

Listen!



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# Cosplay



## Let's Think

1. How do you feel about people doing cosplay? Why?
2. Do you think cosplayers are creative? Why or why not?

You are Naomi. You are reading an article about cosplay in a magazine.

## COS-TUME FOR ROLE-PLAY

By Reika Miyuko

**H**ave you ever been to an event where people were all dressed in special costumes? Have you ever been to a café where the waiters and waitresses dressed like the maids in comics and anime? These are telling examples of cosplay.

The term 'cosplay' combines the word 'costume' with the word 'play'. It became a popular trend in the 1990s in Japan. At that time, fashionable teenagers went to parties or special events wearing costumes of characters they liked in cartoons, animated films or video games. Gradually, they also began to dress like the heroes or heroines in science fiction films or popular Hollywood films, and even the members of the bands they adored.

Japan is not the only place where cosplay has gained popularity. People in North America and

Europe also like to participate in cosplay events. However, their cosplay culture is different from that of the Japanese. First, the cosplayers are generally older and they often dress up as more mature characters. Second, many of them like to cosplay as science fiction characters, though sometimes they also cosplay as animated film characters.

Cosplay is now a very popular trend in Taiwan as well. Most of the cosplayers there make use of their creativity to make their own costumes. The hand-made costumes are striking. Therefore, in events such as the release of new comic books, cosplayers are often in the spotlight. They are photographers' favourite models. Cosplay has become such a hit that there are numerous cosplay clubs in Taiwan. Are you interested in joining one?



(250 words)

## Part A

Answer the following questions using the information from the article. Choose the **BEST** answer and blacken **ONE** circle only.

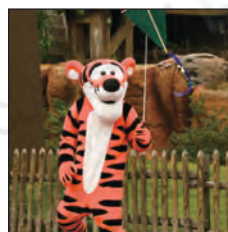
1. What is the article mainly about?  
 A. cosplay activities in Taiwan  
 B. the popularity of cosplay in different places  
 C. ways to dress up as characters in comic books  
 D. what cosplayers in different areas dress up as
2. The word 'striking' in line 35 means \_\_\_\_\_.  
 A. shocking  
 B. scary  
 C. strange  
 D. eye-catching
3. What is **TRUE** about cosplay?  
 A. Only teenagers enjoy cosplay.  
 B. The cosplay trend began before the 1980s.  
 C. Cosplay is popular in Japan only.  
 D. Cosplayers in Europe like to cosplay as characters in science fiction films.
4. According to the article, where can you most likely run into cosplayers?  
 A. in a bookstore  
 B. in a special café  
 C. in a boutique  
 D. in a cinema
5. You want to go to a cosplay party, which of the following costumes may you **NOT** dress up in?



A.



B.



C.



D.

## Grammar Corner

Some verbs can be followed by a **to-infinitive** only; some only by a **gerund**. Some verbs can be followed by both without much difference in meaning.

**e.g.** People in North America and Europe also like to participate / participating in cosplay events. (Lines 21-24)

A **gerund** is used after prepositions.

**e.g.** Are you interested in joining one? (Lines 43-45)

Think about how hand-made costumes put cosplayers under the spotlight.

## Part B

Answer the following questions using the information from the article. Write your answers in the spaces provided.

1. Find a phrase in paragraph 4 which means ‘to receive a lot of public attention’.

\_\_\_\_\_

2. What shows that most cosplayers in Taiwan are creative?

\_\_\_\_\_



3. Read line 41. What does ‘hit’ mean?

### hit

- A. (v.) to touch something with sudden force
- B. (v.) to have an unpleasant or negative effect on a person or thing
- C. (n.) a thing or person that is very popular or successful
- D. (n.) an act of connecting to a particular web page

4. Look for a word in paragraphs 3-4 which means ‘the act of making public or available for use’.

\_\_\_\_\_



5. Match each of the subheadings to its corresponding paragraph in the article. Write the paragraph numbers (1-4) next to the corresponding subheadings.

Subheadings	Paragraphs 1-4
Cosplay in Taiwan	
Is the idea of cosplay new to you?	
Cosplay in Japan	
Cosplay in North America and Europe	

6. How are cosplayers in North America and Europe different from Japanese cosplayers?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# Vocabulary Bank

The following are the names of some costumes of different countries. Match them with the correct pictures. One of the words is not used.

chut thai      abaya      sari      kimono  
hanbok      sarafan      qipao      kilt      thobe



1.



2.



3.



4.



5.



6.



7.



8.



## Let's Discuss

1. In what situation may a person put on a national costume of other countries?
2. Which national costume do you like the most? Why?