VOCABULARY Talking about pictures

1 Complete the paragraph with the correct form of the words in brackets.

There are nearly as many opinions on art as there are paintings themselves. Describing a painting is always open to [1] ..... (interpret). What appears [2] ..... (atmosphere) or [3] ..... (drama) to one person may seem dull or [4] ..... (convention) to another. Abstract art is perhaps the style that is most difficult to appreciate because its meaning is often [5] ..... (ambiguity).

2 Complete the conversation with the words in the box.



realistic intimate subtle abstract bold

A: Can we skip the modern art section? It's all a bit too [1] ..... for me. I like to know what I'm looking at.
B: Yeah, sure. ... Look, this one is very [2] ..... . You feel you could almost pick up the fruit and eat it.
A: You're right. It must be difficult to get in all that detail. And what do you think of this one?
B: Oh, it's very dramatic, isn't it? The colours are very [3] ..... .
A: Yeah ... but this one is different. These [4] ..... colours are very soft and relaxing.
B: Hmm. I find it a bit disturbing to look at a private moment like this, though. It's too [5] ..... to share with other people, really.

3 Match the sentence halves.

1 This one is so realistic. It looks as .....
2 Come and look at this. The man in the picture .....
3 I don't see the attraction. To me all his paintings .....
4 She looks furious so they've .....
5 The artist was born in Belgium and that could .....
6 It all seems very weird. I think it must .....
7 It's a celebration and they appear .....
8 Looking at this one, I get .....

a to have just got married.
b well be his hometown.
c look really dull.
d if it's been photographed with a camera.
e the impression the artist was rather depressed.
f obviously just been arguing.
g looks a bit like your brother.
h show some sort of nightmare.

Language note uses of *look*

*They **look** really dull.* (*look* + adjective)
*It **looks as if** it's been photographed.* (*look as if* + clause)
*He **looks like** your brother.* (*look like* + noun)

LIVEWORKSHEETS