

www.**Breaking News English**.com

Ready-to-use ESL/EFL Lessons by Sean Banville

"1,000 IDEAS & ACTIVITIES FOR LANGUAGE TEACHERS"
The Breaking News English.com Resource Book
<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/book.html>

Batman could fly, but he'd crash and die

12th July, 2012

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1207/120712-batman.html>

Contents

The Article	2
Warm-ups	3
Before Reading / Listening	4
While Reading / Listening	5
Listening Gap Fill	6
After Reading / Listening	7
Student Survey	8
Discussion	9
Language Work	10
Writing	11
Homework	12
Answers	13

Follow Sean Banville on

Twitter



twitter.com/SeanBanville

Facebook



www.facebook.com/pages/BreakingNewsEnglish/155625444452176

Google +



plus.google.com/110990608764591804698/posts

THE ARTICLE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1207/120712-batman.html>

Scientists have finally answered one of life's mysteries – whether Batman can really fly. Researchers from Leicester University in the U.K. conducted tests on the type of cape Batman wears as he flies around Gotham City watching for mischief and criminals. They concluded that he would be able to glide pretty well, but would crash at high speed and die once he tried to land. The researchers say this is because the wingspan of his cape is too short to allow him to land smoothly. Researcher and superhero addict David Marshall said: "If Batman wanted to survive the flight, he would definitely need a bigger cape. Or if he preferred to keep his style intact he could opt for...jets to keep himself aloft."

The research paper is called 'Trajectory of a Falling Batman'. The research team tested the physics behind the cape worn in the 2005 movie "Batman Begins". The wingspan of the cape is 4.7 metres, which is around half that needed for a human to land safely. The research team said that if Batman jumped from a building about 150 metres high, he would be able to glide for about 350 metres. The problem would come when he attempted to land. The impact would be the equivalent of being hit by a car driving at 80kph. The team concluded that: "Clearly gliding using a batcape is not a safe way to travel, unless a method to rapidly slow down is used such as a parachute."

Batman could fly, but he'd crash and die – 12th July, 2012

More free lessons at www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com - Copyright Sean Banville 2012

WARM-UPS

1. SUPERHEROES: Walk around the class and talk to other students about Batman and other superheroes. Change partners often. Share your findings with your first partner.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, decide which of these topics or words from the article are most interesting and which are most boring.

scientists / mysteries / Batman's cape / glide / high speed / superhero / addict / trajectory / wingspan / land safely / equivalent / safe way to travel / parachute

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

3. SUPER POWERS: Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners and share what you wrote. Change and share again.

Super power	How useful?	What would you do with this power?
Ability to fly		
X-ray vision		
Read minds		
Turn into anything		
Superhuman strength		
Hypnosis		

4. BATCAPE: Students A **strongly** believe everyone will have a kind of batcape one day so we can fly to work / school; Students B **strongly** believe this is impossible. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

5. HERO: Rank these heroes and share your rankings with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- your favourite sports star
- Superman
- Powerpuff girls
- Aung San Suu Kyi
- your country's leader
- Wonder Woman
- Usain Bolt
- Gandhi

6. MYSTERY: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word 'mystery'. Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1207/120712-batman.html>

1. TRUE / FALSE:

Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

- | | |
|--|-------|
| a. Batman has answered one of life's mysteries about scientists. | T / F |
| b. Scientists say anyone using Batman's cape would drop to the ground. | T / F |
| c. The wingspan of Batman's cape is too short to be able to fly well. | T / F |
| d. A scientist said the cape could work if it had jets in it. | T / F |
| e. The study into Batman's ability to fly was a real research paper. | T / F |
| f. A cape capable of flying needs to be 10 times bigger than Batman's. | T / F |
| g. Batman could glide for 350 metres from a 150-metre high jump site. | T / F |
| h. The scientists said a batcape is safer than a parachute. | T / F |

2. SYNONYM MATCH:

Match the following synonyms from the article.

- | | |
|---------------|----------------|
| 1. finally | a. touch down |
| 2. conducted | b. devotee |
| 3. mischief | c. carried out |
| 4. addict | d. course |
| 5. intact | e. at last |
| 6. trajectory | f. tried |
| 7. land | g. collision |
| 8. attempted | h. wrongdoing |
| 9. impact | i. quickly |
| 10. rapidly | j. unbroken |

3. PHRASE MATCH:

(Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Scientists have finally answered | a. to keep himself aloft |
| 2. watching for mischief | b. hit by a car |
| 3. crash at high speed and die | c. slow down |
| 4. land | d. the physics |
| 5. he could opt for jets | e. one of life's mysteries |
| 6. The research team tested | f. safe way to travel |
| 7. around half that needed for a | g. once he tried to land |
| 8. the equivalent of being | h. and criminals |
| 9. using a batcape is not a | i. human to land safely |
| 10. a method to rapidly | j. smoothly |

Batman could fly, but he'd crash and die - 12th July, 2012

WHILE READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1207/120712-batman.html>

GAP FILL: Put the words into the gaps in the text.

Scientists have (1) _____ answered one of life's mysteries – whether Batman can really fly. Researchers from Leicester University in the U.K. (2) _____ tests on the type of cape Batman wears as he flies around Gotham City watching for (3) _____ and criminals. They concluded that he would be able to (4) _____ pretty well, but would crash at high speed and die once he tried to land. The researchers say this is because the (5) _____ of his cape is too short to allow him to land (6) _____. Researcher and superhero addict David Marshall said: "If Batman wanted to survive the (7) _____, he would definitely need a bigger cape. Or if he preferred to keep his style (8) _____ he could opt for...jets to keep himself aloft."

glide
smoothly
conducted
intact
finally
flight
mischief
wingspan

The research paper is called 'Trajectory of a Falling Batman'. The research team tested the (9) _____ behind the cape worn in the 2005 movie "Batman Begins". The wingspan of the cape is 4.7 metres, which is around (10) _____ that needed for a human to land safely. The research team said that if Batman (11) _____ from a building about 150 metres high, he would be able to (12) _____ for about 350 metres. The problem would come when he attempted to land. The (13) _____ would be the (14) _____ of being hit by a car driving at 80kph. The team concluded that: "Clearly gliding using a batcape is not a (15) _____ way to travel, unless a method to (16) _____ slow down is used such as a parachute."

glide
half
safe
equivalent
physics
rapidly
jumped
impact

Batman could fly, but he'd crash and die – 12th July, 2012

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1207/120712-batman.html>

Scientists have finally answered (1) _____ - whether Batman can really fly. Researchers from Leicester University in the U.K. conducted tests (2) _____ Batman wears as he flies around Gotham City (3) _____ and criminals. They concluded that he would be able to glide pretty well, but would crash at high (4) _____ he tried to land. The researchers say this is because the wingspan of his cape is (5) _____ to land smoothly. Researcher and superhero addict David Marshall said: "If Batman wanted to survive the flight, he would definitely need a bigger cape. Or if he preferred to (6) _____ he could opt for...jets to keep himself aloft."

The research paper is called 'Trajectory of a Falling Batman'. The research team (7) _____ the cape worn in the 2005 movie "Batman Begins". The wingspan of the cape is 4.7 metres, which is around (8) _____ for a human to land safely. The research team said that if Batman jumped from a building about 150 metres high, he would (9) _____ about 350 metres. The problem would come when (10) _____. The impact would be the (11) _____ a car driving at 80kph. The team concluded that: "Clearly gliding using a batcape is not a safe way to travel, unless a (12) _____ down is used such as a parachute."

Batman could fly, but he'd crash and die - 12th July, 2012

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1207/120712-batman.html>

1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'bat' and 'man'.

bat	man

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS: Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

3. GAP FILL: In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

4. VOCABULARY: Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

5. TEST EACH OTHER: Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• finally• flies• pretty• short• survive• keep	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• tested• movie• half• 350• impact• rapidly
---	--

SUPERHEROES SURVEY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1207/120712-batman.html>

Write five GOOD questions about superheroes 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 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
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.

SUPERHEROES DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

- a) What did you think when you read the headline?
- b) What springs to mind when you hear the word 'Batman'?
- c) What do you think of Batman?
- d) Who is your favourite superhero?
- e) Why do you think superheroes are so popular?
- f) Are you surprised a story about a man with the powers of a bat has been a worldwide success for half a century?
- g) Would you like a cape like Batman's?
- h) If you had Batman's powers, would you use them for good or bad things?
- i) Are you addicted to anything (music, sport, coffee, shopping...)?
- j) Which is safer – a cape or jets?

Batman could fly, but he'd crash and die – 12th July, 2012
More free lessons at www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com

SUPERHEROES DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

- a) Did you like reading this article?
- b) Are there enough female superheroes?
- c) How do the superheroes in your culture compare to Batman, Superman, Spiderman, etc.?
- d) Do you think the movie studios ever did a study on the physics behind their superheroes' powers?
- e) Which superhero's power would you like?
- f) Would you use a batcape if it worked? Where would you go
- g) Do you know any real-life superheroes?
- h) What superhero would you invent if a Hollywood story paid you?
- i) What questions would you like to ask Batman?
- j) What do you think his answers would be?

LANGUAGE – MULTIPLE CHOICE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1207/120712-batman.html>

Scientists have finally answered one of life's (1) ____ - whether Batman can really fly. Researchers from Leicester University in the U.K. conducted tests (2) ____ the type of cape Batman wears as he flies around Gotham City watching for mischief and criminals. They concluded that he would be able to glide (3) ____ well, but would crash at high speed and die once he tried to (4) _____. The researchers say this is because the wingspan of his cape is too short to allow him to land smoothly. Researcher and superhero (5) ____ David Marshall said: "If Batman wanted to survive the (6) _____, he would definitely need a bigger cape. Or if he preferred to keep his style intact he could opt for...jets to keep himself aloft."

The research paper is called 'Trajectory of a Falling Batman'. The research team tested the physics (7) ____ the cape worn in the 2005 movie "Batman Begins". The wingspan of the cape is 4.7 metres, which is around half (8) ____ needed for a human to land safely. The research team said that if Batman jumped from a building about 150 metres high, he would be able to glide for about 350 metres. The problem would (9) ____ when he attempted to land. The (10) ____ would be the equivalent of being hit by a car driving at 80kph. The team concluded that: "Clearly gliding using a batcape is not a safe way to travel, (11) ____ a method to (12) ____ slow down is used such as a parachute."

Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

- | | | | | |
|-----|----------------|---------------|------------------|---------------|
| 1. | (a) mysterious | (b) mysticism | (c) mysteriously | (d) mysteries |
| 2. | (a) in | (b) of | (c) on | (d) as |
| 3. | (a) cute | (b) pretty | (c) lovely | (d) beautiful |
| 4. | (a) land | (b) ground | (c) earth | (d) dirt |
| 5. | (a) user | (b) abuser | (c) addict | (d) hero |
| 6. | (a) flint | (b) freight | (c) fright | (d) flight |
| 7. | (a) next to | (b) behind | (c) in front of | (d) between |
| 8. | (a) that | (b) which | (c) from | (d) whether |
| 9. | (a) go | (b) come | (c) depart | (d) arrive |
| 10. | (a) compact | (b) pact | (c) impact | (d) repacked |
| 11. | (a) unless | (b) although | (c) even though | (d) though |
| 12. | (a) rapids | (b) rapidity | (c) rabidly | (d) rapidly |

Batman could fly, but he'd crash and die - 12th July, 2012

HOMework

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find out more about Batman. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. SUPERHEROES: Make a poster about superheroes. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. BATMAN: Write a magazine article about Batman. Include imaginary interviews with him.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

5. LETTER: Write a letter to Batman. Ask him three questions about his life. Give him three things he should focus on doing from now. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

TRUE / FALSE:

a. F b. F c. T d. T e. T f. F g. T h. F

SYNONYM MATCH:

- | | |
|---------------|----------------|
| 1. finally | a. at last |
| 2. conducted | b. carried out |
| 3. mischief | c. wrongdoing |
| 4. addict | d. devotee |
| 5. intact | e. unbroken |
| 6. trajectory | f. course |
| 7. land | g. touch down |
| 8. attempted | h. tried |
| 9. impact | i. collision |
| 10. rapidly | j. quickly |

PHRASE MATCH:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Scientists have finally answered | a. one of life's mysteries |
| 2. watching for mischief | b. and criminals |
| 3. crash at high speed and die | c. once he tried to land |
| 4. land | d. smoothly |
| 5. he could opt for jets | e. to keep himself aloft |
| 6. The research team tested | f. the physics |
| 7. around half that needed for a | g. human to land safely |
| 8. the equivalent of being | h. hit by a car |
| 9. using a batcape is not a | i. safe way to travel |
| 10. a method to rapidly | j. slow down |

GAP FILL:

Batman could fly, but he'd crash and die

Scientists have (1) **finally** answered one of life's mysteries – whether Batman can really fly. Researchers from Leicester University in the U.K. (2) **conducted** tests on the type of cape Batman wears as he flies around Gotham City watching for (3) **mischief** and criminals. They concluded that he would be able to (4) **glide** pretty well, but would crash at high speed and die once he tried to land. The researchers say this is because the (5) **wingspan** of his cape is too short to allow him to land (6) **smoothly**. Researcher and superhero addict David Marshall said: "If Batman wanted to survive the (7) **flight**, he would definitely need a bigger cape. Or if he preferred to keep his style (8) **intact** he could opt for...jets to keep himself aloft."

The research paper is called 'Trajectory of a Falling Batman'. The research team tested the (9) **physics** behind the cape worn in the 2005 movie "Batman Begins". The wingspan of the cape is 4.7 metres, which is around (10) **half** that needed for a human to land safely. The research team said that if Batman (11) **jumped** from a building about 150 metres high, he would be able to (12) **glide** for about 350 metres. The problem would come when he attempted to land. The (13) **impact** would be the (14) **equivalent** of being hit by a car driving at 80kph. The team concluded that: "Clearly gliding using a batcape is not a (15) **safe** way to travel, unless a method to (16) **rapidly** slow down is used such as a parachute."

LANGUAGE WORK

1 - d 2 - c 3 - b 4 - a 5 - c 6 - d 7 - b 8 - a 9 - b 10 - c 11 - a 12 - d