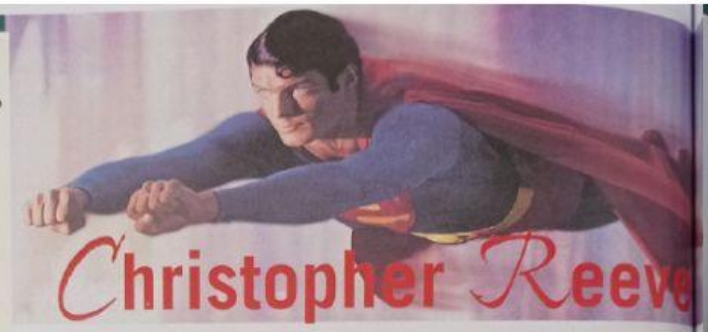
Present Perfect - vocabulary

Superheroes Reading Comprehension

Before you start

1 What do you know about Christopher Reeve? Look at the pictures to help you answer the questions.

1 What was his most famous film role?
2 What terrible thing happened to him in real life?
3 What is he doing nowadays?



Christopher Reeve

'After the accident, Dana was told to say goodbye and people were talking about my funeral.'

1 Not long ago, Christopher Reeve had everything. He was a successful actor, famous for the *Superman* films. But in 1996, when he appeared at Hollywood's Oscar ceremony, he went in a wheelchair.

2 Disaster came in 1995 when he fell from his horse and broke his back. The doctors did not expect him to live. However, since then he has made remarkable progress. At first, he couldn't breathe without a machine, but now he can breathe on his own.

3 His personal campaign to promote research into spinal injuries is also impressive. Christopher has given talks all over the USA about his experiences. This has drawn attention to the issue of spinal injuries.

From their home, Christopher and his wife Dana spoke about their life since the accident.

4 **Did you suffer from depression after the accident?**

'No. Four days after the injury, I came to, and realised my situation. Dana and I were in the hospital. The doctor said I was not going to pull through. Dana said: "But you're still you, and I love you." And that saved my life. Since that moment I have never thought of giving up. Of course, I've had moments of feeling sorry for myself, but I've never had any thoughts of suicide.'

5 **Did you think that your marriage was so strong?**

'Yes, because Dana's so terrific. We have always got on really well. Our relationship has always been fantastic.'

6 **How did your parents react to the accident?**

'They divorced when I was four. They've got closer since the accident.'

7 **What medical research is there into injuries like yours?**

'Scientists are working on a cure. They've already proved that it's possible for nerves in the spinal cords of animals to regrow and reconnect. So, I'm very optimistic.'

8 Christopher Reeve has a new purpose in his life. He has raised lots of money for the American Paralysis Organisation. His achievements since his accident have shown him to be a real-life superman.

(Adapted from *Hello!* magazine)

1 How would you describe Christopher Reeve?
2 What kind of person is his wife?



LIVEWORKSHEETS

Identify the verbs in the Present Perfect Tense and complete the chart

Infinitive verbs	Present Perfect
make	
give	
draw	
think	
have	
get	
be	
prove	
raise	
show	

3 Match the topics with the parts of the article.

a) the riding accident [2]
b) his marriage [ ]
c) his feelings after the accident [ ]
d) before the accident [ ]
e) his parents [ ]
f) his achievements since the accident [ ]
g) medical research [ ]
h) his campaign [ ]

Now choose the correct meaning for each word. (Numbers in brackets refer to parts of the text.)

1 disaster (2)	a) something happy	b) something very bad
2 remarkable (2)	a) surprisingly bad	b) surprisingly good
3 research (3)	a) serious study to discover new ideas	b) money raised for charity
4 impressive (3)	a) admirable	b) dangerous
5 issue (3)	a) topic	b) injury
6 optimistic (7)	a) positive about the future	b) negative about the future

6 Use the Strategies to help you choose the correct meaning for the multi-part verbs.

1 come to (4)	a) to get better	b) to wake up
2 pull through (4)	a) to survive	b) to walk
3 give up (4)	a) to be afraid	b) to stop fighting
4 get on (5)	a) to have a friendly relationship	b) to escape

LIVEWORKSHEETS