New York – the art capital

1. Discuss the questions.

- Do you recognize the places in the photos? What city are they in?





- Have you ever been there?
- Would you like to visit?
- What is this city famous for?
- Why do you think this city attracts people?
- What might some people hate it for?

2. Read the quotations about New York. Discuss which of them you think are true based on your own experience or what you have seen on TV/in films.

- *"When you leave New York, you are astonished at how clean the rest of the world is."* Fran Lebowitz
- *"I look out the window and I see the lights and the skyline and the people on the street rushing around looking for action, love, and the world's greatest chocolate chip cookie, and my heart does a little dance."* Nora Ephron
- *"The true New Yorker secretly believes that people living anywhere else have to be, in some sense, kidding."* John Updike
- *"New York is an ugly city, a dirty city. Its climate is a scandal (…), its traffic is madness (…). But there is one thing about it – once you have lived in New York and it has become your home, no place else is good enough."* John Steinbeck

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3. **Read the quotation and say what you think it means. Watch a video [https://youtu.be/Rjslwk96w1k] and check your answer.**

"We're in New York but we're in the middle of the world."

4. **Read the sentences and replace the underlined words and phrases with the synonyms in the box.**

Accessible – contemporary - complex - drive - extraordinary – unconventional - vibrant

a) There are **huge** amounts of amazing cultural organizations that have helped make NYC such an artistic place.
b) New York is one of the most **dynamic and colourful** cities that combines different art worlds.
c) There are a lot of **unusual** installations and art shows in New York.

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d) Because people work really hard in New York, you can really feel the ambition and the **energy** on the street.

e) The main goal of art organizations is to make art **available** to everyone.

f) **Modern** artists try to express valuable ideas through their abstract and surrealistic art.

g) One of the goals of art institutions is to reveal the nature of art that is **not** **simple** and show how and why it is made.



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5. **Read the sentences again and decide if these ideas are mentioned in the video. Watch the video again and check your answers.**

a) There are extraordinary amounts of amazing cultural organizations that have helped make NYC such an artistic place.

b) New York is one of the most vibrant cities that combines different art worlds.

c) There are a lot of unconventional installations and art shows in New York.

d) Because people work really hard in New York, you can really feel the ambition and the drive on the street.

e) The main goal of art organizations is to make art accessible to everyone.

f) Contemporary artists try to express valuable ideas through their abstract and surrealistic art.

g) One of the goals of art institutions is to reveal the nature of art that is complex and show how and why it is made.

6. **Discuss the questions.**

- What is the general idea the people in the video are trying to express?
- Why is New York a great place for artists and art lovers?
- Do you know other cities that are known for their art scene?
- Does your country have a diverse art scene? What about your nearest city?
- What are some of the famous museums and art galleries in New York?

7. **Read two descriptions of museums. Decide which of them is about The Metropolitan Museum of Art (The Met) and which one is about The Museum of Modern Art (MoMA).**

Museum A

This grand classical building receives extraordinary amounts of visitors each year and hosts regular events. It has a complex character representing art across time and cultures. You can find sketches from centuries ago along with modern installations there and admire some really famous portraits and landscapes.

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Museum B

This brand-new building is a perfect space for contemporary art and unconventional art shows. It attracts people who like vibrant places and want to feel the real drive of New York. It gives you a taste of modern art from its surrealistic and abstract paintings to lifelike sculptures. One of the ideas this place aims at is making art accessible to the general public.

8. Read the descriptions in ex. 7 again and find the words for each category. Some words can be used in more than one category.

TO DESCRIBE WORKS OF ART: .....

.....

TO DESCRIBE BUILDINGS: .....

.....

TO DESCRIBE TYPES OF ART: .....

.....

9. Read the statements and say whether you agree or disagree with them. Give reasons for your answers.

- If I visited New York, I wouldn't waste time going to museums.
- If I had to choose a museum to visit, I'd go to a modern one.
- I don't fully understand contemporary art.
- I think classical art is boring.
- If I could choose one famous piece of art to have at home, it would be a sculpture.
- Art has become more accessible to the public in the last couple of years.

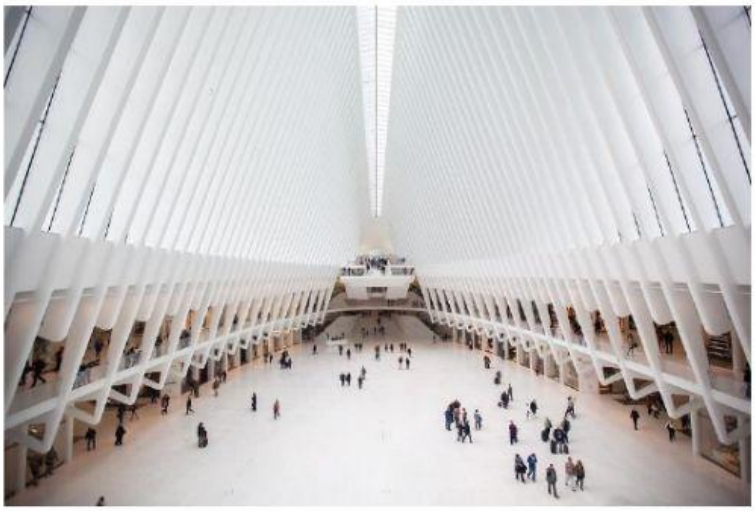
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10. Imagine that you are planning an art show. Describe it in detail by answering the questions below.

- Which of these two venues would you choose? Why?



New York Public Library



The Oculus (artistic landmark/shopping centre)

- What kind of art would you present? Would you like to have classical or contemporary art? Would you have paintings, sculptures or other installations?
- Would you invite only famous artists?
- Would you make it accessible to everyone or more exclusive?

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