



READING

1. Read this article about the history about graffiti.

The history of graffiti

The first drawings on walls appeared in caves thousands of years ago. Later the Ancient Romans and Greeks wrote their names and protest poems on buildings. Modern graffiti seems to have appeared in Philadelphia in the early 1960s, and by the late sixties it had reached New York. The new art form really took off in the 1970s, when people began writing their names, or 'tags', on buildings all over the city. In the mid-seventies it was sometimes hard to see out of a subway car window, because the trains were completely covered in spray paintings known as 'masterpieces'.

In the early days, the 'taggers' were part of street gangs who were concerned with marking their territory. They worked in groups called 'crews', and called what they did 'writing' – the term 'graffiti' was first used by The New York Times and the novelist Norman Mailer. Art galleries in New York began buying graffiti in the early seventies. But at the same time that it began to be regarded as an art form, John Lindsay, the then mayor of New York, declared the first war on graffiti. By the 1980s it became much harder to write on subway trains without being caught, and instead many of the more established graffiti artists began using roofs of buildings or canvases.



The debate over whether graffiti is art or vandalism is still going on. Peter Vallone, a New York city councillor, thinks that graffiti done with permission can be art, but if it is on someone else's property it becomes a crime. 'I have a message for the graffiti vandals out there,' he said recently. 'Your freedom of expression ends where my property begins.' On the other hand, Felix, a member of the Berlin-based group Reclaim Your City, says that artists are reclaiming cities for the public from advertisers, and that graffiti represents freedom and makes cities more vibrant.

For decades graffiti has been a springboard to international fame for a few. Jean-Michel Basquiat began spraying on the street in the 1970s before becoming a respected artist in the '80s. The Frenchman Blek le Rat and the British artist Banksy have achieved international fame by producing complex works with stencils, often making political or humorous points. Works by Banksy have been sold for over £100,000. Graffiti is now sometimes big business.

2. Choose the correct answer. (10p)

1. Why was the seventies an important decade in the history of graffiti?
 - a. That was when modern graffiti first appeared.
 - b. That was when modern graffiti first became really popular.
 - c. That was when graffiti first reached New York.
2. What is a 'masterpiece' in graffiti?
 - a. A really high-quality piece of graffiti.
 - b. A work of graffiti showing the artist's name.
 - c. A full piece of graffiti, like those seen on subway trains.
3. What was the main motivation for the first taggers?
 - a. Showing which streets belonged to which gangs.
 - b. Creating a strong visual identity for their 'crew'.
 - c. Sending coded messages to other gangs.
4. Who coined the phrase 'graffiti'?
 - a. New York gangs who had a lot of Italian immigrant members.
 - b. A newspaper and an author.
 - c. The man who was the mayor of New York in the late seventies.
5. How did things change after the first war on graffiti?
 - a. It was considered a more serious crime.
 - b. Graffiti artists had to find different places to paint.
 - c. New York looked a lot cleaner.

3. Fill the gaps with the correct word from the box. (8p)

spray paints	stencil	property	springboard
vandal	taggers	crews	canvas

People who graffiti their names are called _____

Graffiti is usually done with _____

Taggers originally worked in groups called _____

A piece of heavy fabric on which a painting can be created is called a _____

Something that someone owns is called their _____

A person who deliberately destroys or damages someone else's property is called a _____

If something helps to start an activity or process, we say it is a _____ to doing something.

A piece of plastic, cardboard or other material with a design cut into it to reproduce that pattern is called a _____

GRAMMAR & VOCABULARY

4. John, an old friend of mine, had a stroke of good luck last week. Read the statements about what happened and choose the best Past Modal to complete them. (10p)

John gone on holiday. I saw him that morning downtown.

must have can't have

Nobody answered the phone at his shop. Itclosed early.

might have must have

Icalled him earlier! Now I can't find him anywhere!

should have could have

I can't believe John stole the money. Hedone it. He is an honest worker.

couldn't have cant' have

I don't know where he went, but he bought Euros before he left so hegone to France or Germany.

should have might have

5. Read these conditional sentences and complete them. Use the correct tense of these verbs. (10p)

a. If I(buy) a that phone, I will have to be very careful!

b. If he(not/ like) gambling, he wouldn't lose money every week.

c. I.....(congratulate) him if I had known the good news!

d. Unless he..... (move) from this neighborhood, he will be robbed.

e. Provided he arrives on time, we (leave) at 7pm.

6. While on holidays in Paris, John met Sarah, his new friend. Read about her story and complete it with the correct tense of the verbs in brackets. (20p)

Sarah (like, always) travelling. **Last year** she (finish) her studies at secondary school. **Now**, she (want) to give herself some time to think before she goes to university. **While** she (study) at school she (meet) a girl from Paris who(tell) her a lot about her country.

Some days ago, she (see) some information about volunteer work in France and finally (decide)..... to apply. She (be chosen) and she (spend) the **next** 8 months working on a school project, isn't that great?

7. When John came back, his friend Mark talked to him. Report what Mark said. (10p)

John asked: "How many places have you visited?"

.....

John asked: "Did you enjoy the trip?"

.....

John said: "I was wondering whether you went sightseeing with a group."

.....

Mark said: "My friend has encouraged me to travel more."

.....

Mark said: "I'm glad I followed his advice."

.....

8. As soon as he got to Italy, John had some problems. Read about this anecdote and use the phrasal verbs to complete the paragraph. (6p)

CUT DOWN ON BRUSH UP BACK OUT GET ACROSS KEEP UP WITH CAME UP

"The first place I wanted to visit was The Vatican, and to do so I had tothe rules. As I am not fluent with my Italian, I..... with an idea: to use my mobile as a translator. Unfortunately, it wasn't allowed in all churches, so tomy Italian, I decided to take lessons with a

tutor. At the beginning it was frustrating not to be able to my ideas....., but I told myself "I can't now!" After a few weeks, my Italian was better. One thing is true: I had to.....some expenses to pay my new teacher!"

9. After his trip alone, John realized that friends are more important than money, and these statements are part of his reflections. Choose the best word to complete them. (6p)

It is really **relentlessly / disheartening** to be all alone without the possibility of sharing with friends.

Sometimes, having so much and others so little is a **bittersweet / blasting** sensation.

I hope to enjoy a quiet **getaway / downfall** with them soon, they deserve it!

I will talk about the **collide/ layout** of this trip with them.

I will have to find an **appealing / fearsome** destination, so that they never forget about this experience!