28 The arts

Arts events, reviews

Arts events

1.1 **Which of these events would you enjoy? Which would you choose not to go to? Put a (✓) or a (✗).**

1 an exhibition of work by a contemporary sculptor _____
2 classical music played by an orchestra and a celebrity soloist _____
3 a gig by a stand-up comic _____
4 a star-studded performance of a popular Shakespeare play _____
5 the première of the latest Hollywood blockbuster _____
6 a legendary jazz musician in concert _____
7 an exhibition of historical artefacts _____
8 a new piece by a touring ballet company _____
9 a three-day festival headlined by international rock stars _____
10 a collection of portraits by a photographer-to-the-stars _____
11 the televised auditions for a TV talent show _____
12 a collection of jewellery belonging to someone famous _____

1.2 **Where would you see each of the events listed in 1.1? Write the numbers (1–12) next to the venues (a–h). Some events could be seen at more than one venue.**

a an open-air stadium _____
b a historic concert hall _____
c a public art gallery _____
d a multiplex cinema _____
e a prestigious museum _____
f a theatre _____
g a comedy club _____
h a city park _____

1.3 **Add your own words to these lists.**

visual arts	sculpture,
styles of music	soul,
types of literature	novel,
genres of film	thriller,
artists	composer, performer,

Error warning

In 1.1 there are two adjectives which are often confused with similar words.

classical/classic

classical = traditional in style or form; of the ancient civilisations of Greece and Rome: ***Classical literature*** *usually makes heavy reading.*

classic = established over time as popular, the best or most typical of its kind: *The little black dress is a* ***classic look****.*

historical/historic

historical = connected with or based on past times: *It's a* ***historical novel*** *about the Tudors.*

historic = very important in history: *These* ***historic events*** *will shape the nation's future.*

Vocabulary note

Notice that we use the definite article *the* with the names of most entertainment venues: ***the*** *Sydney Opera House,* ***the*** *British Museum,* ***the*** *O2 Arena,* ***the*** *Odeon cinema.*

(See **Unit 5, 2.4** for more on the use of the definite article.)

LIVEWORKSHEETS

1.4 COLLOCATION **Match each list of verbs with a noun.**

1	play, hear, write, read	a	art
2	shoot, watch, produce, show	b	a venue
3	appreciate, buy, create, view	c	a film
4	lead, conduct, join, hear	d	music
5	go on, take to, leave, appear on	e	an orchestra
6	book, fill, headline, choose	f	the stage

1.5 **Complete these sentences using an adjective from box A and a noun from box B.**

A: academic ~~medical~~ musical scientific surgical match-winning opening third-quarter

B: instrument performance

1 A stethoscope is a medical instrument .
2 A scalpel is a sharp _____ .
3 The striker gave a _____ .
4 The company delivered a good _____ .
5 The saxophone is a _____ .
6 The _____ was sold out.
7 The telescope was an early _____ .
8 University entry depends upon _____ .

Reviews

2.1 ▶35 **Listen to three people talking about arts events. Match the speakers with the events they describe (a–d). One of the events is not described.**

Speaker 1 _____
Speaker 2 _____
Speaker 3 _____

a a comedy night at an unimpressive venue
b a bizarre event at a modern art gallery
c an outdoor art installation
d a memorable concert by a new group

2.2 ▶35 **Listen again and complete the sentences with words and phrases used by the speakers.**

1 It was one of the best live music events I've ever been to.
2 The venue was pretty ordinary – a _____ .
3 They play their rather eclectic mix of material without _____ .
4 They're gaining a devoted _____ .
5 I've never been _____ stand-up.
6 He had the whole audience _____ .
7 I'm not even sure 'exhibition' _____ .
8 The shapes are all perfectly formed, but they were made entirely _____ .

LIVEWORKSHEETS

2.3 **Match these reviews with two of the events in 1.1.**

1 Playing some of his better-known back-catalogue, the now 79-year-old free-jazz saxophonist Ornette Coleman proved to a capacity audience what a lasting genius he is. What was chaotic and painful to listen to in the 1960s sounds melodic 40 years on. The mood of the music alternates between euphoric and melancholic, but it is always exciting and often surprising.

2 Speaking an estimated forty percent of the lines in the play, Jude Law, as Hamlet, gives an exhilarating performance. He incorporates physicality throughout, and infuses a breathtaking amount of energy into the part. He also knows what he's talking about. There is no recitation or learning by rote here. It's plain that after the year he was given to prepare for this role, and after the three months of performance in London, Law has an intimate understanding of his character, the language and the play as a whole.

2.4 **Find words and phrases in the reviews which match these definitions.**

1 past recordings of a musician _____
2 largest crowd a venue can hold _____
3 pleasantly musical _____
4 words an actor has to say _____
5 role played by an actor _____
6 repeat in order to remember _____

2.5 **Write the nouns related to these adjectives from the reviews in 2.3.**

1 chaotic _____
2 melancholic _____
3 exhilarating _____
4 melodic _____
5 intimate _____
6 euphoric _____

2.6 **Read these sentences. The words in italics have similar meanings. Underline the word in each pair which is more positive.**

1 The portrait, which hangs in the National Gallery, is one of his more *difficult* / *challenging* works.
2 The band draws heavily on 1960s influences, giving this latest album a *classic* / *dated* sound.
3 His prose is *understated* / *bland* and his use of narrative device is *weak* / *subtle*.
4 They played in *a cramped* / *an intimate* venue to a *boisterous* / *raucous* crowd.
5 This was a typically *edgy* / *abrasive* routine from the undisputed bad boy of comedy.
6 The *sweet* / *syrupy* vocals and *repetitive* / *insistent* beat are reminiscent of club.
7 She gives *an emotional* / *a melodramatic* performance as the late, great singer.

2.7 **Complete this review of a novel with one word which best fits each gap.**

The Road has a beauty which is reminiscent (1) __of__ classic twentieth-century novels such as *Of Mice and Men* and *The Old Man and the Sea*. The deceptively simple narrative is both gripping (2) _____ revealing of human nature.
The novel (3) _____ the story of a father and son as they travel across a desolate landscape (4) _____ search of food and shelter. It becomes clear (5) _____ a huge disaster (6) _____ befallen planet earth. The sun has stopped shining and, (7) _____ light, plants do not grow, animals have starved and humanity is (8) _____ the brink of extinction. Society has broken (9) _____ and the few people that remain have turned against (10) _____ another. As the father tries desperately to (11) _____ his son alive, he learns that the greatest human need of all is not food, (12) _____ hope for the future.

LIVEWORKSHEETS