

STREET LIFE

READING COMPREHENSION



“There is something very special about Barcelona and especially La Rambla. Every time you leave the house and go onto the street, you find some friends. It's more than a street and it's more than simply performing. It's a way of life. I've known the other performers for a long time now – they're like family. We help each other out.”

Carmen, 'living statue'. Originally from Colombia.

“I haven't lived here long enough yet to really understand it. But it's a fantastic mixture. Even the flower stalls are like art installations. You can see, I don't know, theatre, jugglers, acrobats, living statues, tango dancers from Argentina, musicians from Africa ... performers from all around the world.”

Tara, singer. Originally from London.

“This place is full of life, every hour of every day. I've felt much more alive since I came here. It's really inspiring. My paintings have got so much more adventurous here. You can go out at night and always find something to do. I've never seen La Rambla without people. The place never sleeps.”

Theo, portrait painter. Originally from Amsterdam.

“I've just arrived and I've already heard about twenty different languages! It's awesome! There's so much going on. Everywhere you look there's some kind of performance. I especially like the puppeteers I saw this morning. I've never experienced anything like that before.”

Kristen, language student. Originally from Chicago.

“We've been here for a few months. We adore this street. There's entertainment on every corner. And when we play and maybe ten people start dancing – it's beautiful. It's a great place.”

Alvaro, musician. Originally from Angola.

1 Read what people say about La Rambla, a famous street in Barcelona. Write the names of the people.

- 1 Everything is new and exciting to _____.
- 2 _____ likes the reaction he gets from people on La Rambla.
- 3 Living on La Rambla has had a positive effect on _____'s art.
- 4 _____ has been there for a long time.
- 5 _____ likes the variety of La Rambla.

2 Read what people say again. Are the sentences true (T) or false (F)? Or is there not enough information (N) in the text?

- 1 La Rambla attracts entertainers from around the world.
- 2 The performances are free to the public.
- 3 There is always some kind of performance happening on La Rambla.
- 4 It's impossible to sleep if you live near La Rambla.

3 Find words for these performers in the text.



1 _____



3 _____



2 _____



4 _____

Grammar present perfect simple

4 Underline the present perfect simple verbs in the text about La Rambla. How many are there?

5 Complete the sentences with the present perfect form of the verbs and *for* or *since* where necessary.

- 1 We _____ (be) here _____ a few weeks and we love everything we _____ (see) so far.
- 2 I _____ (perform) every night _____ I got here and the crowds are great.
- 3 We _____ (never / have) so much success before.
- 4 My friend _____ (live) here _____ a couple of months and now I _____ (decide) to join her.
- 5 I _____ (always / want) to sing in public and now I can. _____ I came here, I _____ (become) more confident.
- 6 I _____ (not / hear) this music before. It's quite unusual.

6 Rewrite the sentences adding *already*, *just* or *yet*.

- 1 Have you seen *Billy Elliot*?

- 2 Don't reserve me a ticket. I've bought mine.

- 3 I can't meet you later. I haven't finished my work.

- 4 We've been to see Lady Gaga. Wow!

- 5 I arrived this morning and I've seen dozens of performances.

- 6 I'm not sure what that means! I've started learning Spanish.

Vocabulary musical styles

Write one of these words for each sentence.

catchy cheerful lively melancholy
melodic moving repetitive rhythmic
tuneless unusual

- 1 This music has an interesting and pleasant tune.

- 2 It's different from anything you've ever heard before.

- 3 It's good for dancing to.

- 4 You can't stop singing it once you've heard it.

- 5 It's a little bit sad.

- 6 It's not really pleasant to listen to.

- 7 Every song sounds the same to me.
