

46 A painting



The painting *Bathers at Asnières* by Georges Seurat shows a typical scene of nineteenth-century leisure and the developing industry in this suburb of Paris. In the foreground, we see a group of workmen on their day off, having an enjoyable afternoon on the bank of the river. In the distance, you can just see the factory where they probably work. Everyone is looking out at the river and ignoring each other, even the little dog. We can sense the heat of the summer's day: the bright sunshine, bright colours and pale sky, and the general impression is one of almost silent and peaceful relaxation.

Bathers was painted in the 1880s, but up to then, most paintings were either historical and religious, or portraits of famous ladies and gentlemen. Ordinary people were not shown in art, so this painting was very original and quite shocking. It was painted outside, not in a studio, which was also unusual at that time.

GLOSSARY

scene	a picture of a place and the things that are happening there	ignore	pay no attention to sb/sth
leisure	the time when you do not have to work	sense	get a feeling about sth that you can't directly see or hear
industry	the production of goods in factories industrial <i>adj</i>	heat [U, sing]	the feeling of sth hot OPP cold
foreground	the part of a picture that seems nearest to you OPP background: in the foreground/background	bright	having a lot of light OPP dark; brightness <i>n</i>
off	not at work or school: have a day/week/month off	impression	feelings or thoughts that you have about sth/sb
bank	the land along the side of a river	silent	with nobody speaking
in the distance	far away from you	peaceful	quiet and calm peace <i>n</i>
just	If you can just see sth, you can only see it with difficulty.	relaxation	time spent resting and being calm relaxing <i>adj</i>
		ordinary	not special or unusual ALSO normal
		shocking	making you feel upset, angry or surprised in a very bad way
		studio	a room in which an artist, photographer, etc. works

SPOTLIGHT *lady and gentleman*

Lady is a polite way of saying 'woman'; **gentleman** is a polite way of saying 'man'. It is more polite to say 'an old lady/gentleman' than to say 'an old woman/man'.

Lady and **gentleman** also describe a man or woman who is polite, well-educated and kind:

▪ *She's a real lady. He's a perfect gentleman.*

You may also see **ladies** and **gents** on the doors of public toilets.

1 Look at the underlined sounds. Cross out the word in each group which is different.

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| ▶ dark / <u>shocking</u> / <u>peace</u> | 4 brightness / impression / peaceful |
| 1 just / ignore / gentleman | 5 peaceful / sense / scene |
| 2 scene / sense / leisure | 6 shocking / ordinary / ignore |
| 3 relaxation / lady / relaxing | 7 industry / industrial / distance |

2 Look at the picture on page 98. Write your answers.

- ▶ Where are the industrial buildings? In the distance.
- 1 How many people are there in the foreground? _____
- 2 Where are the boats? _____
- 3 Where are the men sitting? _____
- 4 Are they ignoring each other? _____
- 5 Are the colours dark or bright? _____
- 6 Is the scene busy or peaceful? _____
- 7 Are the people ordinary or famous? _____
- 8 Can you see any ladies? _____

3 Cover the glossary on page 98. Complete the definitions.

- ▶ ordinary = not special or unusual
- 1 leisure = time when you don't have to _____
- 2 sense = have a _____ about sth that you can't see or hear
- 3 a morning off = a morning when you _____ have to go to work or school
- 4 scene = a _____ of a place and the things that are happening there
- 5 brightness = the fact of having a lot of _____
- 6 industry = the production of goods made in _____
- 7 studio = a room or rooms where an _____ works
- 8 silent = with _____ talking

4 Complete the sentences with one word from each pair.

peaceful / peace	impression / scene	bright ✓ / brightness	just / even	heat / brightness
industry / industrial	lady / gentleman	shocking / relaxing	background / foreground	

- ▶ The painter Whistler often uses dark colours, not bright ones.
- 1 LS Lowry painted many _____ scenes of factories and factory workers.
- 2 The people in the _____ of the painting must be about five kilometres away.
- 3 It was dark, but we could still feel the _____ – it was 30 degrees at midnight.
- 4 I need some _____ and quiet to finish this book – please don't interrupt me.
- 5 In the picture it's foggy, but you can _____ see the animals in the field.
- 6 The painting tries to create the _____ of light and heat.
- 7 A _____ asked me where the Picasso room was. I told him it was upstairs.
- 8 It's _____ that so many people don't have a home and sleep on the streets.

5 Complete the text.

This painting by an Italian artist shows a ▶ scene of happiness and (1) p _____. There is a mother playing with her small daughter in the (2) f _____, and in the (3) b _____, an older woman is watching them. Behind her, and a long way in the (4) d _____, you can (5) j _____ see an old house, perhaps where they all live. It's obviously a warm day, and they are playing in the sunshine. On the right of the painting, there is a man who is (6) i _____ the mother and daughter; he seems much more interested in the dog in front of him. They are an (7) o _____ working family, and he's probably looking forward to some (8) r _____ during his day (9) o _____.

6 ABOUT YOU Think about a painting you know and like. Write your answers, or ask another student.

- 1 Who painted it, and do you know when? _____
- 2 What does it show? _____
- 3 What do you like about it? _____



TEST YOURSELF