

ART VOCABULARY

Performance arts

1. Replace the underlined parts of the sentences below with one of the adjectives: **overrated** / **disjointed** / **far-fetched** / **risqué** / **gripping** / **impenetrable** / **harrowing** / **moving** / **memorable**

1. The musical shocked some people because they thought it was immoral and was attacked by several politicians and religious figures. **risqué**
2. Her performance was one of those you will never forget, simply marvellous. **memorable**
3. I can't remember the last time I saw such a film that keeps you in suspense and totally absorbed all the time. **gripping**
4. It was a play that aroused very deep emotions in me. **moving**
5. It's a film that is difficult to watch without getting very upset. **harrowing**
6. Some of his sci-fi films are absolutely impossible to understand because they are so dense and obscure. **impenetrable**
7. His book received rave reviews, however it was not as good as people claimed. **overrated**
8. His story was so illogical and unclear that I found it difficult to follow it. **disjointed**
9. The whole plot is hard to believe, but the journey through it is a pleasure. **far-fetched**

2. Think of the latest films you have seen or books you have read and which ones you would describe as: **overrated** / **disjointed** / **far-fetched** / **risqué** / **gripping** / **impenetrable** / **harrowing** / **moving** / **memorable** / **understated**

3. Match the opposites.

1. highbrow	a) earnest	highbrow vs lowbrow intended for educated , intelligent people
2. impenetrable	b) transparent	impenetrable vs transparent: extremely difficult to understand
3. sophisticated	c) run-of-the-mill	sophisticated vs primitive: advanced skills and understating
4. challenging	d) uninspiring	challenging vs undemanding: considerable effort to understand
5. dazzling	e) primitive	dazzling vs pedestrian: inspiring great admiration because it's brilliant
6. evocative	f) pedestrian	evocative vs uninspiring: calling up images and memories
7. exquisite	g) lowbrow	exquisite vs clumsy: having rare beauty or delicacy
8. intriguing	h) dreary	intriguing vs dreary: interesting because it's strange or mysterious
9. peerless	i) clumsy	peerless vs run-of-the-mill: better than any other
10. tongue -in - check	j) undemanding	tongue-in-check vs earnest: not intended to be taken seriously despite appearing serious

Visual arts

3. Choose the correct word to complete the sentences.

1. I think that the artists' cartoons are usually **highbrow/dreary/lowbrow** as they are intended to appeal to a mass audience.
2. When an artist sent in an ordinary to an exhibition, no one was sure whether it was **impenetrable/run-of-the-mill/tongue-in- check** or intended as a serious statement.

3. Although these cave paintings were made thousands of years ago they are in some ways very **primitive/pedestrian/sophisticated**.
4. I find those painter's pictures of dull grey street scenes rather **dreary/peerless/dazzling**.
5. The design on that china plate is **earnest/exquisite/transparent** – however did they manage to paint such fine detail?
6. Although his photographs are quite **challenging/evocative/intriguing**, it is worth making the effort to understand them.

Literature

What description fits best with the following descriptions of literature works: poignant chronicle (a moving and sad description of a sequence of events) / compelling tale (very interesting and engaging story) / page-turner (a powerful story that keeps you interested) / macabre (cruel or disgusting, concerned with death) / breathtaking achievement (amazing) / chilling (causing great fear) / evocative scenes (scenes which arouse memories or images) / enigmatic tale (mysterious story) / wry humour (humour in the face of a bad situation)

1. It's full of comedy and satire based on the poor conditions of the city. **wry humour**
2. The novel is full of passages depicting life in Scotland at the turn of the century, which arouse memories. **evocative**
3. It's a very puzzling novel; you really don't know what is happening until right at the end. **enigmatic tale**
4. The novel is a moving and sad portrayal of life in a coal-mining community during the time of the General Strike of 1926. **poignant chronicle**
5. John Farr's latest novel is an impressive masterpiece. **breathtaking**
6. House of the Dead is a cruel and dark story of torture and death in a medieval castle. **macabre**
7. The book is a frightening documentation of abuse in prison. **chilling**
8. The crime novel is full of suspense and difficult to put down. **page-turner**
9. The romance between the lead characters is full of mystery, love and betrayal. **compelling tale**

Which names of types of books or other reading material fit best these statements?
academic journal (academic publication with articles reporting research, new theories) / memoirs (written record of a person's own life, typically a politician or a military figure) / anthology (collection of short stories by different authors) / manual (a technical book with instructions, examples)

1. It's by General Rogers who led the allied forces during the recent war. **memoirs**
2. I recommend it. If you want to tread a typical selection of English poets, it's excellent. **Anthology**
3. The latest issue contains paper by Professor Colin Frith, in which he presents a new theory of the human mind. **academic journal**
4. It's so badly-written that I don't know how anyone could be able to use the video camera by reading it. **manual**

Music

1. Hundreds of **adoring** fans were waiting for Shamira to come out of the concert hall.
2. The orchestra gave a wonderful **performance** of some popular classics.
3. It was a very **catchy** tune; you only had to hear it once and you were singing it.
4. It's one of those **haunting** melodies which you never forget, so beautiful, yet so sad.
5. Roger Crow **conducts** the orchestra and he himself **composed** two of the pieces.
6. Before their first live performance the band released their **debut** album.