

DESCRIBING A PAINTING



A Bar at the Folies-Bergère by Édouard Manet

Task One. Look at the painting and consider these questions:

- What do you notice first?
- Where is the woman standing?
- What kind of place do you think this is?
- What time of day or night might it be?
- What mood does the picture create?

Task Two. Match the phrases with their definitions



1. in the foreground ____	a. at the highest part of the picture
2. in the background ____	b. at the lowest part of the picture.
3. on the left ____	c. the part of the picture that is closest to you
4. on the right ____	d. the part that seems furthest away
5. at the top ____	e. the part on your left-hand side.
6. at the bottom ____	f. the part on your right-hand side



Task three. Complete the sentences by choosing the correct phrase:

1. _____, there's a woman standing behind the bar.
2. _____, bottles of drinks are neatly arranged.
3. _____, we can see the reflection of the woman and a man talking to her.
4. _____, there's a bowl of oranges and some flowers.
5. _____, there are bright lights and people in the crowd.
6. _____, you can see a marble counter.

Task Four. Choose the correct option.

The woman's expression looks

A) happy and relaxed B) serious and distant

The man in the reflection is

A) standing in front of her B) standing behind her

The bottles and oranges suggest

A) this is a bar or café B) this is a market stall

The mirror helps us see

A) what's happening behind her
B) what's happening on the ceiling

The crowd in the background makes the bar look

A) quiet and empty B) noisy and lively

Discuss:

What do you think the woman is thinking about?

Why do you think Manet painted her this way?

Does the painting feel realistic or mysterious to you? Why?