

Reading

Hi Jason

I've been trying to phone you. I've tried a few times, but your mobile seems permanently switched off. I didn't want to send you an email, but I need to tell you something before you go on holiday tomorrow. I think it's better that we won't be able to see each other now for three weeks. I hope you aren't furious with me. Your holiday will give you time to think about what I'm going to say.

We haven't been getting on very well for a few months now. I know we've got a lot in common and we always have fun when we're together, but I'm not in love with you. I like you very much and you're a brilliant friend, but I don't want to go out with you any more. I've been trying to tell you since we had that argument at Sue's party, but I've never found the right moment. I haven't met another boy. I know you've been flirting with other girls. I'm sure you'll find another girlfriend soon.

We've had a good time, but we're still young and I don't want a serious relationship at the moment. I want to go to university next year and I want to be free to meet new people and make new friends. I know we've talked about going to the same university, but my decision changes everything. I hope you can understand this.

Have a good holiday and see you at school in September.

Julie

PS Could you reply to this email, so I know you've received it?

1. Why hasn't Julie spoken to Jason on the phone?
2. How long has Julie been trying to tell Jason?
3. What does Julie want to tell Jason?
4. What does Julie want to be able to do at university?
5. Why does Julie ask Jason to reply to her email?



Reading

Do you like comics? In the 1950s and 60s, many teenagers used to read comics like Batman, Superman or X Men. Some were so fascinated by comics that they would continue reading them when they grew up. They were comic **'geeks'**: intelligent, often unsociable young people who identified more with the worlds of fantasy and science fiction than the real world. Geeks still exist today; in the popular TV comedy series The Big Bang Theory, the main characters are science geeks who are big fans of comics, fantasy games and Comic-Con.

Comic-Con doesn't try to make money. In fact it describes itself as a **non-profit organisation** that exists to make comics and related art forms more popular through conventions and events. In 1970, a group of about 100 comic fans got together in San Diego, California for the first Comic-Con, or convention. They decided to include not only comics, but also other aspects of popular culture, including fantasy and science-fiction games, books and films from all over the world. Within 30 years, Comic-Con had grown into a huge three-day international convention, with over 120,000 visitors every year. Today there are exhibitions, comics to buy, games to play, educational sessions, talks, a film festival, and even an **awards** ceremony known as the 'Oscars' of the comic industry.

Nowadays, there are comic conventions all over the world, but Comic-Con is the most iconic. It attracts famous film stars, writers and artists from the world of comics. Many of the fans who visit it wear costumes of comic book characters, and sometimes famous stars wear a **disguise** too so they can **wander round** the convention like all the other fans. In 2014, Daniel Radcliffe walked around Comic-Con dressed in a Spiderman costume with a face mask, and no one recognised him. So if you go to Comic-Con, you never know who might be next to you!

Read the article about Comic-Con. Tick the kind of people who go there.

- | | |
|----------------|-------------------------|
| famous actors | young people |
| comic artists | teachers |
| young children | science-fiction writers |



A. Complete the sentences with the words in bold from the text.

- 1 He's a really good footballer and has won a lot of **Player of the Year** .
- 2 My sister and her friends spend all their time on maths problems. They are such **maths problems** !
- 3 We're going to **visit** the old town this morning and look at the little shops.
- 4 I help at an animal rescue centre. It's a(n) **volunteer** , so they don't pay me.
- 5 The pop star didn't want anyone to see him, so he went shopping in **disguise** .

B. Choose the correct answers.

1 What used to be popular with teenagers in the 1950s and 60s?

stories about superheroes science-fiction and fantasy games

2 When was the first Comic-Con convention?

in the 1950s in 1970

3 What can you see at Comic-Con today?

lots of different things comics, games, books and TV comedy programmes

4 How can famous people become 'Invisible' at Comic-Con?

by behaving like all the other fans by wearing a disguise

C. Who or what is each sentence about?

- 1 Teenagers started reading them in the 1950s and 60s.
- 2 They preferred a fantasy world to real life.
- 3 Its aim is to make the worlds of fantasy and science fiction better known.
- 4 The 100 people who met in San Diego in 1970 for the first convention.
- 5 This is what Comic-Con has become.
- 6 There are more than a hundred thousand of these.
- 7 You can learn and get information about the world of comics at these.
- 8 Definitely the most famous comic event internationally.
- 9 Many of the visitors wear these at Comic-Con.
- 10 He visited Comic-Con and no one knew who he was.

