
BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

Words in the News

Oil painting copy shop



NB: This is not a word-for-word transcript

Transcript

Could this be the most important and expensive collection of **masterpieces** ever?

Actually no. In fact, it's a workshop in Dafen in southern China where more than half of the world's oil paintings are **mass-produced**.

Millions of **replicas** of Van Goghs, Monets, and Picassos are exported, generating billions in **revenue** for these painters who were once farmers or migrant workers.

But because of online competition, these artists are starting to concentrate on producing **original** pieces of art.

Vocabulary

masterpieces

high quality and very valuable paintings

mass-produced

made cheaply and in very large numbers

replicas

exact copies

revenue

income or money

original

not a copy; the artist's own work

Watch this video online: Oil painting copy shop <http://bbc.in/1L0PcuE>

More about this story <http://bbc.in/1KYEMMI>

Exercise

Use one of the words or phrases below to complete each of these sentences from news reports.

Note that you may have to change the form of a word to complete the sentence correctly.

masterpieces / mass-produced / replicas / revenue / original

1. An exact _____ of an 18th Century French frigate has completed its maiden voyage - recreating a historic transatlantic journey to America.
2. Over the years the band has seen several changes in its line-up - to confuse even the most diehard fans. Now the _____ members have decided to re-form, but under a new name, MKS.
3. As technologies develop and become _____, costs usually fall and that is what has happened in the last 10-15 years.
4. A Scottish aristocrat has told a court that he became "an actor" in an undercover police operation to secure the return of a stolen _____.
5. Casino _____ in the world's largest gaming centre, Macau, fell almost 20% in November from a year ago as gamblers' appetite for the gambling hub continued to wane.

Answers

1. An exact **replica** of an 18th Century French frigate has completed its maiden voyage recreating a historic transatlantic journey to America.

Source: Replica French warship Hermione arrives in Yorktown, US

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-us-canada-33033850>

2. Over the years the band has seen several changes in its line-up - to confuse even the most diehard fans. Now the **original** members have decided to re-form, but under a new name, MKS.

Source: MKS: Original Sugababes reunite

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/entertainment-arts-23509084>

3. As technologies develop and become **mass-produced**, costs usually fall and that is what has happened in the last 10-15 years.

Source: Will the falling price of oil undermine green energy?

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-31057078>

4. A Scottish aristocrat has told a court that he became "an actor" in an undercover police operation to secure the return of a stolen **masterpiece**.

Source: Duke of Buccleuch was 'an actor' in Yarnwinder probe

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-south-scotland-33026464>

5. Casino **revenues** in the world's largest gaming centre, Macau, fell almost 20% in November from a year ago as gamblers' appetite for the gambling hub continued to wane.

Source: Macau's casino revenue falls further

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-30272168>