

- 1 Complete the text with the correct form of the verbs in brackets. Use the present continuous, the present simple, the past simple or *-ing* forms.

Ben Wilson, the chewing gum man

Look at the man in the photo. What (1) ... (he / do)? (2) ... (he / paint) the pavement? No, he isn't. What is he painting then? He (3) ... (paint) chewing gum! Read to find out about his art.

This man is Ben Wilson. He is a British artist. He (4) ... (live) with his family in Muswell Hill, an area in the north of London.

Ben (5) ... (be born) in Cambridge in 1963. When he (6) ... (be) a child, he (7) ... (live) in Barnet. When he (8) ... (finish) school, he (9) ... (go) to art college but he (10) ... (not finish) his studies.

When Ben (11) ... (be) about 35 years old, he (12) ... (have) an idea and he (13) ... (invent) a new form of art: miniature paintings on chewing gum! Today, there are about 10,000 gum paintings by him in London and other areas of Europe. The majority of his paintings (14) ... (be) in Muswell Hill.

Ben (15) ... (make) his first gum paintings in his town in 1998. He (16) ... (begin) working full-time on this form of art in 2004 and he (17) ... (become) famous in his community at that time. In 2009, when the police arrested him for painting graffiti in London, the local people (18) ... (help) him. They (19) ... (write) letters to the police because they (20) ... (like) his art. 'My art (21) ... (not be) graffiti because I never (22) ... (paint) the pavement. I always (23) ... (paint) the gum,' Ben says.

Sometimes, people ask him to paint things for them and he (24) ... (do) his work for free! He likes (25) ... (travel) around London and (26) ... (listen) to people. People enjoy (27) ... (watch) him when he is working. 'My work (28) ... (not be) boring. It (29) ... (be) about people and their lives,' he says.

Ben also (30) ... (make) normal paintings and wood sculptures. There are documentaries about him because he (31) ... (be) a very interesting man.



