

**2** Read the first paragraph of the article below, about a graffiti artist called Banksy. Decide which answer (A, B, C or D) best fits each gap.

- |                |               |              |             |
|----------------|---------------|--------------|-------------|
| 0 A displayed  | B appeared    | C designed   | D presented |
| 1 A discover   | B encounter   | C meet       | D gain      |
| 2 A begun      | B tended      | C become     | D developed |
| 3 A said       | B claimed     | C promised   | D admitted  |
| 4 A honest     | B responsible | C steady     | D reliable  |
| 5 A got        | B solved      | C won        | D reached   |
| 6 A found      | B looked      | C obtained   | D searched  |
| 7 A occupation | B function    | C job        | D work      |
| 8 A introduced | B responded   | C identified | D connected |

**Graffiti art by Banksy**



## BANKSY, WHO ARE YOU?

For years, his artwork has mysteriously **(0)** ..... on walls and buildings across the world. But nobody knows who he is. Indeed, the ten-year mission to **(1)** ..... the true identity of the graffiti artist known as 'Banksy' has **(2)** ..... almost as fascinating as the controversial artwork itself. While many people have **(3)** ..... to know who he is, the only **(4)** ..... facts are that he comes from Bristol and his first name is Robin. Now the mystery may have been **(5)** ..... A national newspaper says it **(6)** ..... out the name of the artist using a photograph which apparently showed him at **(7)** ..... with spray cans in Jamaica in 2004. The newspaper contacted several of his friends, who all **(8)** ..... the man in the picture as Robin Gunningham, an ex-pupil from an expensive private school in Bristol. Yesterday the artist's agents refused to confirm whether Mr Gunningham was actually Banksy. 'We get these calls all the time,' said his spokeswoman. 'I never confirm or deny these stories.'

Since Banksy became a major street artist, his work has sold for thousands of pounds. Last year, a piece of his controversial graffiti which was painted on a London wall sold for over £200,000 in an online auction. People who have bought Banksy artwork include the actor Angelina Jolie and the singer Christina Aguilera. He's certainly fashionable!

His journey to fame is an unusual one. One of the first conventional exhibitions of his art was held in 2000, but the mysterious Banksy gave out only the number of the building and not the name of the street. Nevertheless, interest in him began to grow. He developed strategies to keep his identity secret, such as doing interviews only on the phone and using trusted business colleagues to handle sales.

As his fame grew, so did the danger of being caught spraying his unique graffiti on public walls. He began to think up more complex and unusual stunts. For example, he got into the penguin exhibit at the London Zoo and painted 'We're bored of fish' on the wall. Then in October 2003 he hung one of his own paintings in the famous Tate Gallery in London. It showed a country scene surrounded by police tape. He did a similar thing in 2005 at four major museums in New York City. One of those museums – the Museum of Modern Art – decided to add the piece to their permanent collection!

When Banksy does agree to give an interview, he ensures that the public never discover his true identity. 'I have no interest in ever coming out,' he told an arts magazine. 'I'm just trying to make the pictures look good; I'm not into trying to make myself look good. And besides, it's a pretty safe bet that the reality of me would be a crushing disappointment to a couple of 15-year-old kids out there.' Maybe now that it looks like his identity has finally been revealed, that may well change.

**3** Read the rest of the article. According to the writer, are the following statements true (T) or false (F), or is the information not given (NG)?

- Banksy's managers frequently deal with enquiries about his identity. ....
- Very few people turned up to Banksy's first exhibition. ....
- Banksy does not care about being caught. ....
- Banksy employs people to look after the business side of his art. ....
- A museum in the USA kept one of Banksy's paintings to display to visitors. ....
- Banksy says that he will one day reveal his identity to the world. ....

### EP Word profile scale

Complete the sentences with the words below.

one to ten    problem    smaller    to

- We still don't know the scale of the .....  
....., I'd give it three.
- On a scale of .....  
....., I'd give it three.
- This model of my house isn't .....  
..... scale.
- These plans are similar to the previous ones, but  
on a ..... scale.