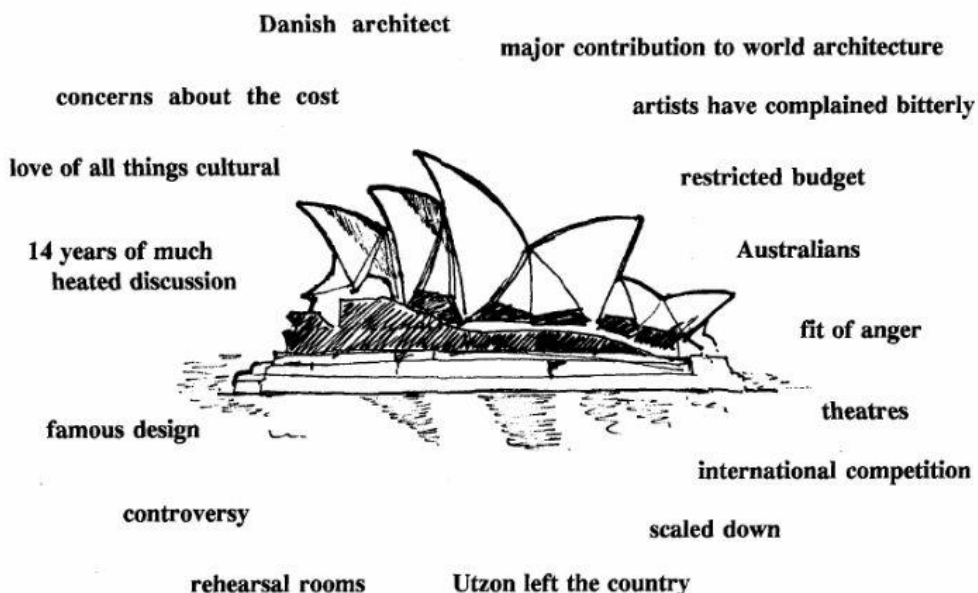


IELTS Prep. - READING LESSON

READING EXERCISES 1.1 - 1.11

- ☺ **1.1 PREDICTION:** Look at the illustration below and the words and phrases taken from the Reading Passage on the next page. With a partner if possible, try to predict exactly what is being discussed:



- ☺ **1.2 PRE-READING QUESTIONS:** Before reading the text on the following page, work with a partner and ask and answer the questions below. Base your answers on your possible knowledge of the topic:

- ☐ Can you name at least 6 different forms of art that make up what is known as 'the arts'?
- ☐ What role do you think the arts play in a modern society?
- ☐ What art forms are popular in your country and culture? (painting? sculpture?) Why?
- ☐ Where are the performing arts performed in your city? Have you seen any shows there?
- ☐ Do you know who officially opened the Sydney Opera House in 1975?
- ☐ How much did the Opera House cost to build? £5 million? £15 million? £50 million?

Next, reorder the words in the mystery questions below:

1. describe How House you Sydney the the of would shape Opera ?
.....
2. the chosen when design was House the and of Opera How ?
.....

1.3 SKIMMING: Read the text once for the gist (overall idea) and then in detail:

- 1 It is almost impossible to write of the Arts in Australia without mentioning the building that first put the country firmly on the world cultural map - the Sydney Opera House. Completed in 1973 after 14 years of much heated discussion and at a cost of almost £60 million, it is not only the most well-known Australian building in the world but perhaps
5 the most famous design of any modern building anywhere.

Its distinctive and highly original shape has been likened to everything from the sails of a sailing ship to broken eggshells, but few would argue with the claim that the Opera House is a major contribution to world architecture. Set amidst the graceful splendour of Sydney Harbour, presiding like a queen over the bustle and brashness of a modern city
10 striving to forge a financial reputation in a tough commercial world, it is a reminder to all Australians of their deep and abiding love of all things cultural.

The Opera House was designed not by an Australian but by a celebrated Danish architect, Jorn Utzon, whose design won an international competition in the late 1950s. However, it was not, in fact, completed to his original specifications. Plans for much of the intended
15 interior design of the building have only recently been discovered. Sadly, the State Government of the day interfered with Utzon's plans because of concerns about the escalating cost, though this was hardly surprising - the building was originally expected to cost only £5.5 million. Utzon left the country before completing the project and in a fit of anger vowed never to return. The project was eventually paid for by a State-run lottery.

20 The size of the interior of the building was scaled down appreciably by a team of architects whose job it was to finish construction within a restricted budget. Rehearsal rooms and other facilities for the various theatres within the complex were either made considerably smaller or cut out altogether, and some artists have complained bitterly about them ever since. But despite the controversy that surrounded its birth, the Opera House has risen
25 above the petty squabbling and is now rightfully hailed as a modern architectural masterpiece. The Queen officially opened the building in 1975 and since then, within its curved and twisted walls, audiences of all nationalities have been quick to acclaim the many world-class performances of stars from the Australian opera, ballet and theatre.

1.4 WORD DEFINITIONS: Find the single words in paragraphs 1 and 2 which mean the following:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| i. pleasing, attractive | v. characteristic |
| ii. angry | vi. (to) advance steadily |
| iii. excited activity | vii. trying hard |
| iv. permanent, lasting | viii. rashness |

Next, find the words in paragraphs 3 and 4 which mean the following:

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| i. meant | vi. considerably |
| ii. meddled with | vii. (to) promise |
| iii. made smaller | viii. unimportant |
| iv. limited | ix. (to) applaud loudly |
| v. known as | x. money plan |

1.5 TEXT ANALYSIS:

- i. Which is the best title for the passage in Exercise 1.3?
- a) Utzon Quits Australia c) History of a Queen
b) An Architectural Disaster d) A Dane in Our Lives
- ii. What is the main point of the second paragraph?
- a) ... to describe the c) ... to state where
 Opera House visually the Opera House is located
b) ... to tell the d) ... to say why
 history of the building the building was built
- iii. Which is (are) the topic sentence(s) of the third paragraph?
- a) Sentence number one c) The last sentence
b) Sentence number two d) Sentences number one and two
- iv. To what do the following pronouns in the passage refer?
- a) it (line 10) c) this (line 17)
b) their (line 11) d) them (line 23)

1.6 GAPPILL: The following is a summary of the passage in Exercise 1.3. Choose words from the box below and refer to the passage to fill the gaps:

The Sydney Opera House is one of the most famous (1)..... buildings in the world. Officially opened in (2)....., its eye-catching and (3)..... shape was the dream of a Danish (4)..... called Utzon. Unfortunately, his design for the (5)..... could not be completed for financial reasons. Nonetheless, the building was finally ready after (6)..... years of (7)..... and argument, and is now (8)..... as a (9)..... of modern architecture. World-class performances are regularly given in the Opera House by Australian (10)..... from the worlds of opera, ballet and theatre.

architecture	1973	famous	queen	controversy	£5.5 million
interior	artists	modern	hail	acclaimed	exterior
originally	14	petty	architect	1975	rehearsals
masterpiece	distinctive	star	curve	£60 million	the 1950s

1.8 MATCHING SENTENCE HALVES: Refer to the text in Exercise 1.3 and match the halves of the given sentences together:

- | | | |
|---|---|-------|
| a. The Sydney Opera House ... | + | |
| b. The city of Sydney is ... | + | |
| c. Plans for the interior of the building ... | + | |
| d. The interior of the building was unfortunately never ... | + | |
| e. It seems that some artists are only ... | + | |
| f. The cost of the project ... | + | |
| | | |
| g. ... interesting to audiences from all over the world. | | |
| h. ... have recently been implemented. | | |
| i. ... built like a queen on Sydney Harbour. | | |
| j. ... completed by Jorn Utzon. | | |
| k. ... was the most well-known building in Australia. | | |
| l. ... was not completed in accordance with the architect's original plans. | | |
| m. ... described as trying hard to survive in the business world. | | |
| n. ... were lost for many years. | | |
| o. ... interested in complaining about the facilities. | | |
| p. ... was eventually met from the proceeds of gambling. | | |

1.9 TRUE / FALSE / NOT GIVEN: Refer to the text in Exercise 1.3.

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|----|
| a. The building is possibly the most famous of its type in the world. | T | F | NG |
| b. The Opera House drew world attention to the Arts in Australia. | T | F | NG |
| c. Utzon designed the roof to look like the sails of a sailing ship. | T | F | NG |
| d. A few people claim that it is a major architectural work. | T | F | NG |
| e. According to the author, Sydney is a quiet and graceful city. | T | F | NG |
| f. The cost of construction went more than £50 million over budget. | T | F | NG |
| g. Utzon never returned to Australia to see the completed building. | T | F | NG |
| h. There is only one theatre within the complex. | T | F | NG |
| i. The Government was concerned about some artists' complaints. | T | F | NG |
| j. Australian artists give better performances in the Opera House. | T | F | NG |

1.10 SHORT-ANSWER QUESTIONS: Refer to the text in Exercise 1.3.

- i. What two images have the shape of the Opera House roof been compared to?
 1.
 2.
- ii. Why is it almost impossible to talk of the Arts in Australia without mentioning the Opera House?

.....
- iii. What did the government hold to ensure a world-class design for the building? *(MAXIMUM OF TWO WORDS)*

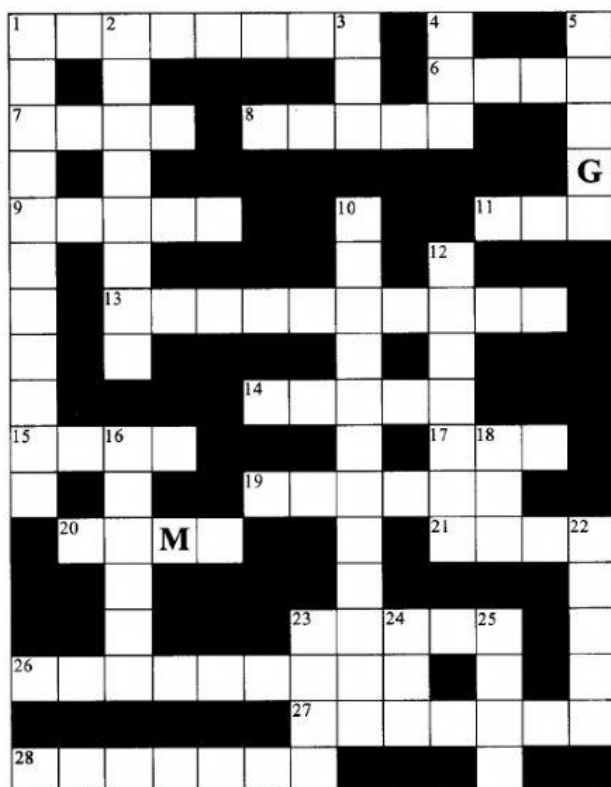
.....
- iv. What does the author say is not surprising?

.....
- v. What were cut out or scaled down from the original interior design?

.....
- vi. How are the walls of the Opera House described? *(MAXIMUM OF TWO WORDS)*

.....

1.11 CROSSWORD: Refer to the Part 1 Listening Passages and the Reading Passage (and questions) for most answers.



Across:

1. related to the Arts or the mind (adj)
6. region (n)
7. not any (adj)
8. unimportant, small (adj)
9. circular (adj)
11. present plural form of 'to be' (n)
13. not trusting of something (adj)
14. (to) apply colours to a drawing (v)
15. an important person in the arts (n)
17. (to) flow back like the tide (v)
19. opposite of 'practice' (n)
20. shown on your watch (n)
21. period of time (n)
23. many (adj)
26. (to) meddle (v)
27. lessened (adj)
28. dramatic performance artform (n)

Down:

1. dispute often about a topical issue (n)
2. person who studies languages (n)
3. (to) allow (v)
4. (to) tell (v)
5. region between certain limits (n)
10. science of building structures (n)
12. gambling with numbered tickets (n)
16. among (prep)
18. short for 'goodbye' (n)
22. quick (adj)
23. only, no more nor better than (adj)
24. past form of 'lead' (v)
25. length measurement (n)