

Visual art and architecture

Read the words, definitions, and examples. Use your dictionary to find additional word forms for each word.

OVERVIEW

Word	Definition	Example
unique (adj)	original, different from anything else	A unique aspect of Turner's paintings is his innovative use of color.
aspect (n)	element, feature	
innovative (adj)	new, different, better than before	
vision (n)	concept, idea	Gaudi's vision of architecture utilized organic shapes to create highly decorative structures.
utilize (v)	use	
considerable (adj)	great, significant	The development of steel construction had considerable impact on contemporary architecture.
impact (n)	influence, effect	
contemporary (adj)	present day	
illustrate (v)	to add pictures to a book, to give an example	Leonardo da Vinci illustrated his notebooks with drawings and sketches which provide valuable insights into his creative processes.
insight (n)	a clear understanding	
creative (adj)	able to make new ideas	
signal (n or v)	indicate	The Impressionist art movement signaled a shift away from naturalism toward a more abstract representation of human experience.
shift (n or v)	move	
abstract (adj)	not realistic	
design (n or v)	outline, plan	The Bauhaus design movement attempted to analyze form in terms of basic universal principles.
analyze (v)	examine, think about something in detail	
seek (v)	attempt, try	The Impressionists sought to depict the subjective experience of light and color.
depict (v)	show, describe	
subjective (adj)	from an individual's point of view	
image (n)	picture	Images used in surreal art often attempt to convey aspects of the unconscious.
convey (v)	communicate, express	

Practice Exercises

A Choose the words from the chart opposite that best replace the words in *italics*.

- The modernist movement has had a *significant^a influence^b* on *present day^c* architecture and design.
 a _____ b _____ c _____
- Surrealist art *attempts^a to express^b a picture^c* of unconscious psychological processes.
 a _____ b _____ c _____
- Nowadays architects use computer technology to *design^a* 3D images of their *plans^b*.
 a _____ b _____
- An *original^a element^b* of cubist art was the attempt to *show^c* multiple viewpoints simultaneously.
 a _____ b _____ c _____

STUDY TIP

After reading an article, choose five key words from the text and note them in your vocabulary notebook. Then try to combine them into sentences about the theme of the article.

B Circle the best word to complete each sentence.

- One of the most _____ aspects of modernism was the principle that form follows function.
 a innovative
 b subjective
 c considerable
- Post-modernism in architecture represents a(n) _____ from a functional to a more decorative style.
 a signal
 b shift
 c insight
- Many of Monet's paintings _____ water lilies from his garden.
 a utilize
 b depict
 c signal
- Images in _____ art do not represent forms of real objects.
 a creative
 b subjective
 c abstract

DICTIONARY SKILLS

POWERED BY COBUILD

When you look up a word in your dictionary, you will see an abbreviation after it that tells you what word class it belongs to. For example, *innovative* (adj = adjective), *innovate* (v = verb), *innovation* (n = noun).

To extend your vocabulary, take notes of other word forms of the words in the chart.

C Complete the sentences with the correct form of words from the box.

analyze

creative

depict

illustrate

innovative

1. *La Guernica* by Picasso is a _____ of scenes from the Spanish Civil War.
2. William Blake was a British Romantic painter, poet, engraver, and _____.
3. _____ is the ability to transform existing ideas and make something new.
4. Technological _____ have had a huge impact on modern art.
5. Scientific _____ of materials used in old paintings can help us to restore and conserve them.

Test Practice**A Read the sentences and answer the questions about each one.**

1. Cubism signaled a shift away from representational art, that is, art that attempted to portray realistic scenes of people and places.

According to the text, all of the following are true EXCEPT

- ☐ Cubist art portrayed real people.
- ☐ Cubist art was more abstract.
- ☐ Representational art was more realistic.
- ☐ Representational art preceded cubist art.

2. Modern art gave artists the freedom to express their inner vision in their art.

According to the text, all of the following are true EXCEPT

- ☐ Before modern art, artists were restricted.
- ☐ Modern art allowed artists to innovate.
- ☐ Modern art is abstract.
- ☐ Modern artists have more choices.

3. The key aspect of modern architecture is that new materials are now available that have had significant impact on what types of designs are technically possible.

According to the text, all of the following are true EXCEPT

- ☐ New materials have influenced modern architectural designs.
- ☐ Today's designs were not possible previously.
- ☐ Modern architecture utilizes new materials.
- ☐ Modern architecture is not influenced by old architecture.

**TEST TIP: Reading section (Negative fact questions)**

In the reading section of the test, you will be asked to identify a fact that is NOT included in a longer reading passage. When answering negative fact questions, read all the options carefully. The incorrect options will usually paraphrase information in the text. The correct answer will often contain extra information not mentioned in the text, or contradict information in the text.