

Vocabulary 1

Vocabulary 1: The Arts

- 1 Both words in each of the pairs below can be used in combination with one of the words in the box. Write an appropriate word from the box in each of the spaces. There is an example at the beginning (0).

novel	opera	concert	painting	stone	classical	gallery
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|---|------------------|----------------|---|-------|---------------------|---|-------------------------|-------|
| 0 | open-air
jazz | <i>concert</i> | 1 | _____ | ballet
music | 4 | portrait
art | _____ |
| | | | 2 | _____ | singer
house | 5 | abstract
priceless | _____ |
| | | | 3 | _____ | sculpture
statue | 6 | detective
historical | _____ |

- 2 Which people do you associate with each of the following areas of the arts?

music	literature	art	opera	ballet	sculpture
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Example: Theatre: *actor, actress, director, cast, playwright, audience*

Check your answers in the Wordlist on page 205.

Reading 1.1

Gapped text

Look at the work of art in the photograph and discuss the following questions.
What type of person might want to own such a work of art?
Where might they put it on display?



You are going to read an article about British artist Damien Hirst, who created the work in the photograph. Seven sentences have been removed from the article. Choose from the sentences **A–H** the one which fits each gap (**1–7**). There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use.

The most successful living artist

Have you ever thought, 'I wish I could be an artist'? Don't give up hope. Damien Hirst nearly failed his Art A Level at school and his work now sells for millions.

Controversial British painter Damien Hirst, who is often mentioned in the same breath as Jackson Pollock and Andy Warhol, has been confirmed as the most successful artist alive, thanks to a huge increase in the prices paid for his work recently. The forty-something from Leeds changed the face of contemporary art in the nineteen nineties with his *Natural History* series, in which dead animals are preserved in formaldehyde and displayed in glass cases.

The first of these, his four-metre shark entitled *The Physical Impossibility of Death in the Mind of Someone Living*, recently fetched an incredible £6.5 million when it was sold to an American collector.

1 After that came a string of similarly provocative works, which included a pickled lamb in *Away from the Flock*, as well as dissected cows and rotting animal carcasses.

2 In 2003, he was labelled a 'sadist' by some animal rights activists, who objected strongly to his *Amazing Revelations*, a triangular collage made of thousands of dismembered butterfly wings. Earlier, in 1994, *Away from the Flock* became the focus of attention when Mark Bridger, an artist from Oxford, poured black ink into the tank containing the dead lamb. However, Bridger claimed he was contributing to the artwork, not protesting against it and he renamed it *Black Sheep*. It cost £1,000 to remove the ink.

The considerable controversy surrounding Damien Hirst's work inevitably raises the question of whether or not it constitutes art. 3 Charles Saatchi, former advertising mogul and a formidable collector of YBA works, describes Hirst as 'a genius', and former arts minister Virginia Bottomley has called him 'a pioneer of the British art movement'. He also enjoys the support of stars such as David Beckham and former *Friends* actress Courteney Cox, who are both proud owners of his work.

However, others have been equally swift to condemn the artist. When Hirst won the prestigious Turner prize in 1995, Conservative politician Norman Tebbit, writing in *The Sun* newspaper, asked: 'Have they gone stark raving mad?' 4 But there are also many people within the art world who have attacked and ridiculed the artist, accusing him of producing work which is exaggerated and silly.

5 He, too, has used the word 'silly' to describe his spin paintings, a series of works created by dropping paint onto a spinning canvas. 'You do turn round after a few years and look at your stuff and you think it's embarrassing,' he confessed at an exhibition in 2005. 'Certainly everything you make is not a masterpiece.'

He also freely admits to using assistants to do most of his spot-paintings, which consist of rows of randomly coloured dots. Of the 500 or more such works produced, he is said to have painted only five himself, the rest being attributed to assistants like Rachel Howard, his 'best ever' spot-painter.

6 And indeed, there is nothing new about artists getting others to do some of the work for them: Rembrandt, for example, had very large workshops with pupils to help him, and they had to pay for the privilege.

In recent years Hirst has branched out and taken on new challenges. He has made short films, opened a restaurant, set up a publishing company and even recorded a pop music single with Fat Les, a group he formed with Blur bassist Alex James. 7 But of course, it's his art for which he will be best remembered. Whether his memory will live on as long as that of Pollock, Warhol or even Rembrandt, only time will tell. In the meantime, his paintings continue to sell.

Reading 1.2

Reading 1.3

- A** Indeed, the tabloid press is one of Hirst's strongest critics.
- B** Entitled 'Vindaloo', it reached number two in the UK charts in 1998.
- C** The work caused a sensation when it was first shown in 1992 and quickly became a symbol for the circle known as the Young British Artists, or YBAs.
- D** For some, there is absolutely no doubt.
- E** In defence of this practice he is quoted as saying, "But then architects don't build their own houses."
- F** *Mother and Child Divided*, a cow and calf cut in half, certainly fits this description.
- G** Predictably, the artist has come in for criticism for his use of real animals.
- H** Surprisingly enough, though, Hirst seems to agree with some of this criticism.

Reacting to the text

Do you think Damien Hirst's work constitutes art? Why/Why not?
Why do some people pay vast sums of money for artworks? Would you?

Vocabulary 2

The arts

Task 1.

Look at the definitions and jumbled letters in bold below. Rearrange the letters so that they make words connected with the arts (visual arts, performing arts, literature, etc) and write these in their correct space on the grid. If you do this correctly, you will reveal a word in the shaded vertical strip which means 'public show'

1. A live *show* with music, in which the words are sung and not spoken. Mozart's 'Marriage of Figaro' is a famous example. **paore**
2. A long story, with *imaginary* characters and *plot*. 'Oliver Twist' is a famous example by Charles Dickens. **venlo**
3. A *painting* or photograph of a person. **taprrito**
4. North Americans say '*movie*', British people say... **mlfi**
5. Taking pictures on a sensitive film with a camera. **hoopyahtgrp**
6. Something which you cannot forget easily (some songs, for example). **remeoblma**
7. North Americans go to the '*movie theater*', British people go to the... **animce**
8. The area in a theatre where a *play* takes place. **egast**
9. A new way of doing something (a piece of *dance*, or some music, for example). **aninevovti**
10. A programme of *live* music, played in public. **rtoccne**
11. Modern (often used to talk about art or dance). **opacntorryme**

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