



## Comic Book Conventions

### 1. CONTEXT

Mindmap anything you know about the topic, including vocabulary. Do some research online to help.

### 2. QUESTIONS

Read the listening questions to check your understanding. Look up any new vocabulary.

### 3. LISTEN

Listen and answer the questions using full sentences. Circle the number of times and % you understood.

Listening 1				
1	2	3	4	5
%	%	%	%	%

Listening 2				
1	2	3	4	5
%	%	%	%	%

#### Listening Questions 1

- Why did fans originally start hosting comic book conventions?  
\_\_\_\_\_.
- When and where was the first Comic-Con held? How has it changed?  
\_\_\_\_\_.
- How does Comiket differ from Comic-Con?  
\_\_\_\_\_.
- What is a "circle"? How many are usually present at Comiket?  
\_\_\_\_\_.
- What is one feature shared by Comic-Con and Comiket?  
\_\_\_\_\_.

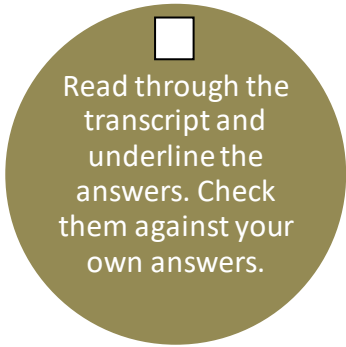
#### Listening Questions 2

- What is cosplay and where do cosplayers draw their inspiration from?  
\_\_\_\_\_.
- What kind of event does Comic-Con have every year related to cosplay?  
\_\_\_\_\_.
- How much did Enako make per month from cosplay appearances in 2017?  
\_\_\_\_\_.
- How else can cosplayers make money?  
\_\_\_\_\_.
- What issues has cosplay caused for comic book conventions?  
\_\_\_\_\_.

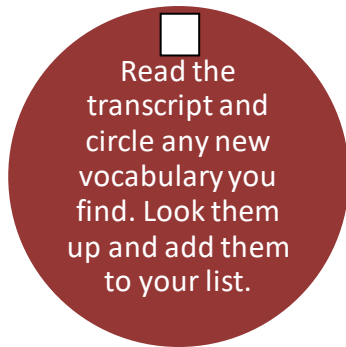
#### Discussion Questions

- How do you feel the mainstreaming of comic culture has affected society? Has this affect been positive?
- What aspects of Japanese culture have been exported around the world? What aspects do you think will explode in popularity next?

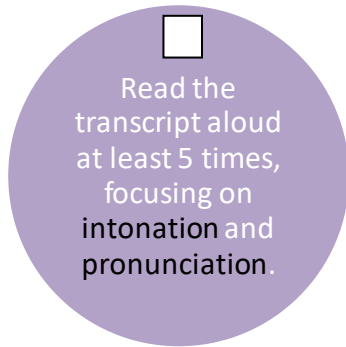
#### 4. CHECK ANSWERS



#### 5. CHECK VOCABULARY

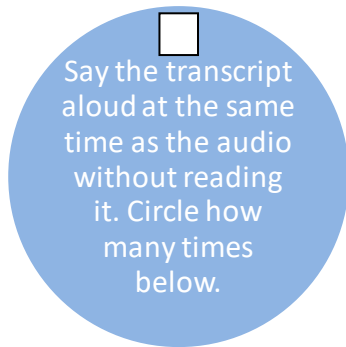


#### 6. READ ALOUD



1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5

#### 7. SHADOWING



1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5

### TRANSCRIPT 1

From blockbuster movies to theme parks, comic book culture has entered **mainstream** society in a big way over the last decade. However, comics have not always enjoyed such success. Fans of this **medium** wanted to create a space where like-minded people could gather, **hence** the emergence of comic book conventions.

Two of the major comic book conventions are Comic-Con and Comiket. Comic-Con started in 1970 in San Diego, California and was originally focused primarily on science fiction and fantasy media, with a heavy spotlight on comics. It has gradually expanded over the years to include products related to gaming, anime, films and other forms of popular culture.

Japan holds another major comic book convention called Comiket. Similar to Comic-Con it is non-profit, but differs in that it primarily features fan-created works and publications. The works are known as dojinshi and the authors are referred to as dojin. There is of course a corporate **presence** at the event but the majority of works are produced by “circles,” or amateur author groups. There is an average of 35,000 circles present each year. Despite the differences between the two events, both share features in common such as a strong connection to cosplay.

MATCH THE SYNONYMS BY DRAWING LINES BELOW:

Presence	As a Result
Mainstream	Complication
Hence	Occurrence
Phenomenon	Interweaving
Overlapping	Conventional
Medium	Existence
Snag	Form

### TRANSCRIPT 2

Cosplay, a combination of the terms costume and play, is a social **phenomenon** where fans dress up in elaborate costumes based on characters from popular culture including comics. Due to the **overlapping** of source material, Comic-Con and Comiket both have a robust cosplay presence. Comic-Con even has an annual cosplay competition where the best costumes of the year are recognized. It has become so popular that there are now conventions dedicated specifically to cosplay.

As with all popular phenomena, there is a financial side to cosplay as well. One of the premier cosplayers in Japan, Enako, stated in 2017 that she made close to 1 million yen per month from her cosplay appearances alone. Cosplayers seek to make money through appearances, social media posts and photo shoots. Costumes can represent a significant investment for them as top-tier designs can run into the thousands of dollars.

The relationship between cosplay and conventions is mostly a beneficial one; however there have been a few **snags**. Events have had to designate specific areas and rules for cosplay to avoid congestion and protect the safety of the cosplayers as well.