

## Superheroes

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Superheroes is an exciting topic for young learners on the British Council's site for young learners LearnEnglish Kids. You can find resources for the topic here:- <http://www.britishcouncil.org/kids-topics-superheroes.htm>

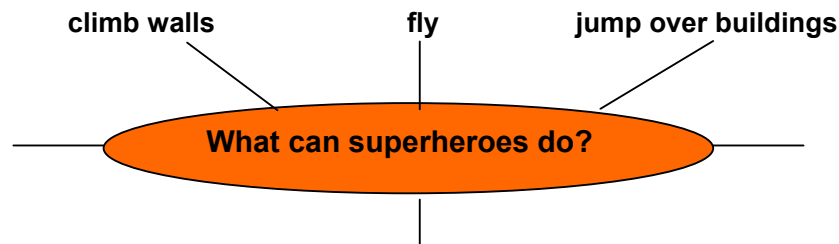


The materials include an extremely motivating interactive game called 'Style a Hero', as well as activities based on famous superheroes such as 'Superman', 'Catwoman' and other popular figures. The materials provide a rich, motivating and entertaining resource for lessons. On this page you will find tips for using and exploiting the materials in the classroom.

### 1. Introductory stage

Brainstorm all the superheroes the students know. They should be able to come with a list of the well-known ones (Superman, Batman, Wonder Woman, Spiderman etc) Perhaps there will also be heroes/superheroes known to the students from their first language/culture.

Then brainstorm the abilities of the superheroes – what can they do? This could be done as oral work and the information collected on the board in diagrammatic form.



In pairs or groups students could do the simple matching exercise on the worksheet: Superheroes available at <http://www.britishcouncil.org/kids-print-superheroes.pdf> They could also do the multiple choice quiz game available at <http://www.britishcouncil.org/kids-games-quiz-superheroes.htm>. The quiz is at a more difficult level.

For background information (for teachers and students!) there is a very good section on the bbc website:- <http://www.bbc.co.uk/science/hottopics/superheroes>

### 2. Focus on Superman

Superman is one of the most well-known superheroes. Find out what your students know about him (they may have seen the film). Then you could try the Superman quiz worksheet, which could be done as

- individual reading (if at home)
- pair work discussion
- a competitive team game

depending on the class. This could be followed up by using the superman gap-filling game also on Learn English.

Teachers may like to supplement this part with any photos, comics, website pictures or film clips they have available.

### 3. Superhero abilities

These materials provide lots of practice with 'can' for ability and gerund forms. You could do the quiz 'Are you a Superhero?' for an individual student or pairs.

<http://www.britishcouncil.org/kids-print-superhero-quiz.pdf>

Students answer the questions and calculate the points to find out if they are superheroes. This is a fun worksheet and students are not really expected to tell the truth!! This could be extended if required to provide further practice – students could write some more quiz questions or design their own quiz.

For further reinforcement if you have a computer/data projector available you could use the flash movie story 'Superhero High' available at

<http://www.britishcouncil.org/kids-storeis-superhero-high.htm>

Ask the students to think about a special school for Superheroes! What do they think superheroes have to learn? (flying, climbing walls etc.) Play the flash movie story to see if their predictions were correct, then play the story again and ask the students to complete the first exercise on the worksheet (re-ordering the events of the story). As a follow-up they can complete the wordsearch and invent new lessons for Superhero high pupils.



### 4. Get writing!

After all this input your students should be ready to write. You can use the Style a hero game to invent superheroes and provide the students with models for guided writing. The accompanying worksheet 'Make your own superhero' at <http://www.britishcouncil.org/kids-print-your-superhero.pdf> practises vocabulary from the game and provides a stimulus for students to draw and write about their own invented superheroes. Teachers could give extension vocabulary for more creative/more able students and also make use of heroes/vocabulary from their local culture. This could be made into a class competition or display work for the classroom wall.

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Would you like to design your own superhero? In this game you can choose a hero - and give them a name and date of birth. Click on 'Go' to play.

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**Choose a name and date of birth for your superhero**

Name	
Date of birth	
Gender	Male

This hero is very agile and flexible. He can climb walls, balance, and moves very quickly. He's quite good at fighting and quite intelligent. He isn't very brave or strong.

This hero can change into another animal. His body is protected from weapons. He can run very fast. He can throw fire. His sword can cut through very strong materials.

For more fun games, songs and stories visit <http://www.britishcouncil.org/learnenglish>