

IELTS Reading: Lesson 9



ARTICLE: A Helping Hand

Instructions for 2nd Half of Class:

- 1) Skip to the questions. Do not read the article until you fully understand what the questions are asking.
 - 2) Look for key words. Find key words in the questions that you can reference to navigate the article.
 - 3) Scan the article for clues and answer as many easy questions as you can first. It is still recommended not to skip between question sections as it is easy to miss questions and lose easy points.
- A. The Louvre Museum in Paris had a gigantic ancient bronze finger that had, at some point in time, been detached from its hand. And the Capitoline Museums in Rome had a gigantic ancient bronze hand — belonging to a fourth century colossal statue of the Roman Emperor Constantine — that was missing parts of some digits. This week, some five centuries after it was detached, the long-lost finger from France was rejoined to the hand (the left) in Rome and exhibited at the main municipal museum in the Italian capital.
- B. Mayor Virginia Raggi of Rome called the reunion an example of “collaboration and synergy” between the two cities, celebrating it in a video posted to Twitter Thursday. The return, the mayor noted, coincided with the 550th anniversary of the Capitoline Museums. They were created in 1471 when Pope Sixtus IV “donated a group of bronze statues of great symbolic value to the People of Rome,” as the museum notes on its site.
- C. The Capitoline Museums also houses two other elements, apart from the hand, that were once part of the colossal statue of Constantine: the head and a large globe once held by the hand. Other pieces of the colossal statue have never been found. Drawings from the 16th century show that the index finger was missing even then. “No one imagined or ever thought that we would ever find the missing pieces,” Claudio Parisi Presicce, the director of the Capitoline Museums, said in a telephone interview.
- D. In fact, the finger had been considered irreparably lost. But in 2010 Aurélia Azéma, a French Ph.D. student researching welding techniques used in making ancient large bronzes, hypothesized that the Louvre digit might belong to the Constantine at the Capitoline. The theory was confirmed eight years later. Jean-Luc Martinez, president-director of the Musée du Louvre, “immediately decided it was right” for the finger to be returned to its hand, he said.
- E. The finger had found its way to the Louvre in 1863, where for a brief time (1913-1915) it had been cataloged as a toe. It arrived via a large group of artworks that had once belonged to Giampietro Campana, a Roman art collector and archaeologist who was accused of embezzlement in 1857. His collection was confiscated and put up for sale in 1861. The finger and the hand were brought together for the first time in 2018, for an exhibition featuring the Campana collection at the Louvre that in 2019 traveled to the Hermitage.
- F. Finally, the Louvre finger arrived at the Capitoline this week for a “renewable loan,” the French museum said in a statement. It was affixed to the hand “though an almost invisible, noninvasive and reversible system,” Mr. Parisi Presicce said. Scholars know that the finger had detached from the hand by the 16th century, “but we still don’t know how it ended up in the Campana collection,” said Mr. Parisi Presicce. “Research continues,” he added.

Read the rest of this article at: <<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/04/30/world/europe/constantine-statue-reunited-lost-finger-rome.html>>

VOCABULARY & PHRASES

detached

colossal

long-lost

collaboration

synergy

coincide

elements

apart from...

irreparably lost

hypothesized

cataloged

embezzlement

confiscated

affixed

noninvasive

IELTS Speaking: Lesson 9



QUESTIONS: A Helping Hand

Questions 1-6

The Reading Passage has six paragraphs A–F. Choose the correct heading for each paragraph from the list of headings below.

- I. International Collaboration
 - II. The Key to the Puzzle
 - III. Bronze Oxidization
 - IV. Other Parts of the Statue
 - V. On Renewable Loan
 - VI. Hand and Finger Reunited
 - VII. History of the Finger
- 1. Section A
 - 2. Section B
 - 3. Section C
 - 4. Section D
 - 5. Section E
 - 6. Section F

Questions 7-11

Answer the questions below with words taken from the Reading Passage.

Use NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS for each answer.

- 7. Aurélia Azéma's hypothesis was confirmed how many years later?
- 8. Who called the reunion an example of "collaboration and synergy"?
- 9. How was the finger catalogued at the Louvre from 1913-1915?
- 10. How early do drawings depict the missing finger?
- 11. Who was the bronze statue of that the hand belonged to?

Questions 12

Choose the correct letter A, B, C, or D.

- 12. Which answer would fit best as a title for this article
 - A. Art Thieves Caught
 - B. France Ransoms Precious Art
 - C. Tiny Hand Reunites with Finger
 - D. Friendly International Relations