sunset_boulevard.html)

## POSTER

**1. SIX WORDS:** Look at the poster and write down six words (more if you like) that you think of as you look at it. Share the words with your partner(s). Why did you choose them?

You can find posters for this movie at [www.wikipedia.com](http://www.wikipedia.com) or [www.imbd.com](http://www.imbd.com) - just type the name of the movie in the search field.

**2. STORY:** Talk about what you think the story of the movie is – the start, beginning, end, etc. Change partners and share stories.

**3. CREDITS:** Look at the credits on the poster (the actors, director, producer...) and talk about them with your partner(s).

**4. MUST-SEE:** Talk with your partner(s) about whether the poster and movie title are good and make you want to see the movie.

**5. STARRING YOU:** Imagine you are one of the stars of the movie. Talk about your role with your movie star partner(s).

## TRAILER

**1. RETELL:** Watch the trailer and retell what you saw to your partner(s).

You can watch a trailer at <http://www.youtube.com>

**2. CHUNKS:** Watch 10-to-15 second chunks of the trailer and retell what you saw to your partner(s).

**3. QUIZ:** Watch the trailer and write down some quiz questions for your partner(s). Watch a second time to find the answers to the questions.

**4. VOCABULARY:** Make a note of words in the trailer that you see or hear. Talk about them with your partner(s).

**5. GOOD / BAD:** Watch the trailer and write down why you think the film might be good or bad. Share your ideas with your partner(s).





# MATCHING

From: [http://www.LessonsOnMovies.com/sunset\\_boulevard.html](http://www.LessonsOnMovies.com/sunset_boulevard.html)

## SYNONYM MATCH

- |                 |                  |
|-----------------|------------------|
| 1. boulevard    | a. make-believe  |
| 2. faded        | b. captivated    |
| 3. fantasy      | c. quoted        |
| 4. triumphant   | d. sinking       |
| 5. narcissistic | e. viewers       |
| 6. released     | f. street        |
| 7. cited        | g. self-admiring |
| 8. spectators   | h. victorious    |
| 9. spellbound   | i. publicise     |
| 10. promote     | j. launched      |

## PHRASE MATCH

- |                                   |                            |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. directed and co-               | a. by many critics         |
| 2. a faded                        | b. her mind                |
| 3. The story is set               | c. Hollywood at its best   |
| 4. losing                         | d. silent movie star       |
| 5. the narcissistic hellhole      | e. a classic               |
| 6. The movie was praised          | f. that is Hollywood       |
| 7. It is widely accepted as       | g. as one of the greatest  |
| 8. often cited                    | h. spellbound              |
| 9. Hollywood at its worst told by | i. written by Billy Wilder |
| 10. keep spectators               | j. in 1950s Hollywood      |





## LISTENING / READING GAP FILL

From: [http://www.LessonsOnMovies.com/sunset\\_boulevard.html](http://www.LessonsOnMovies.com/sunset_boulevard.html)

*Sunset Boulevard* is a 1950 American film noir directed and co-written by Billy Wilder. It (1) \_\_\_\_\_ boulevard that runs through Los Angeles and Beverly Hills, California. The film stars William Holden as Joe Gillis, an unsuccessful screenwriter, and Gloria Swanson as Norma Desmond, a faded silent movie star. She draws (2) \_\_\_\_\_ world where she dreams of making (3) \_\_\_\_\_ the screen. The story is set in 1950s Hollywood (4) \_\_\_\_\_ the effects of losing one's star status can be. The (5) \_\_\_\_\_ and Swanson losing her mind. A BBC review of the film said it is, "the finest movie ever made about the (6) \_\_\_\_\_ that is Hollywood".

The movie was (7) \_\_\_\_\_ when it was first released. It was nominated for eleven Academy Awards and won three. It is (8) \_\_\_\_\_ classic and is often cited as one of the greatest films of American cinema. In 1998, it was ranked number twelve on the American Film Institute's list of the 100 best American films of the 20th century. *Time* magazine described (9) \_\_\_\_\_, "Hollywood at its worst told by Hollywood at its best", while Box Office Review wrote, "the picture will (10) \_\_\_\_\_". Rotten Tomatoes.com said it was: "(11) \_\_\_\_\_ movie about Hollywood." (12) \_\_\_\_\_, Gloria Swanson travelled throughout the United States, visiting 33 cities in a few months.





# CORRECT THE SPELLING

From: [http://www.LessonsOnMovies.com/sunset\\_boulevard.html](http://www.LessonsOnMovies.com/sunset_boulevard.html)

## Paragraph 1

1. an unsuccessful rieeerrtcwns
2. a defad silent movie star
3. She draws him into her antfsya world
4. making a triumphant return to the necser
5. ogsinl her mind
6. the narcissistic ehellho that is Hollywood

## Paragraph 2

7. The movie was drseapi by many critics
8. It is widely eactpcde as a classic
9. it was nrkade number twelve
10. keep tsaorcstep spellbound
11. teorpom the film
12. ayubglra the greatest movie





## PUNCTUATE & PUT CAPITALS IN THE TEXT

From: [http://www.LessonsOnMovies.com/sunset\\_boulevard.html](http://www.LessonsOnMovies.com/sunset_boulevard.html)

*sunset boulevard* is a 1950 american film noir directed and co-written by billy wilder it was named after the boulevard that runs through los angeles and beverly hills california the film stars william holden as joe gillis an unsuccessful screenwriter and gloria swanson as norma desmond a faded silent movie star she draws him into her fantasy world where she dreams of making a triumphant return to the screen the story is set in 1950s hollywood and depicts how cruel the effects of losing one's star status can be the movie ends with murder and swanson losing her mind a bbc review of the film said it is "the finest movie ever made about the narcissistic hellhole that is hollywood"

the movie was praised by many critics when it was first released it was nominated for eleven academy awards and won three it is widely accepted as a classic and is often cited as one of the greatest films of american cinema in 1998 it was ranked number twelve on the american film institute's list of the 100 best american films of the 20th century *time* magazine described it as a story of "hollywood at its worst told by hollywood at its best" while box office review wrote "the picture will keep spectators spellbound" rottentomatoes.com said it was "arguably the greatest movie about hollywood" to promote the film gloria swanson travelled throughout the united states visiting 33 cities in a few months





# INSERT THE VOWELS (a,e,i,o,u)

From: [http://www.LessonsOnMovies.com/sunset\\_boulevard.html](http://www.LessonsOnMovies.com/sunset_boulevard.html)

S\_ \_ns\_ \_t\_ B\_ \_l\_ \_v\_ \_rd\_ \_s\_ \_ 1950 \_m\_ \_r\_ \_c\_ \_n\_ f\_ \_lm\_ n\_ \_r\_ \_d\_ \_r\_ \_ct\_ \_d\_ \_nd\_ c\_ \_-wr\_ \_tt\_ \_n\_ by B\_ \_lly\_ W\_ \_ld\_ \_r\_ . \_t\_ w\_ \_s\_ n\_ \_m\_ \_d\_ \_ft\_ \_r\_ th\_ b\_ \_l\_ \_v\_ \_rd\_ th\_ t\_ r\_ \_ns\_ thr\_ \_gh\_ L\_ \_s\_ \_ng\_ l\_ \_s\_ \_nd\_ B\_ \_v\_ \_rly\_ H\_ \_lls\_ , C\_ \_l\_ \_f\_ \_rn\_ . Th\_ \_f\_ \_lm\_ st\_ \_rs\_ W\_ \_ll\_ \_m\_ H\_ \_ld\_ \_n\_ \_s\_ J\_ \_ \_ G\_ \_ll\_ \_s\_ , \_n\_ \_ns\_ cc\_ \_ssf\_ \_l\_ scr\_ \_nwr\_ \_t\_ \_r\_ , \_nd\_ Gl\_ \_r\_ \_ Sw\_ \_ns\_ \_n\_ \_s\_ N\_ \_rm\_ \_ D\_ \_sm\_ \_nd\_ , \_f\_ \_d\_ \_d\_ s\_ \_l\_ \_nt\_ m\_ \_v\_ \_ \_st\_ \_r\_ . Sh\_ \_dr\_ \_ws\_ h\_ \_m\_ \_nt\_ h\_ \_r\_ f\_ \_nt\_ \_sy\_ w\_ \_rld\_ wh\_ \_r\_ sh\_ \_dr\_ \_ms\_ \_f\_ m\_ \_k\_ \_ng\_ \_ tr\_ \_mph\_ \_nt\_ r\_ \_t\_ \_rn\_ t\_ th\_ \_scr\_ \_n\_ . Th\_ \_st\_ \_ry\_ \_s\_ s\_ \_t\_ \_n\_ 1950s H\_ \_llyw\_ \_d\_ \_nd\_ d\_ \_p\_ \_cts\_ h\_ \_w\_ cr\_ \_l\_ th\_ \_ff\_ \_cts\_ \_f\_ l\_ \_s\_ \_ng\_ \_n\_ 's\_ st\_ \_r\_ st\_ \_t\_ \_s\_ c\_ \_n\_ b\_ . Th\_ \_m\_ \_v\_ \_ \_nds\_ w\_ \_th\_ m\_ \_rd\_ \_r\_ \_nd\_ Sw\_ \_ns\_ \_n\_ l\_ \_s\_ \_ng\_ h\_ \_r\_ m\_ \_nd\_ . \_ BBC\_ r\_ \_v\_ \_w\_ \_f\_ th\_ \_f\_ \_lm\_ s\_ \_d\_ \_t\_ \_s\_ , "th\_ \_f\_ \_n\_ \_st\_ m\_ \_v\_ \_ \_v\_ \_r\_ m\_ \_d\_ \_b\_ \_t\_ th\_ \_n\_ rc\_ \_ss\_ st\_ \_c\_ h\_ \_ll\_ h\_ \_l\_ th\_ \_t\_ \_s\_ H\_ \_llyw\_ \_d\_ " .

Th\_ \_m\_ \_v\_ \_ \_w\_ \_s\_ pr\_ \_s\_ \_d\_ by m\_ \_ny\_ cr\_ \_t\_ \_cs\_ wh\_ \_n\_ \_t\_ w\_ \_s\_ f\_ \_rst\_ r\_ \_l\_ \_s\_ \_d\_ . \_t\_ w\_ \_s\_ n\_ \_m\_ \_n\_ \_t\_ \_d\_ f\_ \_r\_ l\_ \_v\_ \_n\_ \_c\_ \_d\_ my\_ \_w\_ \_rds\_ \_nd\_ w\_ \_n\_ thr\_ . \_t\_ \_s\_ w\_ \_d\_ ly\_ \_cc\_ \_pt\_ \_d\_ \_s\_ \_ cl\_ \_ss\_ \_c\_ \_nd\_ \_s\_ \_ft\_ \_n\_ c\_ \_t\_ \_d\_ \_s\_ \_n\_ \_f\_ th\_ gr\_ \_t\_ \_st\_ f\_ \_lms\_ \_f\_ \_m\_ \_r\_ \_c\_ \_n\_ c\_ \_n\_ m\_ . \_n\_ 1998, \_t\_ w\_ \_s\_ r\_ \_nk\_ \_d\_ n\_ mb\_ \_r\_ tw\_ \_lv\_ \_ \_n\_ th\_ \_m\_ \_r\_ \_c\_ \_n\_ F\_ \_lm\_ \_nst\_ \_t\_ \_t\_ 's\_ l\_ \_st\_ \_f\_ th\_ 100 b\_ \_st\_ \_m\_ \_r\_ \_c\_ \_n\_ f\_ \_lms\_ \_f\_ th\_ 20th c\_ \_nt\_ \_ry\_ . T\_ \_m\_ \_m\_ \_g\_ \_z\_ \_n\_ \_d\_ scr\_ \_b\_ \_d\_ \_t\_ \_s\_ \_st\_ \_ry\_ \_f\_ , "H\_ \_llyw\_ \_d\_ \_t\_ \_ts\_ w\_ \_rst\_ t\_ \_ld\_ by H\_ \_llyw\_ \_d\_ \_t\_ \_ts\_ b\_ \_st" , wh\_ \_l\_ B\_ \_x\_ \_ff\_ \_c\_ \_ R\_ \_v\_ \_w\_ \_wr\_ \_t\_ , "th\_ \_p\_ \_ct\_ \_r\_ \_w\_ \_ll\_ k\_ \_p\_ sp\_ \_ct\_ \_t\_ \_rs\_ sp\_ \_ll\_ b\_ \_nd" . R\_ \_tt\_ \_n\_ T\_ \_m\_ \_t\_ \_s\_ . c\_ \_m\_ \_s\_ \_d\_ \_t\_ w\_ \_s\_ : " \_rg\_ \_bly\_ th\_ \_gr\_ \_t\_ \_st\_ m\_ \_v\_ \_ \_b\_ \_t\_ H\_ \_llyw\_ \_d\_ . " T\_ \_pr\_ \_m\_ \_t\_ \_th\_ \_f\_ \_lm\_ , Gl\_ \_r\_ \_ Sw\_ \_ns\_ \_n\_ tr\_ \_v\_ \_ll\_ \_d\_ thr\_ \_gh\_ \_t\_ th\_ \_n\_ \_t\_ \_d\_ St\_ \_t\_ \_s\_ , v\_ \_s\_ \_t\_ \_ng\_ 33 c\_ \_t\_ \_s\_ \_n\_ \_f\_ w\_ \_m\_ \_nths\_ .







## MARK THE SPACES

From: [http://www.LessonsOnMovies.com/sunset\\_boulevard.html](http://www.LessonsOnMovies.com/sunset_boulevard.html)

*Sunset Boulevard* is a 1950 American film noir directed and co-written by Billy Wilder. It was named after the boulevard that runs through Los Angeles and Beverly Hills, California. The film stars William Holden as Joe Gillis, an unsuccessful screenwriter, and Gloria Swanson as Norma Desmond, a faded silent movie star. She draws him into her fantasy world where she dreams of making a triumphant return to the screen. The story is set in 1950s Hollywood and depicts how cruel the effects of losing one's star status can be. The movie ends with murder and Swanson losing her mind. A BBC review of the film said it is, "the finest movie ever made about the narcissistic hellhole that is Hollywood". The movie was praised by many critics when it was first released. It was nominated for eleven Academy Awards and won three. It is widely accepted as a classic and is often cited as one of the greatest films of American cinema. In 1998, it was ranked number twelve on the American Film Institute's list of the 100 best American films of the 20th century. *Time* magazine described it as a story of, "Hollywood at its worst told by Hollywood at its best", while *Box Office Review* wrote, "the picture will keep spectators spellbound". *Rotten Tomatoes.com* said it was: "Arguably the greatest movie about Hollywood." To promote the film, Gloria Swanson travelled throughout the United States, visiting 33 cities in a few months.





## **DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)**

**STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

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## **DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)**

**STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_





# SUNSET BOULEVARD SURVEY

From: [http://www.LessonsOnMovies.com/sunset\\_boulevard.html](http://www.LessonsOnMovies.com/sunset_boulevard.html)

Write five GOOD questions about Sunset Boulevard 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.





## **HOMEWORK**

**1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION:** Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

**2. INTERNET INFO:** Search the Internet and find more information about "Sunset Boulevard". Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

**3. MAGAZINE ARTICLE:** Write a magazine article about "Sunset Boulevard". What are (did) critics and moviegoers saying (say) about it? How good were the actors' performances? What was good and bad about the movie? Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

**4. "SUNSET BOULEVARD" POSTER:** Make a poster about "Sunset Boulevard". Make sure you put tag lines, audience and critics' reviews, why people should see it, etc. Show it to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your posters.

**5. MY PREQUEL / SEQUEL:** Make your own prequel or sequel for "Sunset Boulevard". Make sure there is a good mix of things to do. Find some good online activities. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback.

**6. CHARACTER STORY:** Choose one of the characters from the movie. Imagine you are that character. Write your story about what you did in the movie. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback.

**7. ONLINE SHARING:** Use your blog, wiki, Facebook page, Twitter stream, or any other social media tool to get opinions on "Sunset Boulevard". Share your findings with the class.





# ANSWERS

## SYNONYM MATCH

- |                 |                  |
|-----------------|------------------|
| 1. boulevard    | a. street        |
| 2. faded        | b. sinking       |
| 3. fantasy      | c. make-believe  |
| 4. triumphant   | d. victorious    |
| 5. narcissistic | e. self-admiring |
| 6. released     | f. launched      |
| 7. cited        | g. quoted        |
| 8. spectators   | h. viewers       |
| 9. spellbound   | i. captivated    |
| 10. promote     | j. publicise     |

## OTHER ACTIVITIES

Please check for yourself by looking at the movie review on page 2.  
(It's good for your English ;-)

## CREATIVE COMMONS

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