

Hedy Lamarr was born on November 9, 1913, in Vienna, Austria. By the time she was 10, Lamarr was a proficient pianist and dancer and could speak four languages.

At age 16, Lamarr studied drama in Berlin, Germany. Within a year she made her first film, *Money on the Street*. She became a star in 1932 thanks to a Czech film, in which she briefly appeared naked which was scandalous at the time.

In 1933 Lamarr married an Austrian arms manufacturer called Fritz Mandl. Mandl was jealous and possessive, he refused to see her appear in other movies. She finally left him and escaped to Hollywood in 1937. The following year she appeared in her first English-language film, the classic romantic drama *Algiers* (1938).

Lamarr was under contract with the Hollywood film studio Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer from 1938 to 1945. She was able to show her acting talents in one or two films but most of the time Lamarr was chosen for her physical appearance. She was called at the time "The most beautiful woman in the World". She tried to create her own production company in 1946 to get better roles but it failed. Her most commercially successful film was *Samson and Delilah* in 1949.

Lamarr once insisted, "Any girl can be glamorous; all you have to do is stand still and look stupid." Lamarr retired from the movies in 1958. She was married six times but was living alone at the time of her death, on January 19, 2000, near Orlando, Florida.

Hedy Lamarr became famous thanks to the cinema but she was also a very intelligent girl. Very few people know she is at the origin of something that totally changed the world...Can you guess what it is???

I. Read the text and number the events in chronological order:

- She got married for the first time.
- She died.
- She became a star.
- She created her production company.
- She was born.
- She acted in her first Hollywood movie.
- She studied drama.
- She stopped making movies.
- She acted in her most successful movie.

II. True (T) ou False (F)

1. She learnt things very fast.
2. Her first husband was a very nice man.
3. She was more famous for a beauty than for her acting talent.
4. Her production company was very successful.
5. Her love life was simple.
6. She was born in Austria but she died in the USA.