

DESCRIBING A PAINTING



A Bar at the Folies-Bergère by Édouard Manet

Task One. Look at the painting and consider these questions:

- What do you notice first?
- Where is the woman standing?
- What kind of place do you think this is?
- What time of day or night might it be?
- What mood does the picture create?

Task Two. Match the phrases with their definitions



- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| 1. in the foreground ____ | a. at the highest part of the picture |
| 2. in the background ____ | b. at the lowest part of the picture. |
| 3. on the left ____ | c. the part of the picture that is closest to you |
| 4. on the right ____ | d. the part that seems furthest away |
| 5. at the top ____ | e. the part on your left-hand side. |
| 6. at the bottom ____ | f. the part on your right-hand side |



Task three. Complete the sentences by choosing the correct phrase:

1. _____, there's a woman standing behind the bar.
2. _____, bottles of drinks are neatly arranged.
3. _____, we can see the reflection of the woman and a man talking to her.
4. _____, there's a bowl of oranges and some flowers.
5. _____, there are bright lights and people in the crowd.
6. _____, you can see a marble counter.

Task Four. Choose the correct option.

The woman's expression looks

- A) happy and relaxed B) serious and distant

The man in the reflection is

- A) standing in front of her B) standing behind her

The bottles and oranges suggest

- A) this is a bar or café B) this is a market stall

The mirror helps us see

- A) what's happening behind her
B) what's happening on the ceiling

The crowd in the background makes the bar look

- A) quiet and empty B) noisy and lively

Discuss:

What do you think the woman is thinking about?

Why do you think Manet painted her this way?

Does the painting feel realistic or mysterious to you? Why?