

Read the following text:

Superheroes Who Don't Have Superpowers

There are a few things that you are expected to have if you plan on being a superhero. A cool name, a costume and something meaningful to drive you. You must have boundless determination and many people would agree that superpowers are also a must. Still, while these are important attributes, history has proven that they are more of a luxury than a necessity in being a superhero.

Many notable characters fight crime and defeat evil in comic books, movies and television without possessing, at least not naturally, superhuman strength, laser eye beams, or the ability to command the weather. The majority of them only required the right skills and mindset. In fact, this makes these people the bravest superheroes of all and makes it easier for us to connect with them.

One such example is Tony Stark. He is a technological genius and billionaire industrialist. He has no superpowers besides his brain which helped him create his signature Iron Man armor that saved his life from fatal injury and became a symbol of his dedication to protecting others.

Another character without super powers is Hit-Girl, a.k.a. Mindy McCready. She was raised by her father, Big Daddy McCready, also a superhero, to be a vicious crime-fighter, Hit-Girl carries out her duties with no mercy. Even though she is not even a teenager, she is a martial arts master. But as good as she is, Mindy is still a young girl who occasionally displays the same emotions typical for her age.

The famous Black Widow, Natasha Romanova, is a highly-trained Russian agent who defected to the West and was recruited by Nick Fury and SHIELD to use her abilities for good. She's a superspy and master of disguise with unbelievable fighting skills.

Clint Barton (Hawkeye) and Oliver Queen (Green Arrow) are another two famous superheroes without power. Both men are surrounded by superpowered peers yet have managed to stand beside the best of them, just using sticks, string, and some creative arrowheads in battle.

So you don't need superpowers to be a superhero. While the likes of Wonder Woman, Superman and Spider-Man are famous for their superhuman abilities, there are many heroes who have nothing but incredible training, high-tech gadgetry to help them.

Reading Comprehension

Answer the following questions about the text:

1. The first paragraph lists _____.

- a. famous superheroes who starred in movies
- b. things that superheroes are expected to have
- c. historical events that involved superheroes

2. The ability to command the weather is a _____.

- a. superpower
- b. necessity
- c. mindset
- d. skill

3. Mark TRUE or FALSE:

- a. It's easier to connect with superheroes who don't have superpowers _____ TRUE
- b. Tony Stark is a very rich man _____ TRUE
- c. Iron Man's armor was designed by scientists _____ FALSE
- d. Hit-Girl is a teenager _____ FALSE
- e. Hit-Girl uses martial arts to fight her enemies _____ TRUE
- f. The Black Widow uses costumes to trick her enemies _____ TRUE

4. Arrange the following sentences in the right order according to the text:

- * SHIELD and Nick Fury recruited her.
- * The Black Widow lived in Russia.
- * She started using her abilities to do good things.
- * She left Russia and went to live in the west.

Answer:

- * The Black Widow lived in Russia.
- * She left Russia and went to live in the west.
- * SHIELD and Nick Fury recruited her.
- * She started using her abilities to do good things.

5. Hawkeye and Green Arrow are the _____ of two superheroes.

- a. peers
- b. sticks
- c. men
- d. nicknames

6. Wonder Woman, Superman and Spider-Man have something _____.

- a. different
- b. in common

- c. incredible
- d. to help them

Vocabulary

What do these words and phrases mean?

1. Meaningful - "something **meaningful** to drive you"
 - a. small
 - b. **important**
 - c. interesting

2. Boundless - "You must have **boundless** determination"
 - a. **endless**
 - b. limited
 - c. marvelous

3. Defeat - "Many notable characters fight crime and **defeat** evil"
 - a. meet
 - b. **crush**
 - c. recognize

4. Required - "The majority of them only **required** the right skills"
 - a. had
 - b. learned
 - c. **needed**

5. Industrialist - "He is a technological genius and billionaire **industrialist**"
 - a. idealist
 - b. mechanic
 - c. **businessman**

6. Fatal Injury - "his signature Iron Man armor that saved his life from **fatal injury**"
 - a. **life-threatening wound**
 - b. road accident
 - c. mid-life crisis

7. Carries Out - "Hit-Girl **carries out** her duties with no mercy"
 - a. ignores
 - b. **fulfills**
 - c. wins

8. Disguise - "She's a superspy and master of **disguise**"

- a. **costume**
- b. magic
- c. disbelief

9. Peers - "Both men are surrounded by superpowered **peers**"

- a. enemies
- b. **colleagues**
- c. monsters

10. Likes Of - "the **likes of** Wonder Woman, Superman and Spider-Man are famous for their superhuman abilities"

- a. friends of
- b. Above and beyond
- c. **similar to**

Grammar

Fill in the missing verbs either in the PAST SIMPLE or PAST PROGRESSIVE tenses:

1. While Iron Man _____ (to fight) his enemies, someone _____ (to shoot) him in the back.

2. Big Daddy McCready _____ (to raise) his daughter on his own.

3. While Green Arrow _____ (to design) his special arrows, Hawkeye _____ (to train) in the gym.

4. The Black Widow _____ (to defect) from Russia, and _____ (to join) Nick Fury and SHIELD.

5. Iron Man's real name _____ (to be) Tony Stark.

6. Hit-Girl _____ (to talk) on the phone with her friends, when she suddenly _____ (to hear) a suspicious noise.

7. Wonder Woman _____ (not/to use) any high-tech gadgetry before she _____ (to meet) Steve Trevor.

Answers:

1. was fighting, shot

2. raised

3. was designing, was training

4. Defected, joined

5. was

6. was talking, heard

7. was not using, met