

Longman English

EDGE

2nd Edition

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2A

1

It's showtime!

My learning journey:

Reading

- An article about the popularity of superhero films  Arts Education
- A blog post on films about families  Arts Education



Recognising paraphrases

Vocabulary

- Aspects of films
- Types of films and adjectives to describe films

Language

- Describing what happens in a story (The simple present)
- Talking about facts or actions in a story (The passive voice (I))
- Making meanings stronger or weaker (Adverbs of degree)

Listening

- A radio interview with a film director



Inferring opinions

Speaking

- Giving opinions about films



Giving opinions

Task

I will write a **film review**.



Writing supporting sentences



Warm-up

What was the last film you saw? What was it like? Circle the descriptions that match the film you saw. Let's see if you can get a line of four circles — as soon as you do, shout 'BINGO'!



The last film I saw ...

... was seen less than 2 months ago.	... had an explosion scene. 	... had someone falling in love.	... was animated.
... made me laugh. 	... had a non-human character.	 ... had someone stealing.	... was seen in the cinema.
... had someone in danger. 	... had someone with magic or superpowers.	 ... had a rain scene.	... made me cry. 
... was seen online.	... had a dancing scene.	... was longer than 90 minutes.	... had a happy ending.

Did you win the BINGO game? Tell your classmates how your film matches or does not match the descriptions.

Pre-reading

1 Skim the text.

What type of film is the magazine article about?



Look at the title and pictures.

2 Match these words (A–C) with their meanings.

A massive (adj) (line 14)

☐ honest

B sincere (adj) (line 17)

☐ shy

C withdrawn (adj) (line 25)

☐ huge

Lots of people love superhero films. Why do you think they are so popular? Read the magazine article to learn some reasons why people are fans.

Why we love superhero films



Scenes in superhero films are often created using computer-generated images (CGI).

1 Who's your favourite superhero? Is it Batman or Spider-Man, Wonder Woman or Captain America? Maybe you love them all! Lots of people do. Superhero films are incredibly popular. Loads of superhero films are released by studios every year. Fans never seem to get tired of them. Why do we love superhero films so much?

2 For one thing, they're very enjoyable to watch. Everybody loves an action-packed fight or a suspenseful chase. It feels good to see our heroes win and evil villains lose. It's also fun to watch superheroes clash with each other. (Whose side were you on — Iron Man's or Captain America's — in *Captain America: Civil War*?) Special effects using modern computer-generated images (CGI) add to the entertainment too. They give us breathtaking scenes like the climax of *Avengers: Endgame*, where nearly every superhero joins a massive battle against their enemies.

15 **3** A deeper reason why we love these films is that we look
up to superheroes. They're good and we all love to see the good
guys triumph. They're brave and sincere, and both are qualities
that we'd like to have but lack. In *Wonder Woman*, the Amazon
princess Diana leaves the safety of home and uses her
20 superpowers to help end a world war. Her courage makes
her our hero.



Diana in *Wonder Woman*

4 However, superheroes aren't perfect. They have weaknesses
like everyone else, so we can understand and share what they
feel. Spider-Man, for example, may swing through the air and
25 catch criminals, but he's also a rather withdrawn teenager
with problems at home and school. In *Spider-Man: Far from Home*,
his secret identity is revealed and his personal life is
turned upside down.

5 In the past, superhero films with their straightforward
30 stories were considered 'kid's stuff', but times have changed.
Modern superhero films attract a far wider audience. Many of
today's adults grew up reading superhero comics. Now they
want to see their childhood heroes on screen. It's no surprise
then that these films are both popular and extremely profitable.



The cast of *Black Panther*

35 **6** We love superhero films because they entertain and inspire
us. They're a major part of popular culture. We'll be watching
them for years to come, so it's a good thing we really love them!

Grammar in text

We can make the meanings of words stronger or weaker by using **adverbs of degree**.

incredibly popular

rather withdrawn

Can you find other examples in the text? Underline them.

Values corner

Take on challenges

Some people say that anyone can be a superhero. Do you agree? Why or why not?

Choose role models wisely

Are famous actors good role models? Why or why not?



Reading skill

Recognising paraphrases

When we try to understand information, we can look for paraphrases (the same idea expressed in another way). Paraphrases sometimes include synonyms (words with the same or similar meaning) to express the same idea differently.

1 *Star Door* is a **thrilling** **new sci-fi film**.

2 The **new sci-fi film** *Star Door* is **exciting**.

In the above example, sentence 2 is a paraphrase of sentence 1. They express the same idea because 'thrilling' and 'exciting' are synonyms.

Part A Answer the questions using information from Reading 1. Blacken one circle only.



1 According to paragraph 1, studios release _____ superhero films every year.

- ☐ A bad
- ☐ B few
- ☐ C good
- ☐ D many



2 In paragraph 2, the writer says we enjoy seeing _____.

- ☐ A bad people fail
- ☐ B good people lose
- ☐ C superheroes help each other
- ☐ D all of the above

3 In line 14, the word 'battle' is closest in meaning to _____.

- ☐ A fight
- ☐ B protest
- ☐ C scene
- ☐ D team

4 According to paragraph 3, the writer thinks that _____.

- ☐ A audiences like to see bad people win
- ☐ B many people want to be superheroes
- ☐ C people sometimes are not brave or honest
- ☐ D superheroes are just like ordinary people

5 In line 28, the phrase 'turned upside down' can be replaced with _____.

- ☐ A completed
- ☐ B improved
- ☐ C saved
- ☐ D upset

6 According to paragraph 5, people used to think that superhero films were _____.

- ☐ A childish
- ☐ B educational
- ☐ C old-fashioned
- ☐ D profitable

7 According to paragraph 6, what does the writer think of superhero films?

- ☐ A They are part of our culture.
- ☐ B They make people feel good.
- ☐ C They will continue to be popular.
- ☐ D All of the above.

8 The main purpose of the article is to _____.

- ☐ A argue that superhero films are good
- ☐ B explain the popularity of superhero films
- ☐ C present facts about superhero films
- ☐ D suggest good superhero films to watch

Pre-reading

1 Skim the text.

What sort of films is the writer a fan of?

2 Scan the text.

How many films does the writer mention in the blog post?



Look for clues in the title and the first paragraph.



Look for words and phrases in italics.

Patti writes about popular culture in her blog. Read her blog post to find out why she is a fan of films about a particular topic.

Patti's place

<http://patti-s-place-wordblog.com/families-in-films>

Families in films

11 September

1 I enjoy films about families. Maybe it's because my relationship with my mum and dad is deep.

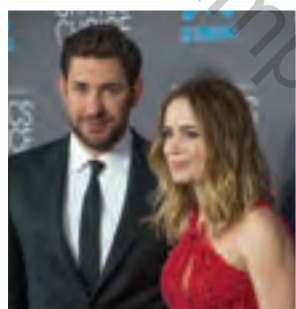
2 I liked the trailer for *Turning Red* when I saw it online. Then I watched the film and really loved it! It's an animated film about a 13-year-old girl, Mei Lee, and her mother, Ming. While Mei studies in Maths class, her mum gets into a big argument outside the classroom window. Mei feels so embarrassed that — Poof! — in a cloud of pink smoke, she turns into a giant red panda.

3 The film is written and directed by Domee Shi, maker of the award-winning animation *Bao*. *Turning Red* is set in Toronto, Canada. Rosalie Chiang is the voice of the main character, Mei, and her mum is played by well-known actor Sandra Oh. *Turning Red* is a really funny version of *The Incredible Hulk* — Mei becomes a rather cute monster when she's upset. Teenagers can relate to that!

4 Of course, not all films about families are dramas or comedies. Some are very scary, like the one I saw last week.

5 That was *A Quiet Place Part II*. In it, the members of a family must protect each other from killer aliens. They're blind but they're fast and have incredibly good hearing, so everyone must stay almost completely silent to survive. It all looks hopeless until the kids learn how to fight back.

6 *A Quiet Place Part II* is a sequel. It's directed by John Krasinski, who also plays the father in the film. The special effects are scary, though not very realistic. However,



The cast of *A Quiet Place Part II*

are brilliant, especially Millicent Simmonds as the deaf and clever daughter. I don't usually go for horror films, but now I'm eager to see the first one, *A Quiet Place*.

7 Now tell me *your* favourite films about families!

Grammar in text

We use the **passive voice** to focus attention on the receiver of an action.

Turning Red is set in ...
her mum is played by ...

Can you find other examples in the text? Underline them.

Values corner

Care for your family

Do you agree with the saying 'family comes first'? Why or why not?

Comprehension 2



Part A Text analysis Answer the questions using information from Reading 2.

- 1 There are reviews of two films in the blog post. Which paragraphs contain the reviews? Complete the table below. Part of the table has been completed for you as an example.

Title of the film	Paragraphs with the review
<i>Turning Red</i>	2,

- 2 What are the functions of the following phrases from the blog post reviews? Write the correct letters (A–C) in the boxes.

A Describe the plot of the film
C Express opinions about the film

B Give information about the background of the film

- a) 'her mum gets into a big argument' (line 6) ☐
- b) 'set in Toronto' (line 10) ☐
- c) 'a really funny version of *The Incredible Hulk*' (lines 12–13) ☐

- d) 'the members of a family must protect each other' (lines 17–18) ☐
- e) 'directed by John Krasinski' (lines 22–23) ☐
- f) 'extremely suspenseful scenes' (line 25) ☐

A What are some other forms of the words below? Write them in the spaces provided. 'Noun 1' must be the names of jobs.

	Noun 1 (Jobs)	Noun 2	Verb
a)	actor	acting	
b)	animator		animate
c)	composer	composition	
d)		direction	direct
e)	editor	editing	
f)		production	produce
g)			write

B Use some of the words from Part A to fill in the blanks below.

- Shirley Lam is the director of the film *Panda Games*. She is also going to _____ the sequel, *Panda Games 2*.
- The _____ of the action film *Amazing Journey* is Paul Peters. Mr Peters based his story on a real-life journey around the world.
- The Smith brothers have been actors for many years, but they still _____ terribly even now.
- Jenny Wong is a successful _____. She has written music for over twenty movies and television programmes.
- The popular anime series, *Life Force Beanie*, is drawn by Japanese _____ Ren Sato.
- Shawn Arnold, the _____ of the action film *Highway*, did not do a very good job. His editing of the chase scenes makes them too fast and extremely confusing.
- Oval Film Studios produces a lot of comedies, and its funniest _____ is its latest film, *I Was a Teenage Zombie*.

Aspects of films

A animation

B cast

C cinematography

D costume design

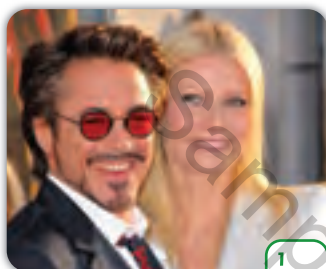
E lighting

F script

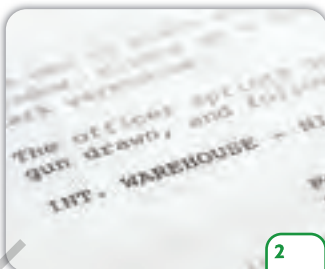
G soundtrack

H special effects

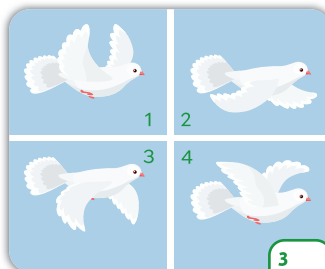
A What are the following aspects of film? Write the letters (A–H) in the boxes.



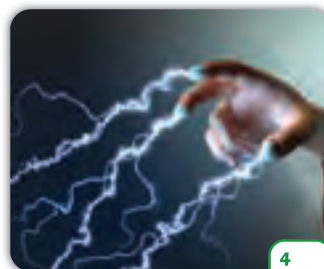
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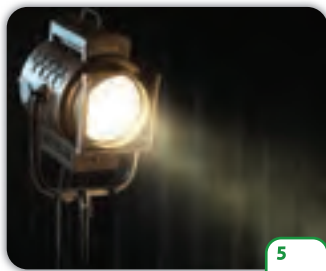
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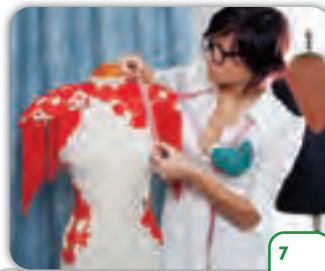
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5



6



7



8

B Complete the articles using the **aspects of films** above. Use one word for each blank.

Cathy the Cop

Cammie So's *Cathy the Cop* is a wonderful film about a girl who becomes a police officer for a day.

It has a great ¹ _____.

Everything Cathy says is very funny and smart. The ² _____ in the film is beautifully drawn. Characters are cute and loveable and are sure to make you laugh.

The ³ _____ for the film is good too. You can listen to it on the film's official website.

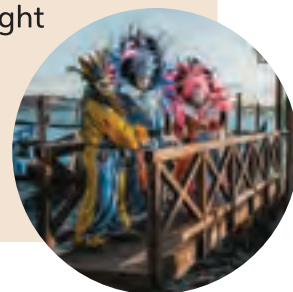


The Castle

Ken Lee's film, *The Castle*, is a hit because of its amazing ⁴ _____, such as a fire-breathing dragon.

The ⁵ _____ is incredible too. Clothes worn by the ⁶ _____ are eye-catching and really suit the film.

The film set is a real castle in Europe and the ⁷ _____ for all the scenes shot there is breathtaking. Bright ⁸ _____ throughout the film creates a cheerful mood overall.





Describing what happens in a story (The simple present)

We usually use **the simple past** to talk about actions, events and states that happened in the past.

Robert Downey Jr **played** Tony Stark in the 'Iron Man' movies.

I **saw** the new 'Star Trek' sequel but I **didn't like** it.

However, when we describe what happens in a story, we often use **the simple present**.

In the famous novel 'Journey to the West', a Chinese monk **travels** to India. Along the way, the monk **meets** Sun Wukong, the Monkey King.



Let's practise Complete the following descriptions of what happens in a story. Use the given verbs in either **the simple present** or **the simple past**. Make sure you use the correct forms of the verbs.

The monster film *Godzilla vs Kong* ¹ _____ (come) out in 2021. Its action and special effects ² _____ (receive) positive reviews at the time. In the film, King Kong ³ _____ (live) in a human-made home and ⁴ _____ (help) a team of humans investigate a sudden attack by Godzilla. Both monsters ⁵ _____ (fight) not only each other, but an even more dangerous enemy.

You can use these verbs:

- appear
- become
- begin
- find
- send

Death Note first ⁶ _____ in 2003 as a Japanese manga and it ⁷ _____ an anime in 2006. In the series, a clever student in Tokyo, Yagami, ⁸ _____ a mysterious black notebook with magical powers. When Yagami ⁹ _____ using it to kill criminals, officials ¹⁰ _____ a famous detective, L, to find out the killer.

Joanne and her friend Greg are chatting about a television programme. Complete their chat using the language items you have learnt in this unit.

You can use these **verbs**. Be sure to use the correct **tense** and **form**.

- attack
- base
- call
- enter
- have
- plan
- release
- use

You can use these **adverbs of degree**.

- almost
- fairly
- incredibly
- very

TODAY

Greg, have you seen the TV series 'Shadows and Bones'? Someone told me it's good.

Actually, the series ¹ _____ 'Shadow and Bone'. It ² _____ on fantasy novels by the author Leigh Bardugo. The first season ³ _____ in 2021 but I just saw a few episodes recently.

What's it about?

It's a fantasy story. In the first episode, a young woman, Alina, ⁴ _____ to cross the Fold (which is a dark, dangerous place). She ⁵ _____ the Fold with a group of friends but they ⁶ _____ by flying monsters. The special effects in that scene are ⁷ _____ amazing — wow! 😲

So what happens then? Do they all die?

No, Alina ⁸ _____ a special superpower which she ⁹ _____ against the monsters. I won't tell you any more in case you decide to watch it!

What about the acting?

The acting is ¹⁰ _____ good, I guess. Not great but acceptable.

And the plot?

That's the main problem. The story isn't ¹¹ _____ easy to follow ... It's ¹² _____ impossible to understand what's happening sometimes. 🤔

Hmm. Well, I guess I'll watch it if I have the chance. Thanks, Greg.



Listening skill

Inferring opinions

People sometimes express their opinions indirectly. You can infer what a speaker thinks or feels by listening for clues that help you guess their attitude.

I **never stopped smiling** throughout the film.



+

The film was **OK**. I **don't really remember too much** about it.



I **fell asleep** after the first thirty minutes.



-



Let's listen

Selena is interviewing a Hong Kong film director, Kyle Wong. Listen to Selena speaking with Kyle and complete the note sheet below.

Kyle Wong interview

Kyle's new film

Title: ¹ _____ Type of film: ² _____

Written by ³ _____ (based on a ⁴ _____)

Plot: A strange, old photo is found by a ⁵ _____. Then the photo begins to ⁶ _____ so ⁷ _____.

Lead actor: ⁸ _____ (Kyle's comment: Her acting is ⁹ _____ good.)



Opinions of his own past films Tick the box that best shows Kyle's opinion.

Film title	Positive	Neutral	Negative
¹⁰ <i>Class Clown</i>			
¹¹ <i>Stop!</i>			
¹² <i>The Judge</i>			
¹³ <i>Dark Night</i>			

Film reviews Blacken one circle only.

¹⁴ Kyle thinks that, in general, people who write film reviews _____.

- ☐ **A** are not film experts
 ☐ **B** help people decide which films to see
☐ **C** often don't watch the films
 ☐ **D** usually write very well



Speaking skill

Giving opinions

In a discussion, you may be asked to give an opinion. If you have an opinion, you should state it clearly and correctly. Remember, you can use **adverbs of degree** to make your opinion stronger or weaker.

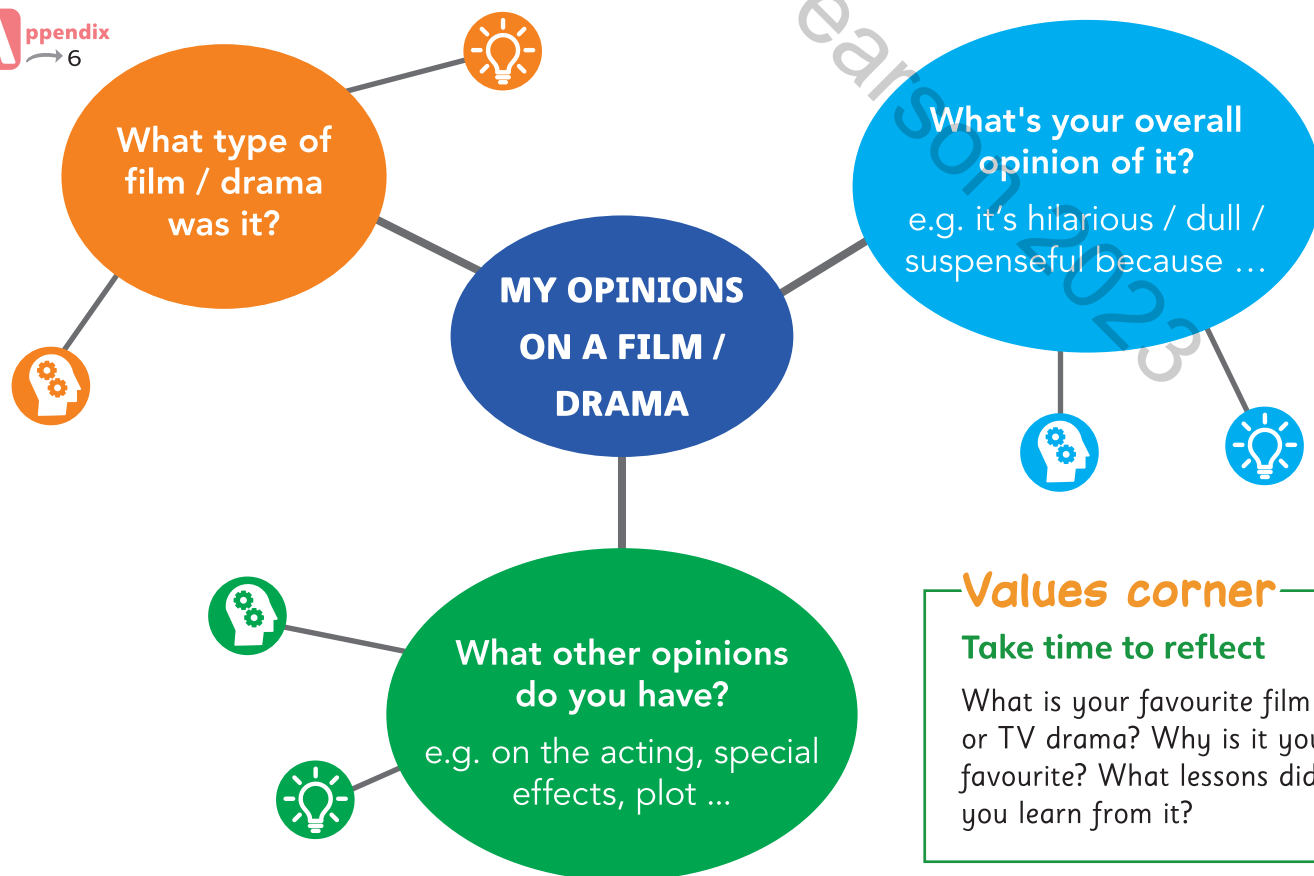
'All U Need is Love' is a **great** comedy. The story is **quite funny** and it's **amazing** to see all these famous Hong Kong actors in one film.

I **don't really** like 'Strangers'. It's a British TV programme and it's set in Hong Kong, but it's **not very realistic**.

I think the Marvel film 'Black Widow' is **fairly interesting**. The main actor, Scarlett Johansson, is **extremely good** but the plot is **rather complicated**. I **hardly** understood what was happening in some scenes.

Almost everyone watches films and TV dramas and has opinions about them. Form pairs and take turns sharing your opinions about a film or drama you have recently seen.

A ppendix
→ 6



Values corner

Take time to reflect

What is your favourite film or TV drama? Why is it your favourite? What lessons did you learn from it?

Task

Write a film review



Have you recently seen a film that you really liked ... or really hated? Write a review for *The Buzz*, a teen magazine, to tell everyone about it.

STEP 1 Get ready

Let's look at the genre and work out the audience, purpose(s) and style for this task. Tick the correct boxes.

G.A.P.S.

Genre: Film review

Audience: ☐ family and friends ☐ teachers ☐ young people

Purpose(s):

- ☐ to describe what a film is about ☐ to explain how to make a film
☐ to give an opinion about a film ☐ to give information about a film

Style: ☐ informal ☐ semi-formal ☐ formal

A review of a film, TV programme or performance is usually ...

- ☐ informative and entertaining ☐ persuasive and serious

Vocabulary Bank

Types of films

action film (*n phr*) p. 11

drama (*n*) p. 8

mystery (*n*) p. 13

superhero film (*n phr*) p. 4

animated film (*n phr*) p. 8

fantasy film (*n phr*) p. 24

romance (*n*) p. 13

thriller (*n*) p. 16

comedy (*n*) p. 8

horror film (*n phr*) p. 9

science fiction film (*n phr*) p. 13

Aspects of films

animation (*n*) p. 8

cinematography (*n*) p. 12

lighting (*n*) p. 12

script (*n*) p. 12

trailer (*n*) p. 8

cast (*n*) p. 5

costume design (*n phr*) p. 12

plot (*n*) p. 9

soundtrack (*n*) p. 12

twist (*n*) p. 25

character (*n*) p. 3

editing (*n*) p. 11

scene (*n*) p. 3

special effects (*n phr*) p. 4

Making a film

direct (*v*) p. 8

produce (*v*) p. 7

film (*v*) p. 15

release (*v*) p. 4

play (*v*) p. 8

write (*v*) p. 8

People related to films

actor (*n*) p. 8

director (*n*) p. 11

audience (*n*) p. 5

lead actor (*n phr*) p. 19

composer (*n*) p. 11

Adjectives to describe films

action-packed (*adj*) p. 4

complicated (*adj*) p. 20

hilarious (*adj*) p. 13

predictable (*adj*) p. 13

thrilling (*adj*) p. 6

breathhtaking (*adj*) p. 4

confusing (*adj*) p. 11

moving (*adj*) p. 25

realistic (*adj*) p. 9

charming (*adj*) p. 23

dull (*adj*) p. 13

original (*adj*) p. 25

suspenseful (*adj*) p. 4

Other vocabulary

entertainment (*n*) p. 4

inspire (*v*) p. 5

fairly (*adv*) p. 17

sequel (*n*) p. 9

incredibly (*adv*) p. 4

Self-assessment

How much have you learnt in this unit?
Go to the online platform to find out!