

NEWS LESSON

Film Night: Sofa or Cinema?

BEFORE YOU READ

1 Warm up

Talk about these questions with a partner.

1. Where do you prefer to watch a new film?
2. What is the best thing about watching at home?
3. What makes a cinema visit special?

2 Key words

These words are in the article. Write the letter of the meaning (A to H) in each box.

1	**poll**	☐	A	careful study to find out new facts
2	**scale**	☐	B	how big something is
3	**journey**	☐	C	a trip from one place to another
4	**comfortable**	☐	D	something you do often, without thinking
5	**disappeared**	☐	E	a set of questions asked to many people to find out what they think
6	**habit**	☐	F	nice and easy on your body, so you feel relaxed
7	**research**	☐	G	went away and could not be seen any more
8	**recently**	☐	H	not long ago

3 Read

Read the article and underline the key words from task 2. The paragraphs are numbered.

Watching at home is easy and often cheaper. So why do people still buy cinema tickets?

1 It is Friday evening and there is a new film you want to see. You can put on a coat, travel across town and buy a ticket. Or you can stay where you are, make something to eat and stream it on the screen in the corner of the room. Millions of people make that choice every week, and more and more of them stay at home.

2 An American poll gives a sense of the scale. AP-NORC asked 1,182 adults in August 2025 about their film habits. Three quarters of them had watched a recently released film at home instead of going to the cinema at least once during the previous year. Only 16% said they go to a cinema at least once a month.

3 The reasons are not hard to guess. At home you can pause the film, eat your own food and watch in comfortable clothes. One monthly payment covers the whole household, while cinema tickets are bought one at a time. For a family, the difference in price is large.

4 The cinema has not disappeared, though. In Europe, about 796 million cinema tickets were sold in 2025. That is fewer than the year before, but it is still an enormous number of people choosing to leave the house for a film.

5 It is also not a straight choice between the two. Plenty of people stream most weeks and still book tickets a few times a year. The habit has changed, not the taste.

6 What do they get for the journey? A screen far bigger than any television. Sound you can feel. And a room full of strangers reacting at the same moment, which is something a sofa cannot provide. Research by the British Film Institute in 2025 found that younger adults valued the cinema partly because it is a place where they actually watch, without checking a phone.

7 That may be the real change. The cinema used to be the normal way to see a new film. Now it is a decision, and people save it for the films they think deserve it. The question is no longer whether you watch at home. It is which film is worth the trip.

Sources: AP-NORC, Streaming is overtaking theaters for movie watchers. Picture: AI illustration.

4 True, false or not given

Circle **T** (true), **F** (false) or **NG** (the article does not say).

1. AP-NORC asked 1,182 adults about their film habits in August 2025. T F NG
2. European cinemas sold more tickets in 2025 than in the year before. T F NG
3. Cinema tickets cost more now than they did ten years ago. T F NG
4. The British Film Institute found that younger adults valued the cinema as a place where they actually watch. T F NG
5. Plenty of people stream most weeks and never go to the cinema. T F NG

5 Vocabulary

Complete the sentences with words from the box. Two words are not needed.

audience **deserve** **difference** **enormous** **payment** **queue** **strangers**

1. I made one monthly _____ and now the whole family can watch.
2. There is a big _____ in price between a cinema ticket and a film at home.
3. At a busy cinema you sit next to _____ you have never met.
4. The new stadium is _____, with space for eighty thousand people.
5. Only the best films _____ a trip to the cinema, many people say.

6 Verb forms

Write the correct form of the verb in brackets.

1. It is Friday evening and there _____ a new film you want to see. (BE)
2. AP-NORC _____ 1,182 adults in August 2025 about their film habits. (ASK)
3. Three quarters of them _____ a recently released film at home. (WATCH)
4. About 796 million cinema tickets _____ in Europe in 2025. (SELL)
5. People _____ the cinema for the films they think deserve it. (SAVE)

7 Language focus: linking words

Complete the sentences with words from the box. Two words are not needed. Small words join ideas. Because gives a reason, but shows a contrast, so shows a result and while means at the same time.

because	but	despite	however	so	until	while

1. We stayed at home _____ the tickets were too expensive for all of us.
2. The tickets were expensive, _____ we went to the cinema anyway.
3. There was no parking near the cinema, _____ we took the bus.
4. I like to eat popcorn _____ I watch a film.
5. Streaming is easy. _____ , many people still prefer the cinema.

SPEAK

8 Talk about it

Discuss in pairs or small groups. Give reasons for your answers.

1. You can stream a film tonight or see it at the cinema. Which do you choose, and why?
2. How could cinemas make tickets feel worth the price?
3. Is a film better when other people react with you?

9 Role-play: sofa or cinema?

Work in pairs. Read your card, then have the conversation. Swap roles and do it again.

Student A · the cinema fan

A new film is out on Friday. You want to see it on the big screen with your partner. Explain why it's worth the trip and the price. Try to agree a plan.

Student B · the home fan

You'd rather stay in and stream a film. Say why, and ask what makes the cinema worth the money. You can say yes, no, or suggest a different plan.

Useful phrases

I'd really like to see it on the big screen.

Is it worth the price of two tickets?

I'd rather stay in and stream it.

That's true, but we can't pause a film at the cinema.

What if we go this time and stream the next one?

Let's compromise, shall we?

Afterwards, tell the class: did you go out or stay in, and who gave up more?

ANSWER KEY

2 Key words

1 E · 2 B · 3 C · 4 F · 5 G · 6 D · 7 A · 8 H

4 True, false or not given

1 T · 2 F · 3 NG · 4 T · 5 F

5 Vocabulary

1 payment · 2 difference · 3 strangers · 4 enormous · 5 deserve

6 Verb forms

1 is · 2 asked · 3 had watched · 4 were sold · 5 save

7 Language focus

1 because · 2 but · 3 so · 4 while · 5 However

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