



✍ Fill in the blanks with words from the box ↓

culture	talkies	silent	Mumbai	Britain	first
films	city	nickname	hero	singing	shoot
Hollywood	Indian	fall in love	cinema	million	audience
backgrounds	colourful				



What is Bollywood?

Bollywood is the **nickname** given to the **Indian** film industry.

It's a play on the word **Hollywood**. The B comes from Bombay (also known as **Mumbai**), a big **city** in India.

Bollywood is massive. It makes up to 2,000 **films** a year – twice as many as Hollywood and about 14 **million** Indian people go to the **cinema** everyday.

Films are made so fast that sometimes actors on set **shoot** scenes for four different films at a time - using the same actors and the same **backgrounds**.

Where did it all start?

In 1899 the **first** Indian short film was screened, and Bollywood was born. Just like in Hollywood the films were **silent** to begin with, then in the 1930s the films became « **talkies** ».

Many Indians came to live and work in **Britain** around fifty years ago, and they brought their **culture** with them. Now, Bollywood's biggest **audience** outside India is in Britain.

What makes Bollywood films unusual?

Bollywood films are really **colourful** and crammed with **singing** dancing, and lots of costume changes. They also used to stick to a formula of boy meets girl, they **fall in love** and they struggle for family approval. There's also always a **hero**, a heroine, a vamp and a comedy sidekick.

