

Listen to Mel talking about why she loves horror films and which ones she prefers.

## Before listening

Do the preparation task first. Then listen to the audio and do the exercises.

### Preparation task

Match the definitions (a–h) with the vocabulary (1–8).

#### Vocabulary

1. ..... trapped
2. ..... supplies
3. ..... a slasher film
4. ..... tense
5. ..... gory
6. ..... a hardware store
7. ..... sinister
8. ..... on my own

#### Definition

- a. alone
- b. dangerous, evil or illegal
- c. showing killing and blood in detail
- d. a very violent film
- e. making you feel anxious and worried
- f. being in a place you cannot escape from
- g. a shop that sells tools and equipment for the house and garden
- h. food and other things necessary for daily life

## Tasks

### Task 1

Are the sentences true or false?

	<b>Answer</b>	
1. Mel has liked horror films since she was a child.	True	False
2. She finds all horror films amusing rather than frightening.	True	False
3. One zombie film she mentions does not end well.	True	False
4. Not all zombie films are supposed to be taken seriously.	True	False
5. <i>The Mist</i> was based on a real incident in a small town in the UK.	True	False
6. The writer wasn't convinced by the monsters in <i>The Mist</i> .	True	False

**Task 2**

Put the words and phrases in order to make sentences.

1. watching *The Omen* on TV    me    It was    on my own.    in the dark
2. what are called    'slasher films'.    I    like    really
3. I think    *The Birds*.    for me    is    the scariest    one
4. movies and    I really    of zombie    watched    I've    loads    like them.
5. favourite    my absolute    horror film.    *Dawn of the Dead*    is
6. in a shopping centre    The survivors    up    surrounded    by zombies.    end
7. was    The most    recent    film    I watched    on a plane.
8. like horror films    as much as I do.    it    if you    to you    I would    recommend

**Discussion**

Do you like horror films?

## Transcript

I want to talk about, erm, horror films and why I like them and what my favourite types are.

When I was young, I watched the classic horror films like *Nightmare on Elm Street* and *Friday the 13th*. My mum told me that when I was about six, she came downstairs in the middle of the night because there was a noise, and it was me watching *The Omen* on TV in the dark, on my own. So I guess I've always liked horror films.

I really like what are called 'slasher films' – the really gory, bloody, violent films like *Final Destination* and *The Hills Have Eyes*. I just find them quite funny and I like the special effects. I don't really find them scary at all. I think the scariest sort of films are the ones that are very tense, like Hitchcock films. I think the scariest one for me is *The Birds* because it's just very sinister the way that the birds come and sit and look at the people. And you know that it's going to be really bad very soon.

But I think my favourite, favourite sort of horror films are zombie movies. I've watched loads of zombie movies and I really like them. Again, I don't really think they're very scary. *Dawn of the Dead* is my absolute favourite horror film, I think. It's a film where people just wake up one morning and there are zombies everywhere. If a zombie bites you, you turn into a zombie. And the survivors end up in a shopping mall ... in a shopping centre and they're surrounded by zombies. And it does not have a happy ending.

There's a British comedy horror film called *Shaun of the Dead*, which is a bit of a joke on the idea of the *Dawn of the Dead*, which is also really great. The most recent one I watched was a New Zealand film called *Black Sheep*, which is about zombie sheep. That was pretty funny as well.

The most recent horror film I watched was on a plane last time I went back to the UK. It was a Stephen King film, it was based on a Stephen King book – I think a short story – and it was called *The Mist*. It was about people who lived in a small town in America and there was a hurricane, or typhoon, as we call them here. And after the typhoon, they wanted to go into town to get some supplies to fix up the house. And it started to get misty or foggy. It was quite a strange mist – it didn't look normal. And these people ended up in a hardware store in the town, all trapped together because there were sort of monsters in the mist – these unrealistic giant creatures that were in the mist that were killing people. There was quite a lot of blood and guts and people died in horrible ways, which is what I like about horror films. I would recommend it if you like horror films as much as I do.

## Answers

**Preparation task**

1. f
2. h
3. d
4. e
5. c
6. g
7. b
8. a

**Task 1**

1. True
2. False
3. True
4. True
5. False
6. True

**Task 2**

1. It was me watching *The Omen* on TV in the dark on my own.
2. I really like what are called 'slasher films'.
3. I think the scariest one for me is *The Birds*.
4. I've watched loads of zombie movies and I really like them.
5. *Dawn of the Dead* is my absolute favourite horror film.
6. The survivors end up in a shopping centre surrounded by zombies.
7. The most recent film I watched was on a plane.
8. I would recommend it to you if you like horror films as much as I do.