

English in Mind Second editionLevel 5 Unit 11
Worksheet**How cartoons joined the
21st century****THE**  **INDEPENDENT****Lead-in****1 What do you know about cartoons and comics? Ask your partner the following questions:**

- 1 What were your favourite cartoons on TV as a child?
- 2 Did you read any comics as a child? If so, who were your favourite superheroes?
- 3 What super-hero powers did they have?
- 4 What do children tend to read nowadays? How much time do they spend reading for pleasure?
- 5 Do they read online or buy a comic from a newsagent's?

Reading comprehension (1): scanning**2 Read the article quickly. Are all of the superheroes in the box below mentioned? Mark them with a ✓ or ✗.**

The Joker	The Fantastic Four
Batman	X-Men
Superman	the Hulk
Spiderman	Iron Man
Supergirl	Garfield
Asterix	

Reading comprehension (2): understanding detail**3 Work with a partner. Student A reads paragraphs 1-6. Student B reads from paragraph 6 to the end. Read the text carefully and then ask your partner the following questions:****A**

- 1 What are the two advantages of improved technology described by John Dokes?
- 2 What are webcomic artists starting to do?
- 3 What is unusual about the webcomic Garfield Minus Garfield?
- 4 Why do some people think that printed comics should disappear?
- 5 What does the journalist conclude about comic generator sites?

B

- 1 How long does the New York comic convention last?
- 2 Who are Gabe and Tycho and are they successful?
- 3 What other types of webcomics are mentioned?
- 4 According to Tim Pilcher, what is the benefit of having webcomics on the Internet?
- 5 What does Gary Tyrell think the role of the reader is?

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Vocabulary (1): synonyms

4 Read the text again and choose the most suitable synonym for the words/phrases in italics below.

- a sci-fi *buffs* (para 2): writers / illustrators / enthusiasts
- b *given them free rein* to experiment (para 5): given them freedom to experiment / given them limited time to experiment / restricted their artistic abilities
- c Purists *balk at* such innovations (para 5): are astonished by / retreat from / advocate
- d *to tie into* other things (para 7): to replicate / to connect with / to publicise
- e *is rife* (para 8): is inevitable / is dangerous / is everywhere
- f the combined *might* (para 9): strength / threat / number
- g could *nurture* (para 10): cultivate / stop / eliminate
- h a lot is *dross* (para 10) : funny / of poor quality / boring
- i *diatribe* (para 11): attack / monologue / idea
- j *gimmicks* (para 13): luxuries / difficulties / attention-grabbers

Vocabulary (2): using new vocabulary

5 Match the beginning of a sentence in A with a suitable ending in B. Be careful as there are two extra which don't fit at all.

A	B
1 My ex-boyfriend was a real cinema buff and he	with all his might and won the competition.
2 A lot of parents are criticised these days for giving their children	could tell you the name of every film directed by Spielberg.
3 We literally balked at the price of the flat because there was	too much free rein.
4 You'll see how the grammar work we do	here ties into the grammar in the next unit.
5 Living in those suburbs is dangerous and	corruption and prostitution are rife there.
6 Suddenly, the boxer struck his opponent	on the concept of nature as well as nurture.
7 A child's development is based	walked out of the interview.
8 If you watch TV in the morning, you'll	no way we could ever afford it.
9 The TV journalist launched his diatribe and the prime minister nearly	gimmicks for the young generation?
10 Are sites like Facebook and Myspace just	hated watching films.
	as a result, house prices are going up.
	find an awful lot of dross!

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Worksheet**How cartoons joined the 21st century****THE**  **INDEPENDENT****Grammar: conditionals****6 Complete these sentences with your own opinion. Use either the second or third conditional.**

- a I would buy a comic if _____
- b I would look at a webcomic online if _____
- c If I met Gabe and Tycho, I _____
- d If there were more satirical webcomics, _____
- e If I'd gone to the New York Comic Con, I _____
- f If I'd been better at art at school, I _____

Add 2 or 3 more examples of your own using the second or third conditional.**Discussion****7 Work with a partner / small group and complete the following discussion tasks.**

- Summarise your ideas for and against webcomics.
- Is there another type of text or genre that you think teenagers or adults should be encouraged to read? Why?
- Do you think that there is more, or less, emphasis nowadays on reading for pleasure? Why?/ Why not?
- Should anyone be able to author and publish a webcomic? What are the advantages and disadvantages of this?

Lesson Plan and Worksheet author: Caroline Swettenham

Editor: Jacqueline French