Are you a Marvel fan? Watch this video to find out about Stan Lee, the creator of Spider-Man.

Do the preparation task first. Then watch the video and do the exercises. Remember you can read the transcript at any time.

**Preparation**

Match the vocabulary with the correct definition and write a–h next to the numbers 1–8.

1. live action
2. animated
3. a superhero
4. a publisher
5. a franchise
6. a cameo (appearance)
7. an iconic character
8. multimedia

1. someone in a film or story who has special powers and helps other people
2. a person or company that produces and sells magazines, books, etc.
3. a very famous and popular character in a story or film
4. (of a film) involving actors, not drawn images or models
5. (of a film or cartoon) made of hand-drawn or computer-drawn images
6. involving several types of media, such as books, television, films or music
7. a small part in a film, but played by someone very famous
8. a series of films that are connected to each other by having a continuing story or the same characters

1. Check your understanding: true or false

Circle **True** or **False** for these sentences.

1. Stan Lee was a comic book writer, editor and publisher. **True** **False**
2. Spider-Man was the only character he created. **True** **False**
3. There were a lot of superhero films in cinemas in the 1930s and 1940s. **True** **False**
4. In the 1960s he began writing comic books. **True** **False**
5. Stan Lee had major acting parts in many Marvel films. **True** **False**
6. The reason why his superheroes are successful is that they are perfect characters. **True** **False**
2. Check your vocabulary: gap fill
Complete the sentences with words from the box.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>animated</th>
<th>publisher</th>
<th>assistant</th>
<th>multimedia</th>
<th>franchise</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>comic books</td>
<td>extraordinary</td>
<td>ordinary</td>
<td>live</td>
<td>billions</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. In 1939, Stan started working as an ________________ at Timely Comics, a small comic-book ________________.

2. In the 1960s, Marvel comic characters appeared in ________________ action and ________________ films and television programmes.

3. Marvel is now a huge ________________ company with a value of ________________ of dollars.

4. Fans think of Stan Lee as the father of ________________. The Marvel ________________ that he created is huge and very successful.

5. His characters show us that ________________ people have the power to do ________________ things.

Discussion
Do you like comic books and superheroes? Who are your favourites, and why?