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## **Level 4 – 24th November 2025**

### **'Superman #1' copy becomes most expensive comic**

**FREE online quizzes, mp3 listening and more for this lesson here:**

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2511/251124-superman-comic-4.html>

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**Please try Levels 5 and 6. They are (a little) harder.**

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# THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2511/251124-superman-comic-4.html>

A copy of the first self-titled Superman comic sold for a world record \$9.12 million. The vice-president of the auction house called the rare comic the "pinnacle of comic collecting". He said the copy is "in unprecedented condition". He said: "Superman No. 1 is a milestone in pop culture history." He was proud that his company auctioned the comic. Superman No. 1 first appeared in shops in June 1939. It started a new genre of superhero comics.

The copy of Superman No. 1 had been gathering dust in a house for 86 years. Three brothers discovered it covered in cobwebs. The brothers said their mother was an avid comic collector, and that she had "rare comics somewhere". Half a million copies were initially printed. Mint condition copies are rare because people cut off the front cover to use as a poster. Superman No. 1 became the blueprint for today's modern superheroes.

Sources: <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c8e9rp0knj6o>  
<https://edition.cnn.com/2025/11/21/style/superman-attic-most-expensive-comic-scli-intl>  
<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2025/nov/21/superman-no1-becomes-most-expensive-comic-ever-sold>

# PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2511/251124-superman-comic-4.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                                    |                         |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. A copy of the first self-titled | a. pop culture history  |
| 2. vice-president                  | b. in shops             |
| 3. the pinnacle of                 | c. of the auction house |
| 4. the copy is in unprecedented    | d. of superhero comics  |
| 5. a milestone in                  | e. comic collecting     |
| 6. his company auctioned           | f. condition            |
| 7. appeared                        | g. Superman comic       |
| 8. It started a new genre          | h. the comic            |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                             |                           |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. gathering                | a. the front cover        |
| 2. covered in               | b. comic collector        |
| 3. their mother was an avid | c. superheroes            |
| 4. Half a million copies    | d. cobwebs                |
| 5. mint                     | e. the blueprint          |
| 6. people cut off           | f. dust                   |
| 7. Superman No. 1 became    | g. condition copies       |
| 8. today's modern           | h. were initially printed |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2511/251124-superman-comic-4.html>

A copy of the (1) \_\_\_\_\_ Superman comic sold for a world record \$9.12 million. The vice-president of (2) \_\_\_\_\_ called the rare comic the "pinnacle of comic collecting". He said the copy is "(3) \_\_\_\_\_". He said: "Superman No. 1 is a (4) \_\_\_\_\_ culture history." He (5) \_\_\_\_\_ his company auctioned the comic. Superman No. 1 first appeared in shops in June 1939. It started a new (6) \_\_\_\_\_ comics.

The copy of Superman No. 1 had been (7) \_\_\_\_\_ a house for 86 years. Three brothers discovered it (8) \_\_\_\_\_. The brothers said their mother was an avid comic collector, and that she had "(9) \_\_\_\_\_". Half a million copies were initially printed. (10) \_\_\_\_\_ are rare because people cut off (11) \_\_\_\_\_ to use as a poster. Superman No. 1 became the (12) \_\_\_\_\_ modern superheroes.

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2511/251124-superman-comic-4.html>

A copy of the first self-titled Superman comic sold for a world record \$9.12 million. The vice-president of the auction house called the rare comic the "pinnacle of comic collecting". He said the copy is "in unprecedented condition". He said: "Superman No. 1 is a milestone in pop culture history." He was proud that his company auctioned the comic. Superman No. 1 first appeared in shops in June 1939. It started a new genre of superhero comics. The copy of Superman No. 1 had been gathering dust in a house for 86 years. Three brothers discovered it covered in cobwebs. The brothers said their mother was an avid comic collector, and that she had "rare comics somewhere". Half a million copies were initially printed. Mint condition copies are rare because people cut off the front cover to use as a poster. Superman No. 1 became the blueprint for today's modern superheroes.

# SUPERMAN SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2511/251124-superman-comic-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about Superman in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper.  
When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

|      | STUDENT 1<br>_____ | STUDENT 2<br>_____ | STUDENT 3<br>_____ |
|------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Q.1. |                    |                    |                    |
| Q.2. |                    |                    |                    |
| Q.3. |                    |                    |                    |
| Q.4. |                    |                    |                    |
| Q.5. |                    |                    |                    |

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

## WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

- a) \_\_\_\_\_
- b) \_\_\_\_\_
- c) \_\_\_\_\_
- d) \_\_\_\_\_
- e) \_\_\_\_\_
- f) \_\_\_\_\_

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## WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

- a) \_\_\_\_\_
- b) \_\_\_\_\_
- c) \_\_\_\_\_
- d) \_\_\_\_\_
- e) \_\_\_\_\_
- f) \_\_\_\_\_

# WRITING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2511/251124-superman-comic-4.html>

Write about **Superman** for 10 minutes. Read and talk about your partner's paper.

[illegible]