

'Superman #1' copy becomes most expensive comic

24th November 2025



A pristine copy of the very first self-titled Superman comic has been sold at auction for \$9.12 million. This is a world record for a comic book. The rare publication was sold by Texas-based Heritage Auctions. Its vice-president, Lon Allen, called

the record-breaking edition the "pinnacle of comic collecting". He said: "Superman No. 1 is a milestone in pop culture history, and this copy is not only in unprecedented condition, it also has a movie-worthy story behind it. I was glad to see the price reflect that, and I'm honoured that Heritage was entrusted with this iconic book." Superman No. 1 first appeared on bookshelves in June 1939. It paved the way for a whole gamut of superhero comics.

Prior to its sale, the record-breaking 86-year-old copy of Superman No. 1 had been gathering dust in the attic of a house in California. Three brothers discovered it amid the cobwebs while cleaning out their late mother's house. The brothers said their mother was an avid comic collector, and that she had told them she had "rare comics somewhere". Half a million copies of Superman No. 1 were initially printed. One copy cost 10 cents. Mint condition copies are now extremely rare because the comic invited readers to cut off the front cover to use as a poster. Superman No. 1 became the blueprint for the modern superhero. The character was a symbol of hope, justice, and "doing the right thing".

Sources: [bbc.com](https://www.bbc.com) / [cnn.com](https://www.cnn.com) / [theguardian.com](https://www.theguardian.com)

Writing

Comics are better than novels. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

comic / auction / vice-president / pinnacle / milestone / collecting / superhero / price / record breaking / dust / cobweb / mint condition / front cover / poster / justice / hope

True / False

- 1) The Superman comic sold for over \$10 million. T / F
- 2) The comic was auctioned in New York. T / F
- 3) The auction house said a movie could be made about the record copy. T / F
- 4) The comic 'Superman No. 1' first came out in 1939. T / F
- 5) The record-breaking comic was found in the attic of a comic collector. T / F
- 6) There were cobwebs surrounding the comic. T / F
- 7) The decades-old comic smelt of mint. T / F
- 8) 'Superman No.1' became the model for superheroes that came after it. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. pristine | a. collecting cobwebs |
| 2. publication | b. peak |
| 3. pinnacle | c. range |
| 4. milestone | d. fairness |
| 5. gamut | e. perfect condition |
| 6. prior | f. example |
| 7. gathering dust | g. previous |
| 8. avid | h. book |
| 9. blueprint | i. keen |
| 10. justice | j. landmark |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) What do you think of superheroes?
- c) Do you prefer comics or novels?
- d) What things in your attic might be worth something?
- e) What things do or did you like collecting?
- f) How are modern and traditional superheroes different?
- g) What three things would you want Superman to do right now?
- h) What questions would you like to ask Superman?

Phrase Match

1. a pristine
 2. sold at
 3. Superman No. 1 is a milestone in
 4. It paved
 5. a whole gamut
 6. gathering
 7. Three brothers discovered it amid
 8. their mother was an avid
 9. Mint condition copies
 10. the blueprint for
- a. the modern superhero
 - b. pop culture history
 - c. dust
 - d. comic collector
 - e. copy
 - f. are now extremely rare
 - g. the way
 - h. auction
 - i. of superhero comics
 - j. the cobwebs

Discussion – Student B

- a) What do you think of Superman?
- b) How important are heroes in society?
- c) What do you think of comics?
- d) What are your country's superheroes like?
- e) Who is the greatest superhero?
- f) What can we learn from Superman?
- g) Who is better – Superman, Batman or Spiderman?
- h) What advice do you have for Superman?

Spelling

1. A etisrnpi copy
2. sold at otunaci
3. the nlcenpia of comic collecting
4. in nuepeddrctene condition
5. stureendt with this iconic book
6. a whole mugat of superhero comics
7. rroip to its sale
8. discovered it amid the ebowcb
9. their mother was an idva comic collector
10. ltxymreee rare
11. the pbleunir for the modern superhero
12. a lmoabsy of hope

Answers – Synonym Match

1. e	2. h	3. b	4. j	5. c
6. g	7. a	8. i	9. f	10. d

Comprehension Questions

Listen to / read the news article. Answer these questions.
(Answers are on p. 27 of the 27-page PDF.)

1.	In what kind of condition was the comic that broke the record?
2.	Where is the auction house that sold the Superman comic?
3.	What did an auction house say the comic was a milestone in?
4.	When did the original Superman No. 1 comic first come out?
5.	What did the original Superman No. 1 comic pave the way for?
6.	What had the comic been gathering in a woman's attic?
7.	Who was an avid comic collector?
8.	How much did the original Superman No. 1 sell for?
9.	What was the original Superman No. 1 a blueprint for?
10.	What is Superman a symbol of besides hope and justice?

Speaking – Superhero powers

Rank these with your partner. Put the best powers at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Super strength
- Flight
- Super speed
- Telepathy
- Invisibility
- Telekinesis
- Can control fire
- Time travel

Answers – True False

1	F	2	F	3	T	4	T	5	T	6	T	7	F	8	T
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.