

FORGERS&FORGERIES LWS 2.

DO YOU COLLECT WORKS OF ART? WOULD YOU RATHER HAVE AN AUTHENTIC PAINTING BY AN UNKNOWN ARTIST THAN A MASTERPIECE FORGERY?



1. Listen to Shankar Vedantam _____. Drag and drop.

the finished drawing

to connect the dots

a psychological perspective

taking advantage

to complete his con

the con for you

is a sham world

What I find really, really clever about this was that Hebborn was leaving me _____. And there's two things that I found really intriguing there from _____. One, when Hebborn is basically presenting a preparatory drawing that looks actually quite different from _____,

a mark

- INFORMAL • US

a person who is easily deceived or taken advantage of.
"they figure I'm an easy mark"

he's allowing the expert

_____. That is

psychologically very clever because

he's _____ of the fact the expert has vanity and wants to make these connections. And the best con game is where the mark essentially executes _____. That's one of the things he was doing. But the



second thing was, by so doing, he's also demonstrating to himself that the expert really is not an expert. And he's demonstrating for his own psychological satisfaction that this world of the art expert

_____ .

2. Listen to Noah Charney and join the parts of the chunks _____ :

set

a triumph

allow the experts

on a limb

feels like

a trap

enthusiastically

themselves in this net

goes out

authenticate

wind up tangling

to dive headfirst

3. Listen to the snippet and try to get the words matching following definitions _____

to falsely represent a person or thing as being someone or something else (phrasal verb) - to _____

showing great attention to detail; very careful and precise (adj) - _____

having, showing, or caused by strong feelings or beliefs (adj) - _____

smooth elegance or grace (noun) - _____

4. Listen to the clip and decide whether the statements are true or false _____ :

1. Getting the materials correct is much harder, and it's more expensive, but it is strictly necessary. ____
2. The provenance trap is often **a confidence trick** that forgers use to pass off the object. ____

3. Unless **some red flag is raised** stylistically or in terms of the object's history, nobody does forensic testing. ____
4. This is part of **a residual gentleman's agreement** in the art trade that dates back decades. ____
5. If the experts can't **reach a consensus**, then the **tiebreaker is broken** by scientific testing. ____
6. Forensic testing is both expensive and it is invasive into the object. ____
7. Hebborn took that level of detail because he was a perfectionist, because he loved what he was doing and was very passionate about it. ____

Explain in your own way the expressions in **bold**.

5. Unjumble the sentences, listen and check _____

1. /enormous amounts/ scholar - not just being /he was spending// a forger / of time being a/.



2. /the forgeries/ done/the scholarship /he couldn't have/ if he hadn't done/.

3. / as a /he had a/ chemist/ bent /. _____

4. /he/ volunteered all/ notoriety/ because he was/ of his secrets/ looking for/.

5. /he would/ while he was/ get drunk/ and it would achieve/ making the drawings,/ a certain fluidity of line and body.

6. /is a giveaway to/ a painstaking line/ something funny's/ going on/ an expert that/.

7. he would do/ to prepare the/ fluidity of line/ dozens of sketches/ he was after.

8. / his sketches as well / in order to ensure/then he would start drinking/ that he wouldn't/ overthink things/ heavily and then do/.

9. / he made his/ step-by-step recipes for how/ forgeries of paintings and drawings/ in his book/he actually has/.

6. Read the sentences extracted out of the excerpt from *The Guardian*. Find the correct place for each line in the text.

A) their accounts suggest that he was creating his “old masters” for the mafia

B) he confided to friends he feared “something violent” would happen to him

C) , and are planning an ambitious eight-part TV drama about the art forger

D) , when he was found with a fractured skull on a street near his home in Rome

Film-makers have unearthed evidence that Eric Hebborn, the greatest art forger of modern times, was working for the mafia towards the end of his life and may even have been murdered by them.

The British artist's death has remained a mystery since 1996 ____ . He was 61 .

Writers Kingston Trinder and Peter Gerard have secured **the rights to Hebborn's memoir** from 1991, *Drawn to Trouble* ____ .

They have been collaborating **with some of the forger's closest friends**, who have never spoken publicly about him before and who have revealed details of Hebborn's “mafia-related” dealings.

____ **after he was outed as a forger in 1978**, and that he became so desperate for money that his sources were “increasingly questionable”.

Trinder told the Observer: “We think a mafia connection may ultimately have played a role in Eric's death. We've been hearing a lot of suspicions about what was going on in the circumstances leading up to it.”

Gerard added that Hebborn had been “fearful of a certain violent dealer” and that ____.

Ask questions for the “answers” in bold. Retell the piece.

7. Look at the pictures and read the captions. Match them.

A) A drawing 'after' Michelangelo - mimicking the style of old master. As well as the right paper and paint, he used glues prepared to a specific recipe to stop ink blotting and lines from bleeding

B) A piece entitled 'Etching of three women' in his own style. An etching touched with wash, 1984.

C) A sketch in the style of Rembrandt. Hebborn had 20 recipes for ink. He took extracts from several oak trees, and ground them to a fine powder with a mortar and pestle.

D) An oil on canvas painting in the style of Claude by master forger Eric Hebborn. Many of his works which were sold as originals still hang in museums and galleries.

