46 A painting



The painting *Bathers at Asnières* by Georges Seurat shows a typical **scene** of nineteenth-century **leisure** and the developing **industry** in this suburb of Paris. **In the foreground**, we see a group of workmen on their **day off**, having an enjoyable afternoon on the **bank** of the river. **In the distance**, you can **just** see the factory where they probably work. Everyone is looking out at the river and **ignoring** each other, even the little dog. We can **sense** the **heat** of the summer's day: the **bright** sunshine, bright colours and pale sky, and the general **impression** is one of almost **silent** and **peaceful relaxation**.

Bathers was painted in the 1880s, but up to then, most paintings were either historical and religious, or portraits of famous **ladies** and **gentlemen**. **Ordinary** people were not shown in art, so this painting was very original and quite **shocking**. It was painted outside, not in a **studio**, which was also unusual at that time.

GLOSSARY

scene	a picture of a place and the things that are happening there	**ignore**	pay no attention to sb/sth
leisure	the time when you do not have to work	**sense**	get a feeling about sth that you can't directly see or hear
industry	the production of goods in factories **industrial** *adj*	**heat** [U, sing]	the feeling of sth hot OPP **cold**
foreground	the part of a picture that seems nearest to you OPP **background: *in the foreground/ background***	**bright**	having a lot of light OPP **dark**; **brightness** *n*
off	not at work or school: ***have a day/week/ month off***	**impression**	feelings or thoughts that you have about sth/sb
bank	the land along the side of a river	**silent**	with nobody speaking
in the distance	far away from you	**peaceful**	quiet and calm **peace** *n*
just	If you can **just** see sth, you can only see it with difficulty.	**relaxation**	time spent resting and being calm **relaxing** *adj*
		ordinary	not special or unusual ALSO **normal**
		shocking	making you feel upset, angry or surprised in a very bad way
		studio	a room in which an artist, photographer, etc. works

SPOTLIGHT *lady and gentleman*

Lady is a polite way of saying 'woman'; **gentleman** is a polite way of saying 'man'. It is more polite to say 'an old **lady/gentleman**' than to say 'an old woman/man'.

Lady and **gentleman** also describe a man or woman who is polite, well-educated and kind:

- *She's a real **lady**. He's a perfect **gentleman**.*

You may also see **ladies** and **gents** on the doors of public toilets.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

1 Look at the underlined sounds. Cross out the word in each group which is different.

▶ dark / shocking / ~~peace~~
1 just / ignore / gentleman
2 scene / sense / leisure
3 relaxation / lady / relaxing
4 brightness / impression / peaceful
5 peaceful / sense / scene
6 shocking / ordinary / ignore
7 industry / industrial / distance

2 Look at the picture on page 98. Write your answers.

▶ Where are the industrial buildings? In the distance.
1 How many people are there in the foreground? .....
2 Where are the boats? .....
3 Where are the men sitting? .....
4 Are they ignoring each other? .....
5 Are the colours dark or bright? .....
6 Is the scene busy or peaceful? .....
7 Are the people ordinary or famous? .....
8 Can you see any ladies? .....

3 Cover the glossary on page 98. Complete the definitions.

▶ ordinary = not special or unusual
1 leisure = time when you don't have to .....
2 sense = have a ..... about sth that you can't see or hear
3 a morning off = a morning when you ..... have to go to work or school
4 scene = a ..... of a place and the things that are happening there
5 brightness = the fact of having a lot of .....
6 industry = the production of goods made in .....
7 studio = a room or rooms where an ..... works
8 silent = with ..... talking

4 Complete the sentences with one word from each pair.

peaceful / peace	impression / scene	bright ✓ / brightness	just / even	heat / brightness
industry / industrial	lady / gentleman	shocking / relaxing	background / foreground	

▶ The painter Whistler often uses dark colours, not bright ones.
1 L S Lowry painted many ..... scenes of factories and factory workers.
2 The people in the ..... of the painting must be about five kilometres away.
3 It was dark, but we could still feel the ..... – it was 30 degrees at midnight.
4 I need some ..... and quiet to finish this book – please don't interrupt me.
5 In the picture it's foggy, but you can ..... see the animals in the field.
6 The painting tries to create the ..... of light and heat.
7 A ..... asked me where the Picasso room was. I told him it was upstairs.
8 It's ..... that so many people don't have a home and sleep on the streets.

5 Complete the text.

This painting by an Italian artist shows a ▶ scene of happiness and **(1)** p..... . There is a mother playing with her small daughter in the **(2)** f....., and in the **(3)** b....., an older woman is watching them. Behind her, and a long way in the **(4)** d....., you can **(5)** j..... see an old house, perhaps where they all live. It's obviously a warm day, and they are playing in the sunshine. On the right of the painting, there is a man who is **(6)** i..... the mother and daughter; he seems much more interested in the dog in front of him. They are an **(7)** o..... working family, and he's probably looking forward to some **(8)** r..... during his day **(9)** o..... .

6 ABOUT YOU **Think about a painting you know and like. Write your answers, or ask another student.**

1 Who painted it, and do you know when? .....
2 What does it show? .....
3 What do you like about it? .....

TEST YOURSELF