

IELTS Reading: Lesson 5



ARTICLE: The Art of Eggs

Instructions:

- 1) Read the article below as fast as you can. Try to remember as much detail as possible without slowing down.
If it is too difficult remember this: "Don't worry, that is why you are taking this class. No one is an expert the first try."
 - 2) Read the article again slowly. Compare how much you understand this time.
 - 3) Read the article a third time, translate words you don't know and write them down. How is your understanding different?
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- A. The largest Imperial egg made by Peter Carl Fabergé will go on show at the Victoria and Albert Museum later this year in an exhibition dedicated to the celebrated Russian goldsmith whose lavish and elegant creations are synonymous with opulence.
 - B. The immense object, known as the Moscow Kremlin Egg (1906), will be shown in the UK for the first time. The egg, modelled on the architecture of the Dormition Cathedral in the Russian capital, will be loaned by Moscow Kremlin Museums along with two other eggs: the Alexander Palace Egg (1908), which is decorated with portraits of Tsar Nicholas II and his family, and the Romanov Tercentenary Egg (1913).
 - C. Other key contributors to the show include the Queen who will lend the Basket of Flowers egg (1901) and a Chelsea Pensioner figurine made of sapphires and gold (1909). The State Hermitage Museum in St Petersburg will lend a copy of the Imperial Regalia (1900), a miniature replica of the Russian crown jewels. Fabergé's workshops in Moscow and St Petersburg, which employed more than 500 craftsmen at the end of the 19th century, are known for their fantastic Easter eggs made for the Russian Imperial court: Fabergé was appointed the Imperial goldsmith in 1885.
 - D. Tsar Alexander III began the most expensive Easter tradition in history when he decided to give a jewelled egg to his wife, Empress Maria Fyodorovna, in 1885. Known as the Hen Egg, its white enamelled shell opens to reveal a yolk whose yellow mass is crafted from gold. From 1895, the royal heir Nicholas II continued to honour the family matriarchs, presenting Fabergé eggs annually to both his wife, Empress Alexandra Fyodorovna, and his mother Maria.
 - E. The V&A exhibition will also go into great detail about Fabergé's London branch, the only one outside Russia, which opened at the turn of the 20th century. Royal patronage was key to the brand's success; the London venue sold more than 10,000 objects between 1903 and 1915, with King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra among its clients.
 - F. "Fabergé carefully tailored his works to his British clientele. He created hardstone portraits of the farm animals King Edward and Queen Alexandra bred at Sandringham, their favourite country estate, and objects enamelled in the King's horse racing colour," says a V&A statement. A silver model portrait of Persimmon (1908), the King's favourite racehorse—also on loan from Queen Elizabeth II—is included.

Read the rest of this article at: <<https://www.theartnewspaper.com/news/faberge-victoria-and-albert-museum-exhibition>>

VOCABULARY & PHRASES

appoint
architecture
contributor
craft
employ

estate
immense
imperial
lavish
matriarch

opulence
patronage
replica
workshop
Faberge

IELTS Speaking: Lesson 5



QUESTIONS: The Art of Eggs

Questions 1-6

Complete the sentences below.

Choose NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS from the text for each answer.

Write your answers in the spaces for 1-6 below.

1. A silver model of the _____, Persimmon, is included.
2. Known as _____, its white enamelled shell opens to reveal a yolk
3. Fabergé's workshops in Moscow and St Petersburg, are known for their _____.
4. _____, known as the Moscow Kremlin Egg (1906), will be shown in the UK for the first time.
5. Russian goldsmith whose lavish and elegant creations are _____.
6. The V&A exhibition will also go into great detail about _____, the only one outside Russia

Questions 7-11

Do the following statements agree with the information given in Reading Lesson 4?

Answer the questions with one of the below options

- TRUE if the statement agrees with the information
FALSE if the statement contradicts the information
NOT GIVEN if there is no information on this

7. The Moscow Kremlin Egg has been shown in the UK once before in 1995.
8. Faberge was appointed the imperial gold smith.
9. The most expensive Easter tradition started with Tsar Alexander III.
10. The Queen of England will also contribute an Egg for this exhibit.
11. There were only 21 Feberge Eggs ever created.

Questions 12

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

12. This word does NOT describe the work of Peter Carl Fabergé
- A. Opulent
 - B. Common
 - C. Expensive
 - D. Elegant

Answers:

1. King's favourite racehorse
2. the Hen Egg
3. fantastic Easter eggs
4. The immense object
5. synonymous with opulence
6. Fabergé's London branch
7. False
8. True
9. True
10. True
11. Not Given
12. B