

1 Look at the paintings and read the conversation. Then read the statements and check true or false.



*Serena* by Jessica Miller-Smith



*Thoughts* by Agnes Geniusaite

**Sophie:** Is this painting by Jessica Miller-Smith? I had no idea she had so much talent!

**Gerald:** She doesn't really look like the artistic type, does she?

**Sophie:** I guess you can't always judge a book by its cover. It's really quite good. What do you think?

**Gerald:** I find it a little weird, actually. It makes me feel nervous.

**Sophie:** But that's what makes it interesting. In my opinion, it's exciting.

**Gerald:** Hey, this is an interesting piece. It's by Agnes Geniusaite. I love her work.

**Sophie:** I think it's kind of depressing.

**Gerald:** You do? Maybe you're just feeling a little blue today.

**Sophie:** No, I mean it. I guess I'm just not really into all the dark colors.

**Gerald:** Well, to each his own, I guess.

1. Gerald is really into Jessica Miller-Smith's painting.
2. Sophie likes Miller-Smith.
3. Gerald is a fan of Agnes Geniusaite's art.
4. Sophie finds Geniusaite's painting depressing.
5. Sophie prefers darker colors to brighter colors.
6. Sophie and Gerald like the same kind of art.

true      false

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2 Write a plus (+) next to the statements that indicate that the person likes the art, and a minus (-) next to the statements that indicate that the person doesn't like it.

1.  I had no idea he had so much talent.
2.  Her work is very impressive.
3.  This abstract sculpture is fascinating.
4.  It's an unforgettable photograph.
5.  I find it a little boring, actually.
6.  I guess I'm just not really into modern art.
7.  It's a little weird, but that's what makes it so interesting.
8.  This is an unusual piece, but I don't find it appealing.

3 What do Sophie and Gerald think of the paintings in Exercise 1? Complete the chart.

	Miller-Smith	Geniusaite
Sophie's opinion	<i>Quite good - interesting and funny</i>	<i>Interesting - doesn't look like art</i>
Gerald's opinion	<i>Good - interesting and funny</i>	<i>Interesting - looks like art</i>

4 CHALLENGE. Which painting in Exercise 1 do you prefer? Why?

Write a few sentences expressing your opinion.

## LESSON 1

5 Read each sentence and decide if it is in the active voice (A) or passive voice (P).

1.  Many people visit the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York.
2.  The glass pyramid in front of the Louvre was finished in 1989.
3.  A color poster of the painting was made available.
4.  The museum catalog has been translated into many languages.
5.  Akira Kurosawa directed the film *Seven Samurai* in 1954.
6.  That vase was made in ancient Egypt.
7.  The photograph was taken fifty years ago.
8.  Matisse painted *La Musique* in 1910.



6 Use the information in the chart to write two sentences, one in the active voice and one in the passive voice. Be sure to use the correct verb with the artwork.

Art Object	Artist	Year
1. <i>Still Life with Watermelon</i> (painting)	Pablo Picasso	1946
2. <i>Vines and Olive Trees</i> (painting)	Joan Miró	1919
3. <i>The Raven and the First Men</i> (wood figure)	Bill Reid	1994
4. <i>Citizen Kane</i> (film)	Orson Welles	1941
5. <i>Waterfront Demonstration</i> (photograph)	Dorothea Lange	1934

1. Active: *Pablo Picasso painted Still Life with Watermelon in 1946.*

Passive: *Still Life with Watermelon was painted by Pablo Picasso in 1946.*

2. Active: \_\_\_\_\_

Passive: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Active: \_\_\_\_\_

Passive: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Active: \_\_\_\_\_

Passive: \_\_\_\_\_

5. Active: \_\_\_\_\_

Passive: \_\_\_\_\_



7 Read a page from a tour guide about Paris. Complete the conversation. Make a recommendation to someone who is visiting Paris, using the information in the tour guide.

## The Rodin Museum

There are many wonderful museums to see while you are visiting Paris. One museum you should be sure to visit is the lovely Rodin Museum. The Rodin Museum houses over 6,600 sculptures. There is also an impressive garden. A large number of sculptures are presented in this setting, including Rodin's most famous work, *The Thinker*. In addition to the sculptures, take a look at the excellent drawing collection. Many of Rodin's sketches are there.



**YOU** Be sure \_\_\_\_\_ 1.  
in Paris.

**B**: Really? Why's that?

**YOU** Well, \_\_\_\_\_ 2.

**B**: No kidding!

**YOU** They also \_\_\_\_\_ 3.  
\_\_\_\_\_

**You'll** \_\_\_\_\_ 4.

**B**: Thanks for the recommendation.

INFORMATION SOURCE: [musee-rodin.fr](http://musee-rodin.fr)

## LESSON 2

8

Choose the correct response. Write the letter on the line.

1. \_\_\_ "Is this vase handmade?"  
a. Clay. It's handmade.
2. \_\_\_ "What do you think of this painting?"  
b. Yes, it is.
3. \_\_\_ "Where was the figure made?"  
c. It says it was made in Bulgaria.
4. \_\_\_ "Do you know when this photograph was taken?"  
d. Not much. I'm not crazy about the colors.
5. \_\_\_ "What's the bowl made of?"  
e. Around 1980, I think.

9

Unscramble the words to write questions.

1. were / Where / built / those / wood chairs \_\_\_\_\_?
2. made of / are / those / bowls / What \_\_\_\_\_?
3. Were / painted / those / wood figures / by hand \_\_\_\_\_?
4. was / painted / When / that / mural \_\_\_\_\_?
5. this / made in Thailand / gold jewelry / Was \_\_\_\_\_?
6. are / What / these / used for / cloth bags \_\_\_\_\_?

10

Look at the pictures. Write sentences to describe the objects. Use words from the box or your own ideas.

Material	clay	cloth	glass	gold	stone	wood
Adjective	beautiful impressive	boring interesting	cool practical	depressing terrific	fantastic weird	fascinating wonderful

1. The hat is made of cloth. It's fantastic.



\_\_\_\_\_

sombrero hat, Mexico

bag, Spain

2. \_\_\_\_\_



elephant figure, India



rocking chair, Canada

3. \_\_\_\_\_



balalaika guitar, Russia

4. \_\_\_\_\_



vase, France

5. \_\_\_\_\_

The Arts

## 11 Read the article about how to develop artistic talent.

## Nurturing Your Artistic Talent

1 **S**o, you'd like to improve your artistic ability, but you think you don't have any natural talent? The truth is you don't have to be born with talent to be a good artist—and to enjoy making art. Artistic skill can be learned.

Many people who try painting get frustrated and give up because they feel they lack the "artistic gene." However, the real problem is that they have just never been trained to look at the world like an artist. When non-artists look at the subject of a drawing, they see it with the left side of their brains. They immediately begin figuring out the meaning of what they see. An artist pays attention to what is actually being seen—the lines. Are they straight or curved? Dark or light? Where do they intersect?

Want to learn to see like an artist? Try this exercise. Find a large photo of a face and try to draw it. It's OK if your drawing looks bad. Then turn the photo upside down and try again. This time focus only on the relationships of the intersecting lines and shapes. Almost always, the upside-down drawing, when turned right side up, will be much better than the right-side-up version! How did this happen? By turning the photo upside down, the left side of your brain stopped looking at the photo as a face. Instead, the right side of your brain took over and began seeing the photo in a new way.



4 People who claim they have no artistic talent may actually have talent. But they may not be able to use it because they worry, "What will people think? Will I look silly? Will my piece be awful?" Young children rarely have these fears. They just enjoy the experience of creating something. To be successful at art, you will need to adopt the carefree attitude that you once had as a child. Don't worry about the results. Just relax and enjoy the experience of creating art.

5 Anyone can develop the necessary skills and understanding to create art. Those with natural talent are able to learn more quickly and easily, but even they will need training, practice, and hard work. So, stop making excuses and get started! Take art lessons, read books on art, and attend art exhibits. Expose yourself to a variety of techniques, kinds of art, and other artists. And think of becoming an artist as a lifetime journey. Stop worrying about making mistakes and enjoy the adventure!

INFORMATION SOURCE: [MasterPaintingLessons.com](http://MasterPaintingLessons.com)

**12** Answer the questions, according to the article in Exercise 11. Circle the letter.

1. What is the main idea of paragraph 2?
  - a. Lacking the "artistic gene" is a real problem.
  - b. You should always draw faces upside down.
  - c. It's important to learn to see like an artist.
  - d. Try to use the left side of your brain when you draw.
2. What is the main idea of paragraph 4?
  - a. Children are better artists than adults.
  - b. Fear of making mistakes prevents many adults from creating art.
  - c. Fear helps adults find their artistic talent.
  - d. Beginners' artwork is usually silly.
3. What is the main idea of paragraph 5?
  - a. Artists with natural talent don't have to work hard.
  - b. It takes a very long time to become a good artist.
  - c. Artistic ability can be improved by attending art shows.
  - d. Anyone can make art with practice and hard work.

**13** Read the quotations by famous artists. Find a paragraph in the article that presents an opinion similar to that expressed by each artist. Write the number of the paragraph on the line.

1. \_\_\_\_\_



“Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist once we grow up.”

—Pablo Picasso

2. \_\_\_\_\_

“I am doubtful of any talent, so whatever I choose to be, will be accomplished only by long study and work.”

—Jackson Pollock



3. \_\_\_\_\_



“Creation begins with vision. The artist has to look at everything as though seeing it for the first time.”

—Henri Matisse

**14** Read the third paragraph of the article again. Try the drawing exercise on a separate sheet of paper. Then answer the questions.

1. Which drawing was easier? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Which drawing took more time? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Which drawing looks more like the photograph? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Did the exercise help you to see more like an artist? Explain. \_\_\_\_\_

## 16 Complete the biography of Pablo Picasso using the passive voice.

Pablo Ruiz Picasso began studying art with his father. Then from 1895 until 1904, he painted in Barcelona. During this time, he made his first trip to Paris, where he \_\_\_\_\_ by the artwork of Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec. In Paris, Picasso \_\_\_\_\_ by all the poverty he saw. He was sad and angry that so many people lived without enough food or clothing. He painted many pictures of poor people to bring attention to their situation.

In 1906, Picasso met the artist Henri Matisse, who was to become his longtime friend. Picasso \_\_\_\_\_ in Matisse's style, but he did not imitate it. The artists he really admired were Georges Braque and Joan Miró. Picasso \_\_\_\_\_ by Braque's and Miró's work. Together the three artists started the movement known as Cubism.

One of Picasso's most famous artistic pieces is *Guernica*. Picasso \_\_\_\_\_ by the violence of the Spanish Civil War. This prompted him to paint the piece.



## 16 Read the biography in Exercise 16 again. Rewrite the five sentences in the passive voice, changing them to the active voice.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

## 17 CHALLENGE. Write a short paragraph about your favorite kind of art and your favorite artist. Use some of the phrases from the box.

interested in	fascinated by	inspired by	moved by	influenced by
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Handwritten text in a box:

John Williams is best composer and director of classical music. He influenced me because his music is relaxed me.

## GRAMMAR BOOSTER

A

If possible, rewrite the sentences, changing the active voice to the passive voice. If a sentence cannot be changed to the passive voice, circle the verb and write intransitive on the line.

1. Leonardo da Vinci painted the *Mona Lisa* in the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

2. Pablo Picasso died in 1973 at 91 years old.

3. Paul Klee used simple lines and strong colors in his many paintings.

4. The artist's later work seems quite dark and depressing.

5. A new exhibit of impressionist paintings arrives at the Philadelphia Museum of Art this summer.

6. Marc Jacobs will show his spring collection at New York Fashion Week.

7. In Florence, we walked from The Uffizi Gallery to the Accademia Gallery to see Michelangelo's *David*.

B

Choose the best answer to complete each sentence. Circle the letter.

C

**Use the words to write sentences in the passive voice.**

1. French / speak / in Quebec, Canada
2. The Taj Mahal / build / around 1631
3. A new art museum / open / next year
4. Many products / make / in China
5. "Imagine" / write / by John Lennon
6. Your DVD player / repair / now
7. The Mona Lisa / see / by millions of people since it was painted

**D** Read the description of a museum. Find and correct four more mistakes in the use of the passive voice.

**The Frick Collection**

The mansion of Henry Clay Frick ~~builded~~<sup>was built</sup> in 1914 at the corner of Fifth Avenue and East 70<sup>th</sup> Street in New York City. It was later open to the public. Several improvements have made over the years. Works of Manet, El Greco, Bernini, Degas, Vermeer, and many other artists found throughout the mansion. Some of the museum's large collection of art displayed at temporary exhibitions around the world.

**E** Rewrite the sentences in the passive voice. Use a by phrase only if it is important or necessary to know who or what is performing the action.

1. People in Guatemala carved this wood figure.

2. Artists hand-paint these plates in France.

3. Valentino is showing a lot of bright colors this season.

4. Stores everywhere are going to sell her jewelry.

5. Swiss companies still make the world's best watches.

6. Shakespeare wrote King Lear.

**F** Rewrite the sentences in the passive voice in Exercise E as yes / no questions.

1. Was this wood figure carved in Guatemala?

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.