



Art Gallery

Conversation > Advanced 7



Exercise 1 – Vocabulary

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| abstract | Relating to creative works that do not represent things as they are in real life, instead creating effect using shape, color, and texture. |
| [adjective] | <i>Ex: I like abstract paintings.</i> |

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| composition | (in art) The arrangement of people or objects in a painting or photograph. |
| [noun] | <i>Ex: The composition of this painting is very interesting.</i> |

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| peculiar | Unusual or distinctive; odd. |
| [adjective] | <i>Ex: Anteaters look very peculiar.</i> |

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| perspective | A point of view. |
| [noun] | <i>Ex: Let's try to look at your problem from a different perspective.</i> |

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| exposure | The fact of experiencing something or being affected by it because of being in a particular situation or place. |
| [noun] | <i>Ex: You should always limit your exposure to the sun.</i> |



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| canvas | A piece of heavy cloth stretched over a wooden frame used as the surface for a painting. |
| [noun] | <i>Ex: The artist is applying a heavy layer of paint to her canvas.</i> |

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| reflection | An image visible in a mirror or on a shiny surface; a thing that is a result of something else. |
| [noun] | <i>Ex: Children are a reflection of their parents.</i> |

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| surface | The top or outer layer of something. |
| [noun] | <i>Ex: The surface of the lake is very calm today.</i> |

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| perception | The way that people feel or think about something. |
| [noun] | <i>Ex: His perception of happiness is completely different from mine.</i> |

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| framing | The presentation of visual elements in an image; the placement of the subject of a photo in relation to other objects. |
| [noun] | <i>Ex: The framing of this photograph makes it really mysterious.</i> |



Exercise 2 – Dialogue

Choose one character and read the dialogue aloud with your tutor.

Lea: Don't get me wrong, I'm glad you invited me out. But this is the weirdest art gallery I've ever been to.

Hannah: That's why I wanted to come. Everyone told me that this artist was quite peculiar.

Lea: The composition of these paintings is really messing with my perception.

Hannah: You're always bringing me to strange movies. So I thought I'd return the favor.

Lea: I've never seen such abstract art before. I feel like I could fall right into the canvas!

Hannah: I know what you mean. Too much exposure to these paintings can make you feel dizzy.

Lea: Look at this! It has such a shiny surface. From this perspective you can almost see your reflection in it.

Hannah: How clever! It's a painting of an abstract face, but you can see your own face layered on top of it.



Lea: Do you think the artist did that on purpose?

Hannah: Maybe. None of the other paintings have the same shiny surface.

Lea: This one over here is almost a blank canvas.

Hannah: Yes, but look at the colors around the edge of the painting.

Lea: Hmm... It's almost like all the details at the edge are framing the blank space in the middle.

Hannah: I wish I could figure out what the artist is trying to say.

Lea: The composition of each painting is completely different to the previous one.

Hannah: I think what you said earlier is right. The artist is just trying to mess with our sense of perspective.



Exercise 3 – Fill in the Blanks

Choose the correct answers from the answer pool below and fill in the blanks.

Answer Pool

canvas
framing
perception
reflection
surface
perspective
peculiar
exposure
abstract
composition

1. The _____ of this photo is really strange!
2. Even a brief _____ to radiation is very dangerous.
3. The _____ of the road was bumpy.
4. Going camping always gives me a fresh _____ on life.
5. There's something very _____ about him.
6. His job is to influence the public's _____ of the company.
7. The dog saw its _____ in the water.
8. The _____ of this painting could be better, I don't like it.
9. Some people refer to a blank _____ as a symbol of a new start.
10. Do you like _____ art?



Exercise 4 – Role Play

Take turns with your tutor and act out the scene described below.

Scene: You are visiting an art gallery. Talk about the paintings with your friend Susan. The teacher can be Susan.



Exercise 5 – Discussion

Discuss the following questions with your tutor.

1. Do you like art? Why? Why not?
2. Have you ever been to an art gallery? Why? Why not?
3. Can you draw or paint?
4. Would you call things like comic books ‘art’? Why? Why not?
5. Is there a particular painting or photograph you would like to see in real life? Why?