

LISTEN AND COMPLETE THE MISSING WORDS AND NUMBERS YOU HEAR.

Johannes Vermeer was a seventeenth-century painter from the city of Delft in Holland. He (1) _____ painted the people and things he saw around him: the rooms in his house, the people who lived or worked there (usually women), and the things they did every day. (2) _____, in his work you will see women who are playing music, reading or writing letters, or working in the kitchen. Vermeer was especially good at painting light coming into a room through windows. Partly for this reason, people often describe his work as being like (3) _____ or film — his paintings can seem very 'real'.

This painting, The Milkmaid, is one of these very 'photographic' images. The woman, a maid or a (4) _____, is pouring milk into a bowl. Perhaps she's making a bread and milk pudding, because there are pieces of broken bread on the table. Nobody knows if the woman he painted was a real servant or a model. However, most people think Vermeer usually painted his wife, his daughter, and his servant, not (5) _____. A famous book and film, called Girl with a Pearl Earring, (6) _____ by one of his best-known paintings, is an imaginary story about Vermeer and his relationship with his young servant. People admired Vermeer's paintings a lot in his lifetime, but he was never rich. There are two reasons for this. First, because he painted very slowly. Today there are only (7) _____ paintings which we can be sure are by him. Second, because he used very expensive paints. The blue paint he used for the Milkmaid's (8) _____ was made of lapis lazuli, which was a very expensive stone.

People loved this painting from the very beginning, and (9) _____ it is very small, only 46 by 41 centimeters, 20 years after Vermeer died, somebody bought the painting for (10) _____ Dutch guilders. That was an enormous amount of money for the time.