

Jackie Chan

In this lesson, you will read about a famous martial arts actor from Hong Kong. You will learn and practice new vocabulary and learn how to describe injuries. Jackie Chan has had so many injuries that he is lucky to be alive!

Pre-Reading

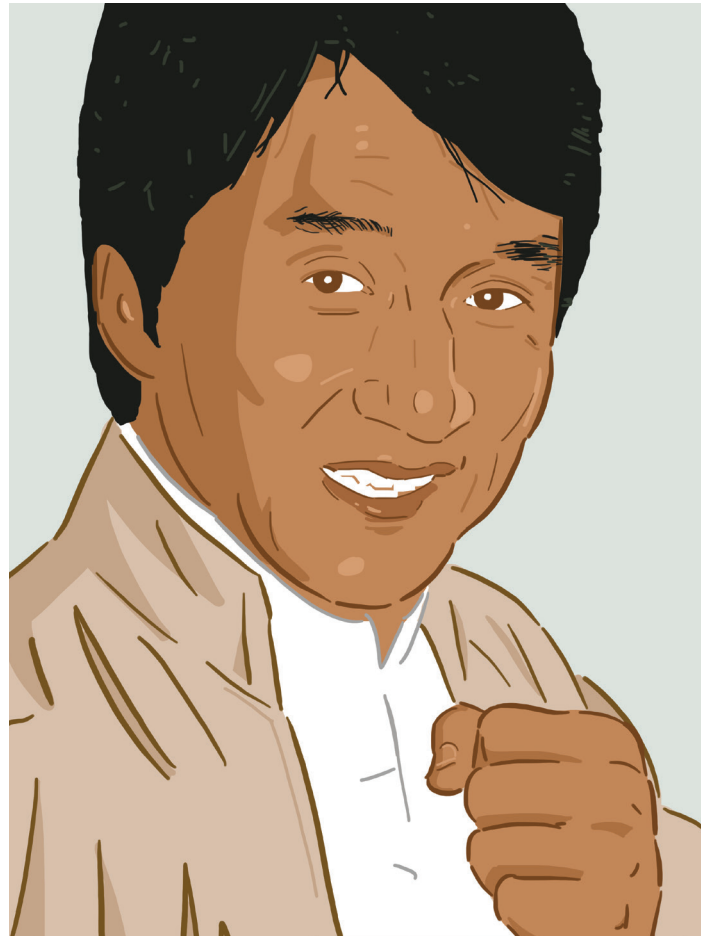
A. Warm-Up Questions

1. Are you afraid of heights?
How high have you climbed?
2. Do you enjoy fight scenes in movies?
Why or why not?
3. Have you tried any martial arts?
If yes, which ones?

B. Vocabulary Preview

Match the words on the left with the correct meanings on the right.

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| _____ 1. martial arts | a) to register to enter or try something |
| _____ 2. stunt | b) to become famous in one's own way |
| _____ 3. enroll | c) self-defense sports, such as karate and kung fu |
| _____ 4. acrobatics | d) to replace someone and attempt to be as good as they were |
| _____ 5. fill one's shoes | e) the making of something, such as a TV show or movie |
| _____ 6. make a name for oneself | f) a difficult and risky trick |
| _____ 7. comedy | g) to offer financial protection in case of damage or injury |
| _____ 8. production | h) a person who performs many dangerous stunts |
| _____ 9. insure | i) a brain injury caused by head trauma |
| _____ 10. daredevil | j) a genre that makes people laugh, humor |
| _____ 11. adore | k) to love and admire |
| _____ 12. concussion | l) physical skills such as flipping, jumping, and balancing |



Reading

1. Jackie Chan is one of the most famous **martial artists** in the world. He is famous for making people laugh and for doing his own jaw-dropping **stunts**.
2. Jackie Chan was born in Hong Kong in 1954. He was not a strong student, so his father **enrolled** him in the China Dragon Academy. From a young age, Jackie Chan was talented at martial arts and **acrobatics**.
3. In the early '70s, Jackie Chan had two small film roles. He did stunts alongside martial arts superstar Bruce Lee, a.k.a *The Little Dragon*. When Bruce Lee died, people expected Jackie Chan to **fill his shoes**. Chan tried to "become the dragon," but his early kung fu films were unsuccessful.
4. Jackie Chan didn't want to be the next Bruce Lee. He wanted to **make a name for himself** by making people laugh. Chan decided to make **comedies** while performing his own stunts. His first kung fu comedy, *Drunken Master* (1978), was a hit. Over the next few years, Chan released several similar films and became Asia's top film star.
5. In the 1980s, Jackie Chan started his own **production** company. He also built his own team of stuntmen. He trained them to do the stunts he needed, and also paid for their medical bills. Other production companies didn't want to **insure** these **daredevils**.
6. American film critics and audiences finally began to appreciate Jackie Chan's approach to action-comedy in the late '80s and '90s. Chan starred in several hit films, including *Rumble in the Bronx*, *Rush Hour*, and the *Police Story* series. People around the world began to **adore** Jackie Chan.
7. Being Jackie Chan is not all fun and games. Over the years, Jackie Chan has suffered many injuries and is lucky to be alive. He has suffered **concussions**, broken bones, and hearing loss. Getting hit by a helicopter did not stop Jackie Chan! At the age of 60, Jackie Chan said he would still risk his life to do his own stunts.

"Anyone who thinks I'm not scared out of my mind whenever I do one of my stunts is crazier than I am."

—Jackie Chan

Stage Name

Jackie Chan's real name is *Chang Kong-sang*. He got his stage name while working in Australia as a construction worker. The crew leader, whose name was *Jack*, thought the new guy's name would be too difficult for the other workers to learn. He told his crew that the new guy's name was *Jack*, too. Before long, everyone was calling him *Jackie Chan*.

Comprehension

Read the statements below. Write T if the statement is true.
Write F if the statement is false and correct the information
in your notebook. Write NM if the fact is not mentioned.

- _____ 1. Jackie Chan almost died in a helicopter crash.
- _____ 2. Jackie Chan performs jaw-dropping stunts.
- _____ 3. Insurance companies will not insure Jackie Chan's stuntmen.
- _____ 4. *Rumble in the Bronx* was a hit in the US.
- _____ 5. Bruce Lee and Jackie Chan were good friends.
- _____ 6. The *Police Story* series helped Jackie Chan rise to fame in the US.
- _____ 7. Jackie Chan used a stage name because he didn't like his given name.
- _____ 8. Jackie Chan did not do well in school as a child.

Vocabulary Review

A. Synonyms or Antonyms

Are the following words synonyms or antonyms?

- 1. production / destruction _____
- 2. enroll / register _____
- 3. daredevils / stuntmen _____
- 4. fill one's shoes / replace _____
- 5. adore / detest _____
- 6. acrobat / gymnast _____

Vocabulary Review Cont.

B. Choose the Correct Word

Choose the word or phrase with the closest meaning to the underlined word or phrase in the following sentences.

1. After falling from a building, he had a concussion.
 - a) brain injury
 - b) broken bone
 - c) break from work
2. I love action movies and comedies, which is why I love Jackie Chan.
 - a) jokes
 - b) funny movies
 - c) stunts
3. During the production of *The Super Tower*, he fell from a clock tower.
 - a) writing
 - b) timing
 - c) making
4. Jackie Chan's secret is to insure and train his own stuntmen.
 - a) teach
 - b) battle
 - c) cover
5. Instead of learning math and English, he studied martial arts.
 - a) self-defense
 - b) music and art
 - c) comedy
6. Jackie Chan is probably the world's most famous daredevil.
 - a) actor
 - b) stuntman
 - c) acrobat

Speaking Practice

DESCRIBING INJURIES - I HAVE THE SCARS TO PROVE IT

Jackie Chan does his own stunts, and he *has the scars to prove it*. This is an English expression that means he worked hard or did something risky and he got injured.

Practice expressing the following injuries.

1. broken nose
 - *I broke my nose.*
 - *I have a broken nose.*
2. dislocated shoulder
3. fractured skull
4. damaged tailbone
5. sprained wrist
6. loss of hearing
 - *I lost hearing in one ear.*
 - *I have hearing loss in one ear.*
7. loss of vision
8. loss of (short-term) memory
9. loss of voice
10. loss of breath