READING

1 Read the article and tick (✓) A, B, or C.

My little cinema

How many screens does your local cinema have? In the UK, around 49% of cinemas have more than five screens and are known as 'multiplexes'. Many older, smaller cinemas have been destroyed, or turned into shops, or flats or factories. But now, data show that small, independent cinemas are returning to UK towns.

Amanda Mundin loves cinema. Amanda previously worked as a scriptwriter before buying her first cinema, The Ritz, with business partner Neil Roberts in 2006. 'I was looking for a part-time venue to show films occasionally,' she recalls. 'I didn't have a clue.' The Ritz had been empty for 15 years and Amanda soon realized the size of her challenge. She learned more about cinema technology and repaired the building with money from the local government. She worked at The Ritz full-time but she needed more staff. Amanda's sons began helping out and after a few years Amanda decided to expand the family business. Her middle son, Jacob, now runs The Regal in nearby Melton Mowbray with his wife, Bryony.

When Amanda heard about her third cinema, The Savoy, local residents were trying to save it themselves but didn't have the time or the money. Amanda's company rescued the old building and turned it into another independent venue. They took out the old seating (it used to have 460 seats) and put in luxury, spacious seating for 180 people. There are even sofas!

Amanda's youngest son, Louis, and his fiancée, Sophie, have been running it since 2016. Many people go far more regularly to Amanda's cinemas than they used to when the only available choice was a multiplex. That might be because of the buildings themselves — built in the 1940s they are actually very beautiful. Or perhaps it's the personal service. A typical, large cinema company might own a dozen venues, and employs a thousand staff. At the Ritz, Regal and Savoy the few members of staff get to know their customers by name. The owners also choose which films are shown. With only one or two films showing at each venue, that is an important decision.

The Ritz hosts regular interviews with actors and directors on its old stage, allowing customers to meet, in person, the people who help to create the magic of cinema. 'I see myself as part of that magic, part of that story,' says Amanda. She believes that you can't compare the cinema experience with watching films online. 'People have a fridge full of food but they still eat at restaurants', she argues.

Example: Multiplexes are cinemas that have _____ screens.
A more than five ☑ B more than one ☐ C around 49 ☐

1 Amanda used to create _____ for films.
A music ☐ B words ☐ C costumes ☐

2 Amanda didn't expect _____ The Ritz.
A to work full-time at ☐ B to update the technology at ☐ C to buy ☐

3 The Ritz was saved with money from _____.
A Amanda's sons ☐ B the family business ☐ C local government ☐

4 The Savoy must have _____ than before Amanda's company repaired it.
A higher ticket prices ☐ B fewer customers ☐ C less room ☐

5 The Savoy cinema _____ Louis and Sophie.
A is run by ☐ B is owned by ☐ C was repaired by ☐

6 Customers must enjoy _____ at Amanda's cinemas.
A the personal service ☐ B the luxury ☐ C the choice of food ☐

7 Amanda's cinemas _____ multiplexes.
A must be ☐ B might be ☐ C can't be ☐

8 At The Ritz, people can see actors and directors being interviewed _____.
A after the film ☐ B in person ☐ C on the screen ☐

9 According to Amanda _____ are very different.
A cinema food and restaurant food ☐ B multiplexes and smaller cinemas ☐
C watching films in cinema and watching them online ☐

LIVEWORKSHEETS

2 Read the article again. Mark the sentences T (true) or F (false).

Example: In the UK, some closed cinemas are being re-opened.. _T_

1 In 2006, Amanda can't have known much about running a cinema. ____
2 Amanda's sons all worked at The Regal. ____
3 The Savoy was rescued by local residents. ____
4 Old seating was removed from The Savoy. ____
5 Amanda's customers used to go to the cinema more regularly. ____
6 The films in Amanda's cinemas are chosen by the customers. ____

LISTENING

1 Listen to the presenter talking about face recognition. Tick (✓) A, B, or C.

1 The majority of people are _____ at recognising faces we know.
A excellent ☐ B fine ☐ C very bad ☐
2 In the face recognition study, people couldn't identify the faces _____.
A half of the time ☐ B 20% of the time ☐ C most of the time ☐
3 People are best at noticing differences in _____.
A mouths ☐ B noses ☐ C the whole face ☐
4 After training, workers at airport security were better at noticing the _____ used by criminals.
A face masks ☐ B plastic surgery ☐ C picture technology ☐
5 The presenter is _____ about using super-recognisers in airports.
A quite negative ☐ B mostly positive ☐ C optimistic ☐

2 Listen to five conversations about pictures. Match the conversations (1–5) with what the speakers are talking about (A–E).

Conversation 1 ☐
Conversation 2 ☐
Conversation 3 ☐
Conversation 4 ☐
Conversation 5 ☐

A if a picture is digitized
B how old someone is
C what kind of film something is
D where someone is from
E what job someone had

LIVEWORKSHEETS