



# ART

***"I paint flowers so they will not die."***

Frida Kahlo (1907 – 1954), Mexican artist

## 1. Art Discussion

1. Are you interested in art? Why or why not?
2. Do you have a favourite piece of art or a favourite artist? Are there any famous artists from your country?
3. Do you have any art in your house?
4. What is the art scene like where you live? Where are the best places to see art in your city/country?
5. Which country do you think is the most creative for art?
6. How often do you go to museums? What's the best museum you've visited? What are some famous museums you'd like to visit? Why?
7. Is it expensive to visit museums? Should museums be free?
8. Should governments spend people's taxes on the arts or on maintaining museums? Why or why not?

## 2. Art Vocabulary

- **drawing** (noun) – *a piece of art created with lines using a pencil.*
- **painting** (noun) – *a piece of art created with paint using a brush.*
- **sculpture** (noun) – *a three-dimensional piece of art created by carving or modelling various materials such as ceramic, wood or metal.*
- **portrait** (noun) – *a piece of art depicting a person's face.*
- **landscape** (noun) – *a piece of art that depicts natural scenery such as lakes, mountains or rivers.*
- **abstract** (noun, adjective) – *art that does not portray a real subject but instead uses shapes, colours or other forms to convey its message.*

**Using the vocabulary words above, complete the following sentences (remember to use the correct form of the word, e.g. verb conjugation or plural noun)**

1. Frida Kahlo was famous for her self-**portraits**.
2. The **sculpture** was carved out of wood.
3. Salvador Dali's paintings were not only **abstract** but surreal as well.
4. The painting shows a beautiful **landscape** of forests, mountains and rivers.
5. Using his pencil, Leonardo Da Vinci sketched many **drawings** in his lifetime.
6. Depicting the horrors of the Spanish Civil War, *Guernica* is one of Picasso's most famous and moving **paintings**.

### Art vocabulary comprehension questions

1. Did you like drawing when you were a kid?
2. What are some famous paintings you can think of?
3. Do you know any famous sculptures?
4. Can you think of some famous portraits?
5. Where are the best landscapes in your country?
6. Do you like abstract art? Why or why not?

### 3. Video: The Purpose of Art

You are going to watch a video by The School of Life called "What Is Art For?"

**Watch the video here:** <https://yourenglishpal.com/blog/esl-conversation-lesson-plan-art/>

**While you watch the video, answer the following questions:**

#### Multiple choice

1. Where are people flocking like no before?  
*a) art galleries*      *b) movie theatres*      ***c) museums***
2. How do people feel about asking about the meaning of art?  
*a) angry*      ***b) scared***      *c) happy*
3. The most popular works of art show things that are:  
***a) attractive***      *b) petty*      *c) ugly*
4. Prettiness is an emblem of what?  
*a) reality*      *b) the mundane*      ***c) hope***

#### Sentence completion

5. People have to put on a cheerful façade, but in reality, they feel a lot of **sadness and regret** that is difficult to express.
6. Art can reassure us that **pain** is a normal part of the human condition.
7. We are attracted to art because it contains qualities we need more of in our **lives**.
8. The pre-Raphaelites became popular in Britain as a counter to the effects of **brutal industrialisation**.

#### Short answer

9. The media tells us what is...? **Glamorous and important**
10. Van Gough reminded us of the importance of what? **Oranges**
11. Art as propaganda can energise and motivate you for what? **A cause**
12. Art should be considered as a constant source of support for what? **Our better selves**

## 4. Art Conversation Questions

1. What is the purpose of art in your opinion? Does art change the way you think or feel? How?
2. Do you think art is pretentious in any way? Can it be intimidating to people?
3. Do you think that art is important to society? Why or why not?
4. Do you like modern art? Why or why not? What is the difference between modern art and earlier art forms?
5. Is modern art really art? Is it important? Do you understand it? Do you appreciate modern art more when you understand the meaning behind it?
6. Why is art so expensive? Why do some people pay millions of dollars for a piece of art?
7. Is graffiti art? When does graffiti stop being art and becomes vandalism?
8. How do you think artistic styles will change in the future? What forms of art will be popular?

## 5. Art Writing Task

Write about your favourite piece of art. Try to use some of the vocabulary you learned earlier in this lesson. In your answer, you could include the following topics:

- A description of the piece of art and the artist.
- What the art means / what you think it means.
- Why it's important to you and how it makes you feel.

### Alternative exam practice question:

For many people, art can be intimidating or appear to be a little pretentious, preventing them from expressing an opinion about it. What, in your opinion, is the purpose of art? Why is it important for society?