9.2 Paintings

Vocabulary describing paintings

1 Complete the categories with the words in the box.

> curves   modern   old-fashioned   seems   ~~soft~~
> tells a story   traditional   warm

Adjectives that describe colours
colourful   **1** _soft_
bright   **2** _____

Adjectives that describe age and style
historical   **4** _____
mysterious   **5** _____
3 _____

Verbs and verb phrases to describe a picture
looks   **7** _____
6 _____

Nouns to describe line and shape
straight lines **8** _____

2 Match words from exercise **1** to the extracts from art reviews below.

1 This fifteenth-century painting is important because it tells us what was happening in Milan at the time ... (adjective) _historical_

2 Pollock's work uses oranges, reds, blues, greens, dark browns ... just about everything in fact! (adjective) _____

3 In this painting, we find out what happened after Peter left Rome and ... (verb phrase) _____

4 Although painted in 1990, it doesn't look modern at all – it already looks out of date ... (adjective) _____

5 He uses the feminine shapes of bridges and rainbows in his art ... (noun) _____

6 We really don't know why the artist painted this, or what it means ... (adjective) _____

PRONUNCIATION Stress

3a **9.1** 🔊 Listen and circle the stressed syllable in each word.

1 historical   4 mysterious   7 old-fashioned
2 colourful   5 modern
3 detailed   6 traditional

b **9.1** 🔊 Listen again. Pause the listening and repeat after each word.

4 Complete the review with words and phrases from the box.

> the background   the bottom right-hand corner   the left
> the middle of   front of   the foreground

Las Meninas Painted in 1656 by the Spanish artist Diego Velázquez, this famous painting shows the Spanish king's little daughter visiting the artist's studio. She is standing in
1 _____ the painting, in **2** _____, and she is looking at us directly. A big dog is lying in **3** _____ of the picture. On **4** _____, the artist has painted himself in **5** _____ a very large canvas. Interestingly, even though we can't see what's on the canvas, we know what Velázquez is painting because there is a mirror in **6** _____ showing the king and queen's reflection. This painting makes you ask many questions, and the more you look at it, the more complex it becomes. It is a portrait of the princess, a portrait of life at court, a portrait of the king and queen and a self-portrait of the artist at work! Or is it really a painting about painting?

➡ **STUDY TIP** Notice the use of *in*, *at* and *on/to* when describing a picture. We say *at the top* or *at the bottom*, *on/to the left* or *on/to the right*, but *in the middle*, *in front* and *in the corner*, and *in the foreground* or *background*.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Grammar deduction and speculation

5a Edith has a painting, not a poster, on the wall of her room. Read what her friends say about it on a social networking site, and choose the best modal verbs to complete the sentences.

VICTOR Did anyone else see that painting on Edith's wall at the party at her house last Saturday? I think it's real. If so, she ¹*must*/ *could* / *can't* be a secret millionaire!

TOMAS Don't be stupid! It ²*must* / *might* / *can't* be real! It's a famous painting by Turner. The original is in a museum in London!

VICTOR Oh, right. But what reason ³*must* / *could* / *can't* she have for hanging a painting like that in her room?

PENNY Lots of reasons. The painting ⁴*must* / *could* / *can't* have a special significance, for example. Edith's English. Who knows? Turner ⁵*must* / *might* / *can't* be her great-grandfather.

TOMAS Unlikely, Penny. LOL.

PENNY OK, but it ⁶*must* / *could* / *can't* be there by accident. Everybody chooses pictures for a reason, and that includes Edith.

EDITH What are you guys talking about? You ⁷*must* / *might* / *can't* be really bored if this is all you have to chat about! The painting was there when I moved in, it's fixed to the wall, and the landlord told me not to move it! I suspect I know why, too. There ⁸*must* / *might* / *can't* be a really big hole in the wall behind it!

b 9.2 ⟩⟩ Listen and check your answers to exercise **5a**. Notice the strong stress on *must*, *might*, *could* and *can't*. Listen and repeat.

6 Complete the text with *must*, *might* or *can't*.

The Lost Leonardo?

. . . .

In Palazzo Vecchio in Florence, there is a large sixteenth-century painting that covers one of the walls. It ¹ _must_ be over ten metres wide – at least! And it's by the artist Giorgio Vasari, who was a fine painter, but one you ² _____ not know. 'It's a great painting,' says one well-known art expert, 'but we think there ³ _____ be an even greater painting behind it. We aren't sure, of course, but we now have the technology to look closer. Who knows what we ⁴ _____ find.'

Historical records show that there was a large painting by Leonardo da Vinci in the Palazzo Vecchio when Vasari started painting. But where is it now? Many experts don't believe that Vasari would have destroyed Leonardo's work, so it ⁵ _____ be lost forever. It's just hidden. In the corner of his own painting, Vasari wrote *cerca trova* (look and you will find), which ⁶ _____ be a clue. It's a possibility that has excited many in the art world. '*Cerca trova* ⁷ _____ mean something!' says one expert. 'Vasari wrote it for a reason. We ⁸ _____ be certain, of course, but we think it ⁹ _____ mean that the lost Leonardo is behind Vasari's painting. And, if it is, it ¹⁰ _____ be Leonardo's largest surviving painting. He painted nothing else so big.'

I can …	Very well	Quite well	More practice
describe a scene.	○	○	○
speculate and make deductions.	○	○	○