

4

Amazing art

Starting out

1 Watch the video and answer the questions.

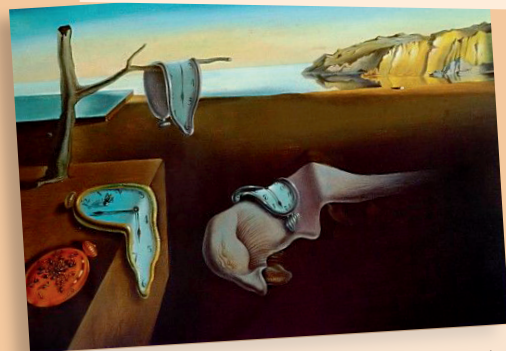
- 1 What cities are introduced in the video?
- 2 What is each city famous for in the world of art?

2 Look at the pictures and answer the questions.

- 1 What forms of art are these works?
- 2 How do you feel about these works?
- 3 What is the most impressive artwork, building or performance you've ever seen? Why did it make such an impression on you? Share your answer with the class.



The Red Detachment of Women
by the National Ballet of China



The Persistence of Memory by Salvador Dalí



Turandot by Giacomo Puccini

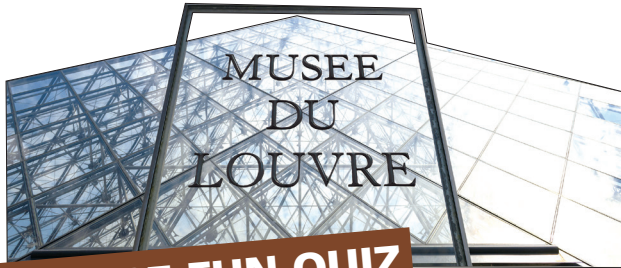


The Thinker by Auguste Rodin



Understanding ideas ▾

- 1 Work in pairs and complete the quiz. Try to guess if you are not sure of the answers.



LOUVRE FUN QUIZ

- Where is the Louvre Museum?
 - In London.
 - In Paris.
 - In Berlin.
- When was the original castle of the Louvre built?
 - The 12th century.
 - The 15th century.
 - The 18th century.
- How many works of art are there in its collection?
 - Around 180,000.
 - Around 400,000.
 - Around 480,000.
- Which work of art is among the "Big Three" attractions of the Louvre?
 - The Code of Hammurabi.
 - Liberty Leading the People*.
 - Venus de Milo*.

- 2 Read the passage and find out what Zack is doing in the Louvre.

- Hi, it's Zack! Greetings from Paris, everyone! This broadcast is being brought to you from one of the largest museums on Earth – the Louvre! Today we're going to find out about some of the Louvre's most amazing treasures. Here we go!
- Now, at the top of these stone stairs... get a load of that! That huge sculpture you can see is the *Winged Victory of Samothrace*, or *Nike of Samothrace*! I can't even begin to tell you how amazing this is! It looks like she has





Live from the Louvre

just flown down out of the sky and is standing on a ship. Her head and arms are missing, but you can imagine her holding her arms up high, celebrating the result of an ancient battle. And just look at how her dress is being folded by the wind! I really can't believe she's made of stone. The skill of the sculptor is just incredible.



- 3 Okay, I'd better move on. You can see there are so many people here. I'm being pushed around quite a bit, in fact. And you're really going to love what's coming up next. It's the one and only *Mona Lisa*! The painting is a lot smaller than you would expect, and is protected by glass. But from here I can get a good view to show you. When I look into her eyes it seems she has a mind of her own!

One moment she seems to be laughing at me, but then again I catch a sense of sadness in her smile. I guess that's why she attracts so many visitors every day.

- 4 And now, it's time to get up close and personal with one of history's greatest artists – Rembrandt! He painted this self-portrait about 400 years ago. Throughout his life, he made over 90 self-portraits!



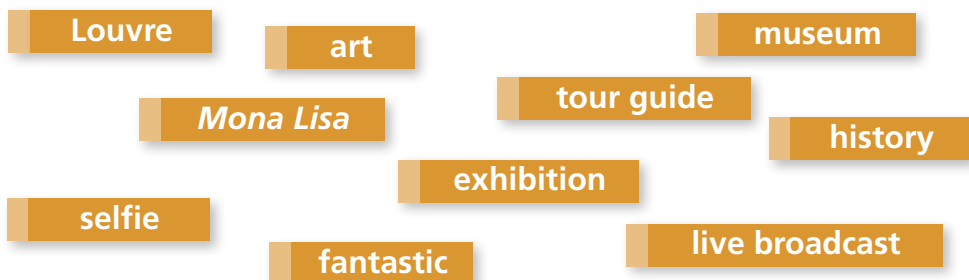


No one really knows why. Perhaps it was his way of taking a 17th-century selfie? Or was it simply cheaper to paint himself than to pay for a model?

- 5 About 35,000 works are currently being displayed in over 300 rooms in the Louvre, and it would take a lifetime to see everything! I'll say bye for now, and hope you can all visit this fantastic place one day to feel the power of these great works of art for yourselves. They really do reach out to us across the centuries as if time itself were nothing. By the way, if you have enjoyed this live broadcast, subscribe to find out where I'm visiting next!



- 3 Choose three tags that best describe the main idea of the passage and give reasons for your choices.



4 Complete the route with expressions from the passage.



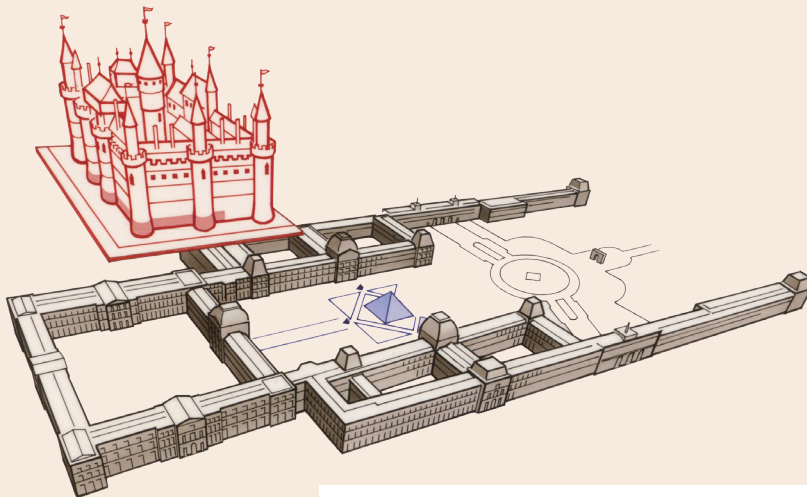
Winged Victory of Samothrace

Here at the top of the stairs is this ¹ _____. Although ² _____, you can still imagine her posture. The folded dress shows incredible ³ _____.



Mona Lisa

This is perhaps the most famous painting here, protected by glass. It's smaller than ⁴ _____. The lady in the painting seems to have ⁵ _____, which makes her so interesting!



Rembrandt's self-portrait

This is one of the 90 or more self-portraits Rembrandt made in his lifetime. We don't know why he made so many – perhaps it was his way of ⁶ _____! Or maybe it was just ⁷ _____?

- 1 Which of the three artworks makes the greatest impression on you? Why?
- 2 Which galleries and museums have you visited? Share your experience with the class.

Think & Share

Present continuous passive

1 Look at the sentences from the reading passage and answer the questions.

- a And just look at how her dress is **being folded** by the wind!
- b I'm **being pushed** around quite a bit, in fact.

- 1 What causes the action in sentence (a)?
The dress or the wind?
- 2 What is happening to "me" in sentence (b)?

Compare them with the following sentences and answer the questions.

- c And just look at how the wind is **folding** her dress!
- d People **are pushing** me around quite a bit, in fact.

- 3 What is the difference between the two groups of sentences?
- 4 Why does the author choose to use the passive form instead of the active form in the reading passage?

Now look for more sentences with the present continuous passive in the reading passage.

2 Rewrite the underlined parts using the passive.

Do you think going to a museum is the only way to see art? Actually, art is everywhere around us! For example, on the walls of my local pub, young people are painting beautiful pictures. Some people find graffiti too random and don't like it, but I like its colours. Even trees can be art – some people are trimming trees into interesting shapes, like animals or clouds. And look up – construction workers are building impressive, original buildings in every neighbourhood. Anyhow, it's easy to see great art nowadays, because people are creating it everywhere you look.



3 Look at the picture. Describe what is happening using the passive form of the words and expressions in the box.

arrange carry hang paint put up sweep write



Chinese art forms

4 Look at the pictures and answer the questions.



paper cutting



embroidery



seal cutting



calligraphy



Chinese painting



porcelain

- 1 What do you know about these art forms?
- 2 Have you tried any of these art forms? Share your experience with the class.

- 5 Complete the passage with the words and expressions in Activity 4.

Yesterday, I went to an amazing Chinese art festival. There were different stands where artists could demonstrate their skills and teach the visitors! It was definitely an exciting experience for a foreign student like me.

What caught my attention first was a 15th-century *qinghua* bowl in a breathtaking exhibition of Chinese ¹ _____. It vividly illustrated a dragon playing with a ball.

Then I tried some ² _____, that is, making images out of paper. It was difficult, but a lot of fun! With help from the artist, I managed to make one in the shape of a fish. Meanwhile, a woman at the next stand was using a needle and some thread to do some ³ _____. It looked so pretty! Then I went into a section decorated like a traditional Chinese study, with two beautiful ⁴ _____ of a pine tree and some bamboo hung on the walls.

There was also an old man writing Chinese ⁵ _____: his writing was so free and elegant! Another man sitting next to him showed me how ⁶ _____ works. Chinese characters are carved into small squares of stone and stamped onto paper with ink. He made one for me with my name in Chinese – pretty awesome!

I also came away with a beautifully embroidered handkerchief made of soft cotton fabric, and a porcelain cup and saucer painted in wonderful shades of blue.

- 6 Work in pairs. Talk about a Chinese art form that your home town is famous for.

*My home town is famous for the traditional art of...
People use... to...*

Contemporary art

Since it began in the late 20th century, the Contemporary Art Movement has raised questions and doubts, with people asking, "Is it really art?" This was the case in 1999 with British artist Tracey Emin's work, *My bed* – which was, quite literally, her unmade bed. Then, in 2015, cleaners in an Italian gallery threw away an art piece after mistaking the pile of empty bottles, cigarette ends and pieces of coloured paper for rubbish! While some say contemporary art lacks skill, meaning and artistic value, others argue that its worth lies in its ability to stimulate new discussions and understanding of everyday objects, such as water pipes and iron wires.

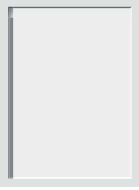




Did You Know ?

 **7** Listen to the conversation and choose the main idea.

- 1 Everyone can create art, whatever their background.
- 2 We can use art to learn about the world.
- 3 Art means different things to different people.
- 4 Everyone should try to include art in their lives.

 **8** Listen again and complete the table.

	Jill's opinions	Andrew's opinions
 <p><i>Empty</i></p>	<p>It was boring and there was ¹ _____ . It had ² _____ for me.</p>	<p>It was really clever and the viewer can ³ _____ .</p>
 <p><i>Living room</i></p>	<p>It was rather lazy because the artist didn't ⁴ _____ .</p>	<p>Everyday objects can also be art. I could ⁵ _____ when looking at the details.</p>
 <p><i>Future</i></p>	<p>It was just ⁶ _____ anyone can make, and my cat would love to play in them.</p>	<p>That was my favourite piece and it really ⁷ _____ .</p>

Now talk about how Jill and Andrew express their opinions towards contemporary artworks. Listen again if necessary.

9 Work in pairs. Act out the conversation to share your opinions about the artwork.

 **Student A:** Turn to Page 106.

 **Student B:** Turn to Page 111.

10 Work in pairs. Think of another artwork and have a similar conversation.

Learning to learn

Pauses give the listener extra time to understand what is being said. Pausing also allows the speaker to emphasise certain words within a sentence. Try to be aware of where and when to pause during a conversation.

Developing ideas ◀

1 Tick the words that you would use to describe horses. Add any more you can think of.

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> calm | <input type="checkbox"/> brave |
| <input type="checkbox"/> cute | <input type="checkbox"/> clever |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fast | <input type="checkbox"/> <u>loyal</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> wild | <input type="checkbox"/> strong |

Now compare your choices with the rest of the class and share what you know about horses.

2 Read the passage and find out what it is about.

- An introduction to the Metropolitan Museum of Art.
- The story behind *Night-Shining White*.
- The famous artist Han Gan.

□ Learning to learn

Before reading a passage, think of what you already know about the topic. For example, you may already know some facts about the Chinese horse painter, Han Gan and his paintings. Make connections between your background knowledge about this Chinese historical figure and the new information you read in the passage. This will improve your understanding of new concepts and information.

Han Gan and His Horses

- 1 What a magnificent horse! Even after more than a thousand years have passed, we can still feel the power within its burning eyes, bared teeth and kicking hooves. *Night-Shining White*, now kept in New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art, is regarded as one of



韩
干



the most significant horse paintings in the history of Chinese art. Its artist, Han Gan, is known for his skill in capturing not only the physical features of the animal, but also its inner spirit and strength.

- 2 Born into a poor family in the early Tang Dynasty, the young Han Gan had to help support his family by working in a local wine shop. His artistic talent was discovered by accident when he was sent to the poet Wang Wei's house to collect payment for some wine. While waiting at the gate, Han Gan used a stick to draw pictures in the dirt and was seen by the poet himself. Wang Wei decided to sponsor the young man to study painting and

recommended him to a master. Due to Han Gan's natural talent and years of hard work, he was eventually chosen to serve Emperor Xuanzong in the royal palace.

- 3 The Tang emperors were very fond of horses. This meant that the animal was a frequent subject for artists. At that time, the most common way to study horse painting was by copying the works of previous painters. Han Gan's method, however, was different – he observed the animal itself. He was a frequent visitor to the royal stables and even moved in to live with the stable workers for quite some time. The horses, whether resting or on the move, offered him plenty of inspiration.



The more time he spent observing these animals, the more his understanding of them grew. Day after day, Han Gan painted the horses, his brush presenting every detail that he saw with his own eyes.

- 4 It is said that when the Emperor asked Han Gan to take a master of horse painting as his teacher, the artist replied, “I have my own teachers, Your Majesty. All the horses in your stables are my very teachers.”

- 5 Those who saw Han Gan’s horse paintings all sang high praises for his unique skill, saying that his horses “could gallop off the paper”. Even Su Shi, the famous poet of the Song Dynasty, expressed his admiration for Han Gan as a master of horse painting with the words, “The horses painted by Han Gan are *real* horses.”

3 Complete the diagram with information from the passage.

The artist and his masterpiece	The life of the artist	Comments on his work
Name of the artist	Personal information (birth, dynasty, etc)	Su Shi
Name of the painting	How he became a painter	Other viewers
Description of the painting	What he did as a court painter	

- Think & Share**
- 1 What made Han Gan a successful painter?
 - 2 What does Su Shi's comment mean to you?
 - 3 What can you learn from Han Gan's way of painting?
 - 4 Do you know of any other artists famous for painting animals? Introduce one to the class.

- 4 Work in groups. Imagine you are a tour guide in the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Use the information in Activity 3 to talk about the life and work of Han Gan.
- 1 Think about what information to include.
 - 2 Decide in what order you will introduce.
 - 3 Introduce Han Gan and his painting to your group members.



Writing about an artwork

5 Read the museum introduction to the painting and answer the questions.



Sunflowers

Arles, January 1889, Vincent van Gogh (1853–1890)
oil on canvas, 95 cm x 73 cm

Van Gogh's sunflower paintings are among his most famous, and this one was completed in Arles in 1889. It shows sunflowers in a vase, mostly in three shades of yellow. The colours of the flowers range from bright yellows to brownish yellows, showing that the flowers are at different stages of life.

The sunflower paintings held special meaning for Van Gogh. When his friend Paul Gauguin, who was also a famous painter, came to live with him for a while, he hung the first two in his guest's room to welcome him.

- 1 What else do you know about Van Gogh's sunflower paintings?
- 2 What do you think of this one?

6 Complete the boxes with the information in Activity 5. Do further research if necessary.

Introduction

give basic information about the artist and the artwork

- This sunflower painting was an ¹ _____ by ² _____.
- It is among his ³ _____.
- It was completed ⁴ _____.

Main body

describe the artwork

- It shows ⁵ _____.
- It is painted mostly in ⁶ _____.
- The colours range from ⁷ _____.
- ⁸ _____

Conclusion

give your own comments

Now write an article about the painting *Sunflowers*.

7 Share your article with the class.



Presenting ideas ▸



- 1** Recommend a local artist and complete the form with information about him / her.

Name	
Speciality	
Representative works	
Key features	
Reasons for recommendation	

- 2** Work in groups. Talk about your recommended artist and vote for the most interesting. Use the information in Activity 1 and the expressions in the box to help you.

Useful expressions

- I recommend... because...
- I think... is the best choice, because...
- He / She specialises in...
- His / Her work shows...
- I agree with him / her.
- I'm afraid that I have to disagree. I think...

- 3** Present your chosen artist to the class. Vote for the best "Neighbourhood Artist".

Reflection ▲

- 1** After completing this unit, I can rate my performance 1 (excellent), 2 (good) or 3 (in need of improvement).

- introduce Chinese art forms
- express opinions about artworks
- write about an artwork
- compare and contrast different forms of art
- develop an ability to appreciate art

- 2** I've learnt to make use of the following words and expressions:

- 3** I still need to improve:
