

### 3 New York: The most filmed city in the world

- a) Before you read: What films have you seen that take place in New York?  
b) Read the text and find the film titles that go with the pictures.



**tip**  
In Britain, people usually say 'film' but they also say 'movie'.

Even if you have never been to New York, you will probably have seen many of the famous sights in films or on TV. From *Friends* to *King of Queens*, from *Men in Black* to *Madagascar*, New York is the most filmed city in the world. The first movie<sup>1</sup> that made New York famous in film was *King Kong* from 1933. Since then, thousands of films have been set<sup>2</sup> in the city, and almost every different type: from science fiction films like *I am Legend*, to action films like *Spider-Man* and romantic comedies like *Hitch*.

The city has also been the home of many famous TV shows, like *The Cosby Show*, *Heroes* and *CSI New York*. Many of the famous talk shows, such as *The Tonight Show with Jay Leno*, are also filmed in New York.

There are many reasons why New York is a good place to film. A lot of film makers think that the city is interesting and has got many different stories to tell because rich people, poor people and people from all over the world live in the city. Some say that the city is always beautiful, while others think that it is a good place for a film because so many people know or have visited New York.

Most of the famous sights have had roles in films, from *King Kong* climbing up the Empire State Building to the Statue of Liberty covered<sup>3</sup> in snow and ice in *The Day after Tomorrow*. But because the city is always changing, films and TV shows have to change, too. After the attacks<sup>4</sup> on September 11th 2001, many films and TV shows had to be changed so that the World Trade Center was not in them. The first *Spider-Man* movie, for example, was also changed because the final<sup>5</sup> battle<sup>6</sup> should have taken place there.

If you are going to New York and would like to see where your favourite film was made, there are many ways to do this. There is a map on the Internet that tells you what films were made and where they were shot<sup>7</sup> ([www.newyorkinthemovies.com](http://www.newyorkinthemovies.com)). Or you can go on a tour of famous movie and TV sites<sup>8</sup> and visit the flat in *Friends* or the fire station<sup>9</sup> in *Ghostbusters*. And of course, there are many movies and TV shows being filmed in New York every day. So, who knows – you may end up<sup>10</sup> in the next Hollywood blockbuster<sup>11</sup> – just like New York itself<sup>12</sup>!

#### Choose an activity

- Where is your favourite film set? Find out more about some of the places in it.
- What places would you choose for a film set in YOUR town? Give reasons.
- Find out more about one of the films in the text and tell your class about it.

<sup>1</sup>movie (AE) – (Kino-, Spiel-)film; <sup>2</sup>set somewhere – irgendwo spielen/stattfinden; <sup>3</sup>covered in sth – mit etw bedeckt sein; <sup>4</sup>attack – Angriff; <sup>5</sup>final – letzte (r,s); <sup>6</sup>battle – Kampf, Schlacht; <sup>7</sup>shoot – hier: drehen; <sup>8</sup>site – hier: Ort; <sup>9</sup>fire station – Feuerwache; <sup>10</sup>end up – landen; <sup>11</sup>blockbuster – Kinohit; <sup>12</sup>itself – selbst