

G¹ _____ in many cities today and among the famous buildings, street markets, and other attractions, you'll see a special kind of ² _____: living statues. These street ³ _____ who are sometimes
5 dressed as famous characters from history or from popular culture—have become a ⁴ _____ sight in tourist areas of Paris, London, Barcelona, Hollywood, and other cities. The performance ⁵ _____ standing
6 _____ for long periods of time.

10 This kind of performance has a long history. It has existed in various forms since the ⁷ _____ century. The French used the term *tableaux vivants*, which means "⁸ _____". A group of actors stood in positions
15 to illustrate a scene, but they didn't speak or move during the ⁹ _____.



The subject of the displays was often religious or from
10 _____ . In some places, they were part of ¹¹ _____ occasions. In the Catalan region of Spain, *tableaux vivants* have been a popular tradition since the early eighteenth century. ¹² _____, Catalonia is also famous for its modern living statues. In fact, there are so many of them
20 on the streets of Barcelona that the city council decided to control the number and ¹³ _____ only thirty licenses for fifteen locations. Local resident Joan Castells explained, "You can't move past the crowds on the ¹⁴ _____, and most of them are not really entertaining people, they're just ¹⁵ _____." Now, each licensed artist can perform
30 either in the morning or in the afternoon.

So why do so many people want to be living statues? Joan Castells says, "It's an easy way of ¹⁶ _____ money. All you need is some makeup and a costume." But according to one of the living statues in Hollywood,
35 "Preparation takes ages—and so does getting clean at the end of the day. It's also ¹⁷ _____ to stay completely still for long periods. I can't even move my eyes or show that ¹⁸ _____." And although it's "understood" that if you take a photo, you leave
40 some money, not everyone is so kind and generous. "Nobody gets rich doing this," said the living statue from Hollywood.

Perhaps they ¹⁹ _____ rich, but every performer has some tricks to ²⁰ _____ people to give them money.
45 Every time a tourist throws them a coin, they react with a quick, small movement. ²¹ _____ they wave or turn their head or touch the person. The statue comes to life for just a moment, entertaining the crowd and
21 _____ the payment. And maybe giving the tired and
50 aching performer a chance to move into a new, more comfortable position.

¹still (adv) /stɪl/ not moving

²royal (adj) /rɔɪəl/ connected to a king or queen