

LESSON 3



Tinsel Town in Danger

Hollywood writers and studio representatives began **last-ditch** negotiations Sunday in an effort to prevent a strike, the writers union said.

A **federal mediator** called the meeting between the Writers Guild of America and the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television producers at an **undisclosed** location.

The writers' contract expired October 31, and they plan to strike at 12:01 a.m. Monday (3:01 a.m. ET) if a deal cannot be reached.

The first **picket** lines would be seen at New York's Rockefeller Center, followed by picket lines at various locations in Los Angeles, the guild said.

The writers want more money from the sale of DVDs and a share of revenue generated by the sale of TV shows and films over the Internet.

The studios say the demands are unreasonable and would **hamper** attempts to experiment with new media.

The last time Hollywood writers went on strike was in 1988. The **walkout** lasted 22 weeks and cost the industry about \$500 million.

Some 12,000 screenwriters went on strike after the collapse of last-ditch contract negotiations aimed at preserving nearly 20 years of Hollywood labor peace. The strike did start putting an end to popular TV shows like 'The Office,' 'Desperate Housewives,' 'Rules of Engagement' and 'Law and Order' because they ran out of scripts. Famous actors and actresses are also participating in the strike.

Discussion Questions (Do not show this page to students)

1. What organization is leading the strike and what is it about?
2. How is the strike affecting Hollywood? What other effects do you think it might have?
3. Has Hollywood experienced a strike like this before?
4. Do you have a favorite American TV show? Tell me about your favorite TV show and why you like it.
5. How would you feel if you couldn't watch it anymore because the writers were on strike?
6. Do you watch your favorite shows on the internet or DVD? Do you buy pirate DVDs or download files from illegal websites?
7. What is the film industry like in Korea? Are actors/actresses, writers and producers getting the shares that they deserve?
8. Do you remember any famous strikes in Korea?
9. What are one of the most common strikes in Korea?
10. How do you think the strike will end? Do you think the writers will get what they want?

➤ The writers strike started in November 5th and is still continuing. Fortunately, it is said that the strike will come to an end soon.

➤ Check out this link with the student together to learn more about the writer's strike.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oJ55lr2jCzk>