

Springfield

Activity 1

Find words or phrases which mean the same as:

* Supporters \ admirers _____

* Fat _____

* Clever \ inventive _____

* The same phrase or sentence repeated (often as a form of punishment)

* Harm \ damage \ injure _____

* Expelled \ dismissed _____

* Participate _____

Activity 2

Answer these questions:

1. How many American states have a city named Springfield?

2. When was the show first broadcast?

3. What or who is Duff?

4. What does Homer do?

5. How did he become bald?

6. Who or what is Krusty?

7. How is Itchy and Scratcy different to Tom and Jerry?

8. Why doesn't Lisa play in the school orchestra?

Activity 3

Listen and complete the gaps:

The Simpsons are a cartoon family who live in the _____ town of Springfield, USA. There are in fact Springfields in around _____ American states and the writers of the show say that they chose the name to represent a typical middle-American city. The show started back in 1989 and is the most successful and longest _____ animated series in the history of American television. So, who is this family so loved by Americans and _____ fans all over the world?

Homer and Marge have three kids - Bart, the oldest child and only son, and Lisa and Maggie. Homer is not the most intelligent man in the city and is famously _____ and somewhat overweight. He likes nothing more than eating donuts and drinking his favourite _____ of beer, Duff. He works, if you can call it that, as a _____ inspector at the local nuclear power plant although he spends most of his time either _____ or looking to find some way of not working. His lack of intelligence mixed with some rather bad luck means that he often finds himself in _____ or difficult and dangerous situations. This is when you'll hear his most famous phrase, Doh!, which has even found a place in the Oxford English dictionary. He only has two hairs on his head because he _____ the rest out when he found that his wife was pregnant with Lisa.

Bart is a ten year old pest, with no lack of _____ ways to cause trouble. He is always in trouble at school, indeed the opening sequence of each episode shows him writing lines on the class _____ as a punishment. The lines he writes gives you some indication as to what he's done, for example, I must not try to burn the school, or something similar. Bart is a huge fan of Krusty the Clown, a kids' TV personality who on screen is a happy clown but off it is a rather dark and _____ person. Bart's favourite cartoon is Itchy and Scratchy. This is similar to the cat and mouse cartoon Tom and Jerry, the difference being that these two manage to maim and mutilate each other in the most shocking and _____ ways. Bart's catchphrases include 'Aye Carumba', 'Eat my shorts' and 'I'm Bart Simpson . . . who are you?'

Lisa Simpson, the second child, is just about as different as could be. She's smart, _____ and extremely well-behaved. She sometimes even manages to persuade Bart to be good (for a while) and her father not to do something stupid (for a change). She's a great saxophone player, and the opening sequence shows her being thrown out of the school orchestra for being too good! The baby of the family is Maggie who crawls around and sucks her _____ but doesn't speak, although just the way she looks at her father can often tell you that even she thinks he's a bit of an _____!

The show is also famous for the guest appearances by various _____, ranging from American presidents to Hollywood stars, musicians and international _____. It has become a bit of an indication as to your level of _____ if you have been invited to take part in the show!

This student worksheet is free to download and print for use in the classroom or for self-study. It is meant to be used in conjunction with the listening file which is available in mp3 format. However, the transcript can be used not only to check answers but also for reading comprehension and vocabulary

Transcript

The Simpsons are a cartoon family who live in the fictional town of Springfield, USA. There are in fact Springfields in around 30 American states and the writers of the show say that they chose the name to represent a typical middle-American city. The show started back in 1989 and is the most successful and longest running animated series in the history of American television. So, who is this family so loved by Americans and indeed fans all over the world?



Homer and Marge have three kids - Bart, the oldest child and only son, and Lisa and Maggie. Homer is not the most intelligent man in the city and is famously lazy and somewhat overweight. He likes nothing more than eating donuts and drinking his favourite brand of beer, Duff. He works, if you can call it that, as a safety inspector at the local nuclear power plant although he spends most of his time either asleep or looking to find some way of not working. His lack of intelligence mixed with some rather bad luck means that he often finds himself in trouble or difficult and dangerous situations. This is when you'll hear his most famous phrase, Doh!, which has even found a place in the Oxford English dictionary. He only has two hairs on his head because he pulled the rest out when he found that his wife was pregnant with Lisa.

Bart is a ten year old pest, with no lack of ingenious ways to cause trouble. He is always in trouble at school, indeed the opening sequence of each episode shows him writing lines on the class blackboard as a punishment. The lines he writes gives you some indication as to what he's done, for example, I must not try to burn the school, or something similar. Bart is a huge fan of Krusty the Clown, a kids' TV personality who on screen is a happy clown but off it is a rather dark and depressed person. Bart's favourite cartoon is Itchy and Scratchy. This is similar to the cat and mouse cartoon Tom and Jerry, the difference being that these two manage to maim and mutilate each other in the most shocking and bloody ways. Bart's catchphrases include 'Aye Carumba', 'Eat my shorts' and 'I'm Bart Simpson . . . who are you?'

Lisa Simpson, the second child, is just about as different as could be. She's smart, sensitive and extremely well-behaved. She sometimes even manages to persuade Bart to be good (for a while) and her father not to do something stupid (for a change). She's a great saxophone player, and the opening sequence shows her being thrown out of the school orchestra for being too good! The baby of the family is Maggie who crawls around and sucks her dummy but doesn't speak, although just the way she looks at her father can often tell you that even she thinks he's a bit of an idiot!

The show is also famous for the guest appearances by various celebrities, ranging from American presidents to Hollywood stars, musicians and international politicians. It has become a bit of an indication as to your level of success if you have been invited to take part in the show!

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