Getting Ready
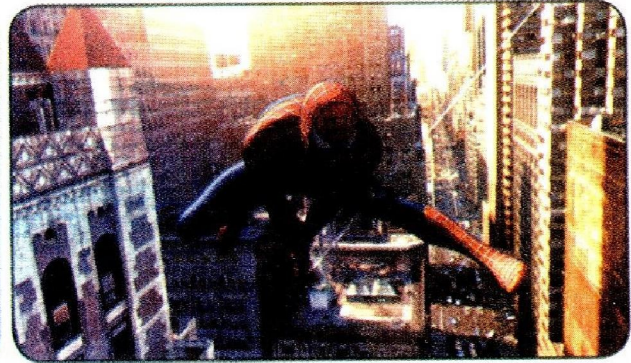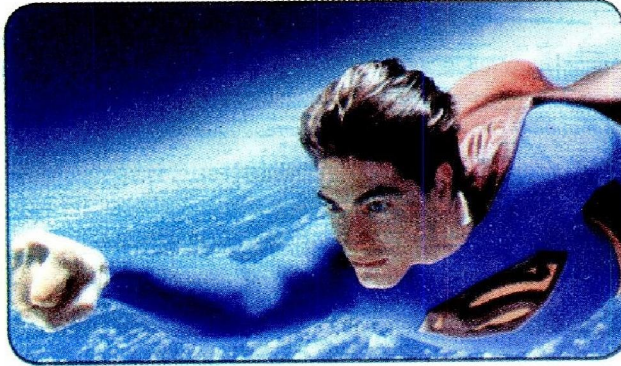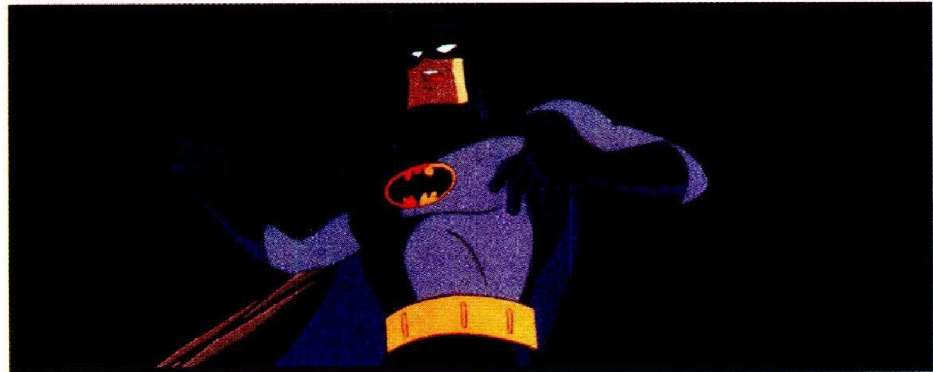
Discuss the following questions with a partner.

1 Can you name any of the superheroes in the comics above? What superpowers do they have?

2 Why do you think these superheroes and their accompanying comics have remained so popular over the years?

3 Do you have a favorite superhero? Why do you like that hero?

UNIT 12 **CHAPTER 1** The Evolution of Batman

Before You Read
Batman Quiz

A Complete the following sentences about Batman.

1 Batman's crime-fighting partner is (Robin / Bane).
2 Batman uses the (Batmobile / Batarang) to get from place to place.
3 The police chief of (Metropolis / Gotham City) sometimes calls for Batman's help by using the (Bat Call / Bat Signal).
4 Out of costume, Batman is known as (Bruce Wayne / Peter Parker).
5 The Joker and (Lex Luthor / Ra's Al Ghul) are some of Batman's enemies.

B Discuss your answers with a partner.

Reading Skill
Recognizing Sequence of Events

Sequence markers are words and phrases that signal to the reader the order of events in a passage. Expressions such as *then, soon after that, subsequently,* as well as days, dates, and times can act as sequence markers. The past perfect tense can also signal the order of events.

A Read the following sentences from the passage on the next page. Without reading the passage, put the events in order from 1–6. (Circle) the words in the sentences that helped you choose the order.
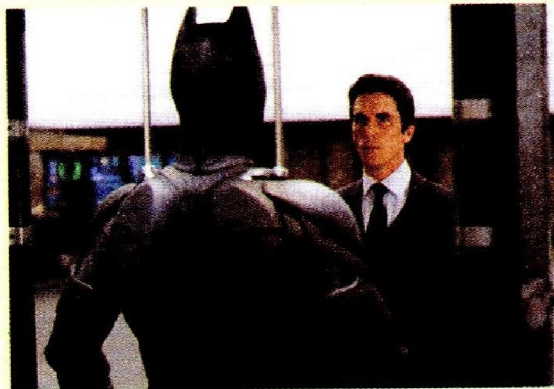
	In the latest Batman films, the hero's transformation continues in this direction.
	Not long after the creation of Batman, World War II began and the American government spent lots of time and energy getting its people to be patriotic and to support the war.
	The mood in America relaxed considerably by the 1960s, and a Batman show subsequently appeared on television with a very different kind of superhero.
	In the 1970s and 80s, Batman was embraced by comic book writers and re-imagined as a more serious character.
	Batman was created in 1939 by artist Robert Kane, who was inspired by crime novels, another comic character called Zorro, and an earlier horror film called *The Bat*.
	Batman returned to the big screen in 1989 in Tim Burton's *Batman*.

B Discuss your answers with a partner. Then skim the passage to check whether your answers in **A** are correct.

C Read the entire passage carefully. Then answer the questions on page 205.

The Evolution of Batman

The Dark Knight—one nickname for Batman—is a name that's layered with meaning. Batman is a classic super hero, but the modern day Batman is a far more complex character than he was 70 years ago. Over time, he has evolved from an **invincible** crime fighter into one of the most "human" superheroes, one who is often faced with dilemmas that challenge his morals and
5 conscience. The nickname "Dark Knight" fits the character we know today because Batman is always in pursuit of justice, but who finds that difficult sacrifices must often be made along the way.

Batman was created in 1939 by artist Robert Kane, who was inspired by crime novels, another comic character called Zorro, and an earlier horror film
10 called *The Bat*. Because Kane preferred more realistic heroes, Batman was not given super powers. Instead, Bruce Wayne (Batman's alter ego[1]) is extremely rich and can afford many useful tools and weapons, such as the Batmobile, a car
15 with special capabilities. Batman's original suit and iconic "bat signal" have **endured** as well. While the design and colors have changed gradually over time, the Batman identity—bat logo, mask with ears, cape—has been remarkably consistent for more than 70 years.
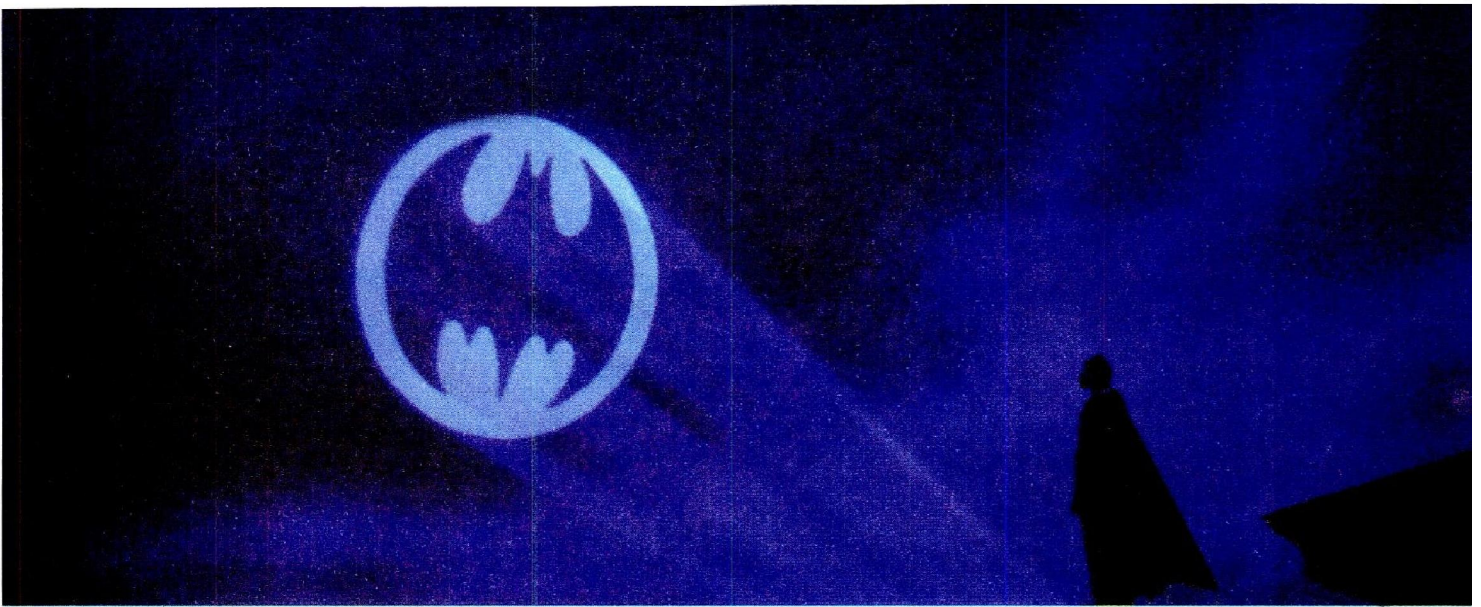
Christian Bale as Bruce Wayne/Batman

20 One thing that hasn't remained so similar over the years is the **tone** of the Batman stories and, accordingly, Batman's personality. The **conflicts** in Batman stories are often based on real-world problems, which is one element that makes Batman a more complex character than most super heroes. Not long after the creation of Batman, World War II began. The American government spent lots of time and energy getting its people to be **patriotic** and to support the
25 war. Batman appeared in a 15-part serialized movie at this time and was seen as a symbol of justice, fighting evil at home while American soldiers were away defending the country. At that time, he sometimes used guns and wasn't afraid to kill his enemies if there was a need to, but the modern Batman is generally against guns and killing because his parents were killed by guns.

The mood in the United States relaxed considerably by the 1960s, and a Batman show
30 subsequently appeared on television with a very different kind of superhero. The show became popular with kids and adults alike for its cultural references, cartoonish fight scenes, and funny

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[1] **Alter ego** is a Latin phrase that refers to the second self or another side of oneself.
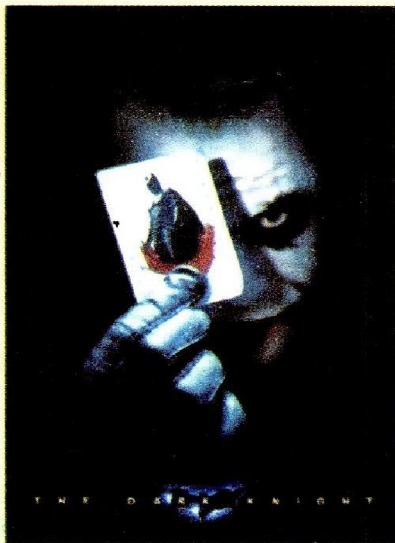
dialog. Following the end of the original television series in 1968, the television version of Batman was limited to cartoons for the next two decades.

In the 1970s and '80s, Batman was **embraced** by comic
35 book writers and re-imagined as a more serious character. When legendary comics writers like Frank Miller and Alan Moore began to write Batman books, the Batman we know today—darker, imperfect, vulnerable—began to **emerge**. Miller is often credited with taking the comics genre to a
40 new level with his Batman book *The Dark Knight Returns*, which was among the first to incorporate real-world elements such as corrupt politicians and poverty. In his hands, Batman went beyond being just a masked hero.

Adam West and Burt Ward as Batman and Robin in the 1960s TV show

a movie poster for Christopher Nolan's *The Dark Knight*, featuring the Joker

Batman returned to the big screen in 1989 in Tim Burton's *Batman*. It 45 featured a tougher Batman, with a colder personality and a redesigned, all-black costume. In the latest Batman films, the hero's transformation continues in this direction. Christopher Nolan's *Dark Knight* trilogy[2] features a much more dangerous Gotham City and Bruce Wayne/Batman 50 are not automatically likable characters. Batman no longer simply fights against "bad guys," but starts to question if he's a good guy or hero himself. Villains like the Joker are no longer crazy personalities with weird hair and makeup that just want to rob a bank or kidnap a famous person; they are 55 now similar to modern day terrorists, trying to make people fight one another and threatening the world economy.

What makes Batman a great character is that he changes as the world changes. So while it is safe to expect that Batman will be a different character in 20 years' time, we can also expect that he will continue to be a 60 great and **compelling** superhero.

[2] A **trilogy** is a series of three related works.

A Read the following sentences. Check (✓) whether they are true (T) or false (F).

		T	F
1	Batman was partly based on a crime novel called *The Bat*.		
2	Batman doesn't believe in using guns because so many people died in World War II.		
3	The current movie version of Batman is more serious than the television version in the 1960s.		
4	Comic book writers were the first to incorporate real-world issues into Batman stories.		
5	Tim Burton directed the latest Batman movies.		
6	Batman becomes a bad guy in later Batman movies.		

B Answer the following questions with information from the passage.

1 What was Batman given in place of super powers?

_____

_____

2 What was the character of Batman like during World War II?

_____

_____

3 What things about Batman have changed over time?

_____

_____

4 What things about Batman have stayed the same over time?

_____

_____

C Discuss the following questions with a partner.

Critical Thinking

1 Do you know of other superheroes or fictional characters that have changed over time? Give some examples.

2 Do you prefer superheroes to be complex and serious like modern-day Batman, or more like simple cartoon characters? Why?

Motivational Tip: Sit in a different seat today. In most classrooms, students sit in the same seat near their friends. Today, the challenge is to sit in a different seat next to someone you don't know very well. During today's class, when invited by your teacher, share what you are learning from today's reading with a new partner.

Vocabulary Comprehension
Words in Context

A Choose the best answer. The words in blue are from the passage.

1 Which describes the tone of an article?
  a lengthy
  b argumentative

2 Which of these is a conflict?
  a an argument
  b an agreement

3 When you embrace something, you _____ it.
  a reject
  b welcome

4 Her argument was so compelling that I ____ her.
  a believed
  b did not believe

5 The artist's work has endured because it _____ .
  a is appealing to people of all ages
  b dealt with subjects that were specific to his time

6 Someone who is patriotic _____ his home country.
  a loves
  b hates

7 When you emerge from a shower, you are _____ .
  a clean
  b dirty

8 The rugby player felt invincible during the game, as though _____ .
  a he couldn't do anything
  b no one could stop him

B Answer the following questions, then discuss your answers with a partner. The words in blue are from the passage.

1 What tone of voice do you use when talking to young children?
2 How do you usually resolve conflicts with friends?
3 What new technologies have you embraced in recent years?
4 Do you know any superheroes who are invincible?
5 What things make you feel patriotic?
6 Are there any emerging actors or musicians that you like?
7 What do you think is the most compelling reason to learn English?
8 Do you know any famous figures who have endured hardships before becoming successful?

A **Look at how compound adjectives are formed.**

Some compound adjectives are formed by joining two words to form another word.

> an outspoken man   a secondhand car   superhero

Other compound adjectives can be formed by combining two or more words using hyphens. These usually appear before nouns.

> Is Yuri Gagarin well known in your country? Is he a well-known astronaut? Karina's daughter is five years old. Karina has a five-year-old daughter.

Some compound adjectives are fixed—the word order is always the same, and they are always hyphenated.

> He's a self-confident guy.   He has a know-it-all attitude.

B **Complete the following sentences with the correct compound adjectives. Write a simple definition for each.**

> up-to-the-minute   over-the-counter   out-of-the-way
> matter-of-fact   middle-aged

1   In order to have some privacy, Erik and Laura stayed at a(n)
    _____ hotel in the Colorado mountains.
    Definition:_____

    _____

2   If you want _____ information on the election results, tune
    in to channel 4.
    Definition:_____

    _____

3   I don't know exactly what the robber looked like; he had grayish hair and
    appeared to be _____.
    Definition:_____

    _____

4   In the United States, you can't buy medicine such as antibiotics
    _____. You can only get them with a prescription.
    Definition:_____

    _____

5   Antonio talked about failing his test in a very _____ way; it
    didn't seem to bother him at all.
    Definition:_____

    _____

C **Now write three sentences using any of the compound adjectives you have learned. Discuss your ideas with a partner.**
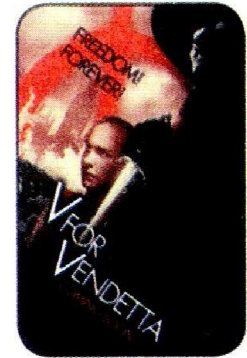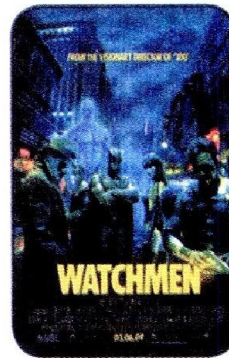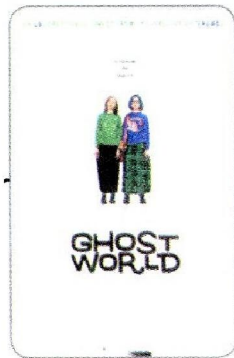
CHAPTER 2 Graphic Novels Come to Life

Before You Read
Graphic Novels

GHOST WORLD

WATCHMEN

V FOR VENDETTA

A Answer the following questions.

1 Have you watched any of movies above? What do they have in common?
2 Have you heard of the term *graphic novel*? What do you think it means?

B Discuss your answers with a partner.

Reading Skill
Identifying Main and Supporting Ideas

Most paragraphs have a main idea, or topic, that tells us what that paragraph is about. Often, you will find the main idea talked about in the first or second sentence of a paragraph. Supporting ideas usually follow the main idea. Sentences containing supporting ideas explain or give us more information about the main idea.

A Read the following sentences from the passage on the next page. Write *M* next to the main idea of the paragraph and *S* next to the supporting idea.

Paragraph 2

1 _____ The term "graphic novel" became popular in the 1980s when people wanted to distinguish between the colorful comic books aimed at kids and more complex stories aimed at older, more mature readers.
2 _____ While classic comic books feature crime-fighting superheroes, graphic novels cover many genres and are frequently about real-life issues.

Paragraph 3

3 _____ *Watchmen* was a box office hit, earning more than $180 million around the world.
4 _____ *Watchmen* by Alan Moore and Dave Gibbons is a great example of a graphic novel that has been successfully adapted for film.

Paragraph 4

5 _____ Authors are able to take risks in graphic novels that directors are unable to pull off believably on screen.
6 _____ Taking a graphic novel off the page and on the screen isn't as simple as it sounds.

B Discuss your answers with a partner. Then skim the passage to check your answers.

C Now read the entire passage carefully. Then answer the questions on page 211.

Graphic Novels Come to Life

1 Superhero movies based on comic books have long been good business for Hollywood. Some of the most successful superhero movies, like *The Avengers* (2012), *The Dark Knight* (2008), and *Spiderman* (2002) have earned upwards of $400 million each at the box office. The appeal of superhero movies is obvious: it brings familiar and well-loved characters to

5 audiences, and these long-running comic series can easily be extended into movie **sequels**. Thanks to the success of these movies, more serious comic books such as graphic novels have also been adapted for the big screen.

2 The term "graphic novel" became popular in the 1980s when people wanted to distinguish between the colorful comic books aimed at kids and more complex stories

10 aimed at older, more mature readers. While classic comic books feature crime-fighting superheroes, graphic novels cover many genres and are frequently about real-life issues. *Ghost World* by Daniel Clowes, which follows two friends through the summer after their high school graduation, is an early example of a graphic novel that was made into a film. Another recent graphic novel adaptation is Marjane Satrapi's *Persepolis*, which

15 documents her youth in Iran during and after the Islamic revolution of 1979.

3 *Watchmen* by Alan Moore and Dave Gibbons is a great example of a graphic novel that has been successfully adapted for film. The only graphic novel to appear in *Time* magazine's list of the best 100 books since 1923, *Watchmen* was also a box office hit,

20 earning more than $180 million around the world. Director Zack Snyder says movies based on graphic novels appeal to movie audiences because they are deep, vivid stories. "*Watchmen* is thick and complicated and violent and political and critical of America," Snyder says. "It's huge."

4 25 But taking a graphic novel off the page and on to the screen isn't as simple as it sounds. The most challenging part for screenwriters and directors is attempting to make a movie that **deviates** from the original. Authors are able to take risks in
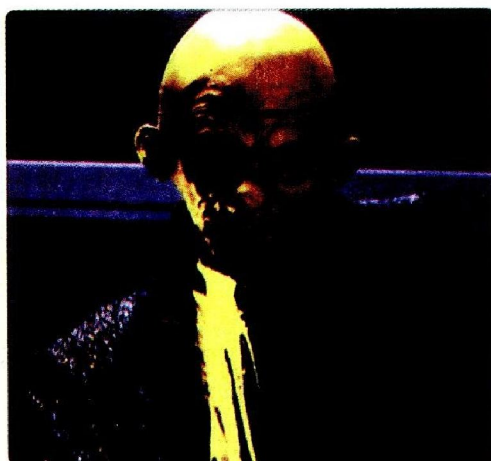
Watchmen director Zack Snyder

graphic novels that directors are unable **to pull off** believably on screen. For example,
30 *Watchmen* was considered "unfilmable" by many, including the writer Alan Moore
himself, because of the many different plot lines and time frames. While changes may
make the story more appealing to **mainstream** audiences, fans of the original material
are important and **unrelenting** critics. Snyder remarked, "The geeks will be on me for
changes I make to *Watchmen*. There are no more fierce fans than geekdom."

5 35 Risks aside, one major appeal of graphic novels for movie studios is that the visual
format allows them to "see" what the movie could look like before they approve it. This
can be a great advantage over a traditional script, which requires the reader to imagine
the characters and setting. Having a pre-defined style has also led to the creation of
some very unique movies. Two great examples of graphic novels that had their style
40 translated to the screen are Frank Miller's *Sin City* and *300*. The film adaptation of *Sin City* **retains** the original story's dark look and feel because the directors—Miller and
Robert Rodriguez—shot it in a shadowy black and white style with only certain colors
allowed, such as the bright yellow of the main villain.

6 Turning a hand-drawn comic into a live-action film can be tricky, and directors must
45 attempt to create scenes with the same **intricate** detail as in the graphic novel, often
on a tight budget. For *300*, Snyder had to use special color filters and other techniques,
such as speeding up or slowing down the action, to help **convey** the action and bloody
violence of the book. By Hollywood standards, the $60 million budget that Snyder had
to work with isn't a lot of money, but as such movies continue to wow audiences and
50 make money, production budgets are sure to rise. Maybe your favorite graphic novel
will soon be coming to a screen near you!

a scene from Sin City the movie (left) and the comic (right)

A Choose the correct answer for the following questions.

1 The reading passage is about _____ .
a how comics are different from graphic novels
b how graphic novels have come to be adapted into movies
c why comics and graphic novels are worthwhile entertainment

2 According to the passage, which is NOT a difference between comics and graphic novels?
a Comics are usually about superheroes; graphic novels are about real-life issues.
b Graphic novels have older and more mature readers compared to comics.
c Graphic novels have fewer images and drawings compared to comics.

3 The writer uses *Ghost World* and *Persepolis* as examples of _____ .
a how graphic novels can be about real-life issues
b graphic novels that came out in the 1980s
c how graphic novel adaptations make lots of money at the box office

4 The *geeks* in Zack Snyder's quote in lines 33–34 refers to _____ .
a fans of the graphic novel
b the mainstream audience
c professional movie critics

5 The purpose of paragraphs 5 and 6 is to _____ .
a show that *Sin City* was easier to direct compared to *300*
b compare and contrast Frank Miller's graphic novels
c show how the visual format can be both helpful and difficult for directors

B Read the following sentences. Check (✓) whether they are true (T) or false (F).

		T	F
1	Hollywood has only recently been adapting comics into movies.		
2	The graphic novel *Watchmen* is highly regarded by book critics.		
3	The writer of *Watchmen* did not believe it could be made into a film.		
4	Movie studios prefer traditional scripts to more visual scripts.		
5	A budget of $60 million is considered a lot of money for a Hollywood film.		
6	There will probably be more movie adaptations of graphic novels in the future.		

C Discuss the following questions with a partner.

Critical Thinking

1 Do you think there are things that can be shown in graphic novels that can't be shown on screen? Give some examples.
2 Some people don't consider comics or graphic novels to be serious books or literature. Do you agree? Why, or why not?

Vocabulary Comprehension
Odd Word Out

A (Circle) the word or phrase that does not belong in each group. The words in blue are from the reading.

1	sequel	chapter	series	actor
2	finish	finalize	convey	conclude
3	reserve	keep	hold	deviate
4	fail	pull off	achieve	accomplish
5	mainstream	unique	popular	common
6	unrelenting	tough	hard	incomplete
7	release	retain	remember	recall
8	intricate	detailed	plain	complicated

B Complete the following sentences using the words in blue from **A**. You might have to change the form of the word.

1 A drawing with such _____ details must have taken the artist a long time to create.

2 The radio tends to play more _____ music—songs that will appeal to many people.

3 She finds it hard to _____ her ideas in English because it's her second language.

4 The athletes had to train out in the open field despite the _____ heat of the summer.

5 The new edition of the book still _____ the old illustrations.

6 People still don't know how David Copperfield, a famous magician, managed to _____ the trick of making an airplane disappear.

7 It's better not to _____ from the recipe in case the cake comes out badly.

8 This is my favorite movie, but I hope they don't try to make a _____; some stories are good enough on their own.

A Complete the chart below using the antonyms in the box.

Vocabulary Skill
Antonyms

> long-running deep simple unrealistic disgusting mature

Word	Antonym
juvenile	
intricate	
superficial	
true-to-life	
short-lived	
appealing	

An antonym is a word or phrase that has the opposite meaning of another word or phrase. One way of increasing your vocabulary is by learning antonyms.

B Complete the following paragraphs using the words from the chart in **A**. Not all the words will be used. Discuss your answers with a partner.

I'm not a fan of comic books or superheroes like Superman and Batman. For one, I find comics quite **(1)** _____; they're meant for children! I also find them completely **(2)** _____, since normal people don't have superpowers and there aren't villains running around trying to take over the world in real life! I think people's interest in comics and superhero movies is **(3)** _____ and just another fad.

I disagree. Comic books are for all ages, whether the **(4)** _____ and colorful superhero ones meant for kids, or more **(5)** _____ graphic novels. Comics are great for visual people who appreciate the **(6)** _____ artwork. The format is very **(7)** _____ to me. I grew up reading comics and am still following some of the **(8)** _____ ones, which means I get to see the characters develop over a period of time. I think comics are popular because they discuss issues that are **(9)** _____ and relevant to us.

Real Life Skill

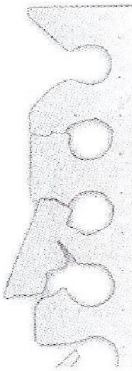Reading Online Movie Reviews

> A great deal of information is available about movies on the Internet. There are reviews of every popular movie ever made, both new and old. The Internet again proves itself to be a useful research tool.

A Think of two movies and find reviews for them online. Use the title of the movie plus "review" as keywords for your search.

B Scan the websites you found for information to complete the charts.

Movie title	
Review website	
Cast	
Director	
Movie rating	
Plot summary	

Movie title	
Review website	
Cast	
Director	
Movie rating	
Plot summary	

C Share the information you found with a partner.

Motivational Tip: How can this be applied beyond the textbook? Reading is a very important life skill that people use every day to accomplish real life tasks. How do the Real Life Skill sections in this book help you in everyday life? For example, being able to research and read movie information can help you find new movies or give ideas about movies you've already seen.

What do you think?

1 Batman and Bruce Wayne are the same person. Can you think of more superheroes with alter egos? Why do you think many superheroes have alter egos?
2 If you could have any superpower, what would it be and why?
3 Do you like Hollywood movies about superheroes? Why, or why not?