1 Read the article and match the paragraphs with the headings.

a Successful films ☐ b A dangerous journey ☐ c A popular book ☐

The book of the millennium!

1 Hobbits are short people with hairy feet – they live in comfortable homes underground and love good food. But they don't like danger. The hobbit Frodo has got a problem. Many years ago his uncle, Bilbo Baggins, found a special gold ring. When he got old he gave the ring to Frodo. But now the dark powers of Middle Earth want the ring again. So Frodo, his friends and the wizard Gandalf must leave home and go on a dangerous journey.

2 You may recognise this story. It's the beginning of *The Lord of the Rings* – a fantasy novel. It's a very long novel in three volumes and 1,000 pages. It took 11 years to write! The author, J.R.R. Tolkien, was a professor at Oxford University. Tolkien wrote the novel over 50 years ago. Now *The Lord of the Rings* is one of the most popular books in the world. Hundreds of millions of people love it – in the UK and Australia they voted it their favourite book.

3 But of course you might know *The Lord of the Rings* films better. These three successful films have incredible special effects, computer-generated battles and amazing music. They won 17 Oscars! The director was Peter Jackson and they were filmed in New Zealand. Many tourists now visit the beautiful film locations. Over 2,000 people worked on the films, including the actors Orlando Bloom, Liv Tyler and Cate Blanchett. The project took eight years to make, 18 months to film and cost $640 million. So what are you waiting for? Watch the DVDs or read the books!

2 Read the article again. Are the sentences below true (*T*) or false (*F*)?

1 Frodo's uncle, Bilbo Baggins, gave him a ring. ____
2 Bilbo, Frodo and his friends go on a journey. ____
3 The author of the novel *The Lord of the Rings* is Peter Jackson. ____
4 There are four films of *The Lord of the Rings*. ____
5 They made the films in New Zealand. ____

3 Match these numbers from the article with the correct information.

1 1,000	a years to make the films
2 11	b months to film
3 17	c people worked on the films
4 2,000	d cost of making the films
5 8	e pages in the book
6 18	f Oscars for the films
7 $640,000,000	g years to write the novel

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