17 ART IS FUN!

VOCABULARY Adjectives describing art

1 Complete the adjectives with the missing vowels.

1 cl___ss___c
2 c___ntr___v___rs___ ___l
3 b___z___rr___
4 dr___m___t___c
5 r___m___rk___bl___
6 st___nn___ng
7 p___w___rf___l
8 h___m___r___ ___s
9 ___n___q___ ___
10 ___bstr___ct
11 c___nt___mp___r___ry
12 c___nv___nt___ ___n___l

2 Match the adjectives in Exercise 1 to their meanings.

1 very sudden or noticeable, or full of action and excitement _____
2 very unusual or noticeable in a way that you admire _____
3 having all the characteristics or qualities that you expect _____
4 having a strong effect on people _____
5 very strange and unusual _____
6 different from everyone and everything else _____
7 very beautiful and attractive _____
8 existing or happening now _____
9 causing disagreement or discussion _____
10 funny, or making you laugh _____
11 involving shapes and colours and not images of real things or people _____
12 traditional and ordinary _____



3 Choose the correct words to complete the sentences.

1 I don't really like ___ art – I prefer to look at pictures of real things.
A humorous **B** abstract **C** dramatic
2 He's a very ___ artist, whose work makes some people angry.
A controversial **B** classic **C** dramatic
3 I've never seen anything quite like this ___ painting.
A conventional **B** contemporary **C** remarkable
4 Do you prefer ___ art, or older more traditional paintings?
A classic **B** contemporary **C** dramatic
5 Nobody else paints like this artist – her work is ___.
A dramatic **B** classic **C** unique
6 His work is not very interesting or adventurous – in fact, it's boringly ___.
A bizarre **B** conventional **C** dramatic
7 This piece is simply ___ – I've never seen anything so beautiful.
A controversial **B** classic **C** stunning
8 I don't know if this painting is deliberately ___, but it certainly makes me laugh!
A humorous **B** conventional **C** abstract

READING

1 Look at the example of graffiti art on page 69. What makes it different from more traditional forms of art?

_____

_____

LIVEWORKSHEETS

2 Read the first paragraph of the article. For questions 1–8, think of the word which best fits each gap. Use only one word in each gap.

BANKSY, WHO ARE YOU?

For years, his artwork [0] *has* mysteriously appeared on walls and buildings [1] _____ the world. But nobody knows who he is. Indeed, the ten-year mission to discover the true identity of the graffiti artist [2] _____ as 'Banksy' has become almost as fascinating as the controversial artwork itself. There are very [3] _____ things about him we can be sure about, [4] _____ as the fact that he comes from Bristol and his first name is Robin – but that's about it. Several years ago, a national newspaper claimed to have [5] _____ out the name of the artist using a photograph which apparently showed him [6] _____ work. The newspaper contacted several of his friends, [7] _____ all identified the man in the picture as Robin Gunningham, an ex-pupil from an expensive private school in Bristol. The artist's agents refused to confirm [8] _____ Mr Gunningham was Banksy or not. 'We get these calls all the time,' said his spokesman.

Since Banksy became a major street artist, his work has sold for thousands of pounds. 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 a remarkable 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, like 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 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. Then 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. More recently, he put his famous *Girl with Balloon* painting up for auction in London. It was held in a specially made frame which shredded the painting as soon as it was sold – for £1,042,000. Fortunately for the buyer, this act of destruction actually doubled its value!

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.'



3 Read the rest of the article. Are the sentences *T* (True), *F* (False) or *NM* (Not Mentioned)?

1 Banksy's agents frequently deal with enquiries about his identity. ___
2 Very few people turned up to Banksy's first exhibition. ___
3 Banksy doesn't care about people knowing his real name. ___
4 Banksy employs people to look after the business side of his art. ___
5 A museum in the USA kept one of Banksy's paintings to display to visitors. ___
6 Banksy says that he will one day reveal his identity to the world. ___

4 Match the highlighted words in the text to the definitions.

1 cut into thin strips _____
2 say or show that something is true _____
3 makes certain to happen _____
4 involving a lot of different but connected parts in a way that is difficult to understand _____
5 strange or unknown, and not explained or understood _____

ART IS FUN! GO
LIVEWORKSHEETS