

Indian films

1 Types of film

- a) What types of film do you know? Make a list.
- b) How would you describe the Bollywood films you have seen or have read about in your book? In which category do they belong?

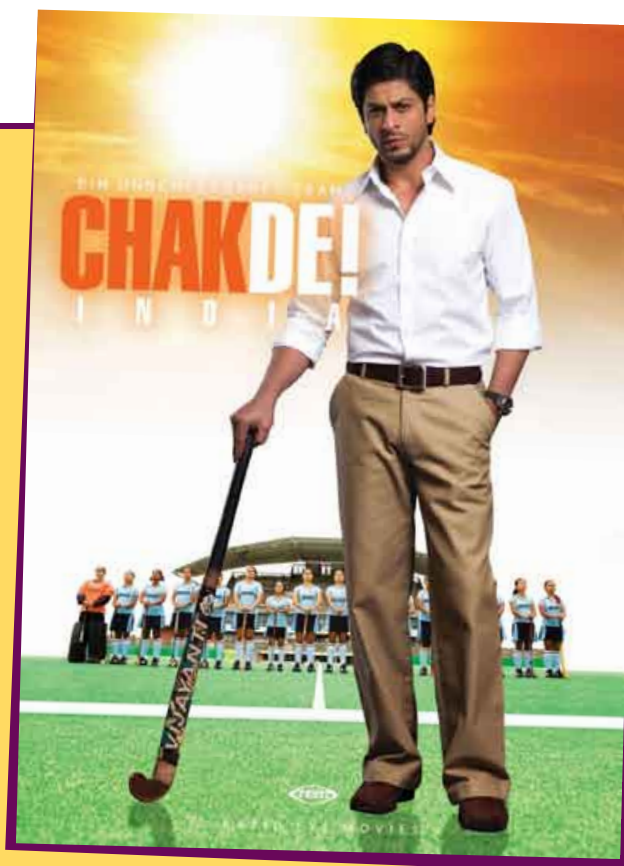
2 Another film with Shahrukh Khan

A In the same year as *Om Shanti Om*, 2007, Shahrukh Khan was in another, completely different film, *Chak De! India!* which means something like “Go for it, India”. This film was about the game of hockey – not ice hockey, but the game played on grass like football.

B Hockey is a very popular sport in India and Pakistan. It is played by men’s and women’s teams. Jaideep Sahni, who wrote the screenplay for the film, got the idea from the Indian women’s hockey team that won the gold medal at the Commonwealth Games in 2002. The film team had help from two national women’s hockey coaches who gave them information and advice. One of them also helped to train the actresses who played the parts of team members – most of these women had never played hockey before.

C In the film Shahrukh Khan plays the part of Kabir Khan, an international hockey player. He is the captain of the men’s Indian team that loses the final of a Hockey World Cup match against Pakistan. This demonstrates¹ one of the themes of the film: the differences that arise² from regional customs³ and religion. The press and public think that the Indian captain, who is a Muslim, might have missed a penalty shot because he wanted the Muslim country of Pakistan to win. He and his mother have to leave their home: all their neighbours hate them.

D Seven years later, Kabir Khan volunteers to coach the Indian women’s hockey team – nobody else wants to do it. The officials are surprised. Some of them don’t believe that women should play hockey at all – they should become good wives and mothers. Sixteen



young women who have played for their own states come together from all over India. Many of them dislike people from other parts of the country because of differences in tradition and way of life. The training camp brings out these differences very strongly. The players with more experience keep together and look down on the younger girls. Some girls bully the others, especially the ones who can only speak a local language. Some have problems because their families don’t want them to be part of the team. One young woman is the girlfriend of a cricket player in the national team. He believes his cricket is much more important than her hockey. Their coach realizes that they will only play well if they can learn to play as a team.

¹to demonstrate ['dɛmənstreɪt] – to show • ²to arise ['aɪraɪz] – entstehen • ³customs ['kʌstəmz] – Bräuche

E Many of the players don't like his rules and after a while he decides to leave. But then some local boys are rude to two of the girls – the two who have been bullied by the others in the team. In this situation the other young women in the team help the two girls and they all fight the boys. Khan realizes that this is the first time the girls have acted together. After the fight, the girls ask Khan not to leave.

F Training seems to be going well, the girls are fit and the coach works with them on different skills and plans for their matches. Then suddenly the hockey officials decide that the team will not go to the World Championships in Australia. The team and their coach are really angry. To show how good they are, the women's team plays against the men's national team. Of course, they lose because the men are faster and stronger and have more experience, but they demonstrate how well they can play. The

officials change their minds: the team can go to Australia!

G This is only one more stage⁴ in their fight. They must play against the top teams in the world. In their first match they lose 7:0 against the champion Australian team. Kabir Khan tells them again and again that they must play as a team and he helps them to find different styles of play against the teams from other countries. In the final match they must play Australia again and this time they win and become world champions. They no longer feel a dislike of people who are different, Kabir Khan proves that Muslims, too, can be good Indians and the public begins to understand that it is a good thing for young women to take part in women's sport.

H *Chak De! India* won many awards including a prize as best actor for Shahrukh Khan and the prize for best supporting actress⁵ for the 16 "Chak de girls".

a) Some parts of the text talk about the film and other parts tell the story. Mark them in different colours. What do you notice about the verb tenses in these parts of the text?

b) Choose a headline for each paragraph (there are more headlines than you need):

parts of the text about the film	parts which tell the story
Indian trainers work with actresses	The difficulties of forming a national team
Film awards for <i>Chak De! India</i>	Act together, not against each other!
A hockey film with Shahrukh Khan	The background story of Kabir Khan
Where the idea came from	They must act together
	Winners on and off ⁶ the field
	A good Indian?
	Girls prove they are good players

c) There is a lot of music and several songs in *Chak De! India*, although it is all background music: the characters do not sing or dance. Think of a film or TV programme you know and explain how music is used to make scenes more exciting, funnier or more romantic.

3 Looking at the language of the text

a) The text adds information to statements in many different ways, e.g. ... *Chak De! India*, which means ... / ... have to leave their home: all their neighbours hate them. / This makes the text shorter and more interesting than just giving one statement after another. Underline all the phrases in the text that give extra information.

b) Tell the story of a film or TV show. Use sentences like the ones in the text.

⁴stage [steɪdʒ] – hier: Phase • ⁵supporting actress [səˈpɔːtɪŋ ˈæktɹəs] – weibliche Nebenrolle • ⁶off [ɒf] – neben

Lösungen

Lösungsvorschläge Seite 1

1

- a) westerns, spy stories, musicals, thrillers, romantic/love stories ...
- b) *Individuelle Schülerlösungen*

Lösungsvorschläge Seite 2

2

- a) The first two paragraphs of the text and the last paragraph talk about the film. They are mostly in the past tense. The middle paragraphs tell the story of the film. They are in the present tense.
- b) These headlines match the paragraphs:
A: A hockey film with Shahrukh Khan;
B: Where the idea came from; C: The background story of Kabir Khan; D: The difficulties of forming a national team; E: Act together, not against each other! F: Girls prove they are good players; G: Winners on and off the field; H: Film awards for *Chak De! India*
- c) *Individuelle Schülerlösungen*

3

- a) Phrases that add information: the game of hockey – not ice hockey, but ...; ..., who wrote the screenplay for the film ...; ... that won the gold medal ...; ... who gave them information and advice; ... who played the parts of team members; ... Kabir Khan, an international hockey player; ... that loses the final of a Hockey World Cup match ...; ..., who is a Muslim, ...; ... because he wanted the Muslim country of Pakistan to win; ... all their neighbours hate them; ... – nobody else wants to do it; ... – they should become good wives and mothers; ... women who have played for their own states ...; ... because of differences in tradition ...; ... the others, especially the ones who can only speak a local language; ...because their families don't want them to be part of the team; ... – the two who have been bullied by the others in the team; To show how good they are ...; ... because the men are faster and stronger and have more experience ...; ... many awards including a prize as best actor
- b) *Individuelle Schülerlösungen*