

1 Read the text quickly and match the questions (a–e) to the paragraphs (A–E).

- a What did she want when she was a child? _____
- b What does she think about Hollywood? _____
- c Who is Penélope Cruz? _____
- d Why is she so famous? _____
- e How did she get into the movie business? _____

Penélope Cruz – Spanish movie queen

A

Penélope Cruz is Spain’s best-known female international movie star. The actress, who has starred in movies like *Vanilla Sky*, *Volver*, and *Vicky Cristina Barcelona*, for which she won an Oscar for Best Actress in a Supporting Role, is one of the most famous Spanish women in the world.

B

She became famous outside Spain in 2001, when she appeared in *Vanilla Sky*, a remake of the Spanish movie *Abre Los Ojos*. A few years later, she received her first Oscar nomination for Best Actress in a Leading Role for her performance in *Volver*. As the face of various fashion and beauty products, she often appears in newspapers and magazines. She is regularly included in lists of the most beautiful people in the world.

C

Cruz was born in Madrid, Spain in 1974. Her father was a businessman and her mother a hairdresser. Before Cruz began her acting career, she wanted to be a dancer, and she studied classical ballet for nine years at one of Spain’s best academies.

D

People first started to notice Cruz when she appeared in a music video for a well-known Spanish pop group, and she soon started working in Spanish television. She presented a show for teenagers and played a part in a popular television series. She got her first important movie role in 1992, when she played Silvia in the Spanish comedy *Jamón Jamón*.

E

Cruz still enjoys working with directors from her country whenever she can and she doesn't want to live in Hollywood. She thinks that living in Los Angeles could change her personality and that many things about a European lifestyle are preferable.

2 Read the text again and put the events in Penélope Cruz's life into the correct order. Write the numbers in the spaces.

- _____ She got a part in *Jamón Jamón*.
- _____ She was nominated for an Oscar award.
- _____ She starred in *Vanilla Sky*.
- _____ She was born in 1974.
- _____ She was in a video for a pop group.
- _____ She learned to dance ballet.