

VOCABULARY

Describing art

A Match the adjectives (1–8) to the definitions (a–h).

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| 1 tedious | — |
| 2 appalling | — |
| 3 hilarious | — |
| 4 thought-provoking | — |
| 5 groundbreaking | — |
| 6 unconventional | — |
| 7 overrated | — |
| 8 pretentious | — |
- a different from what people think is usual
 b dreadful, awful
 c extremely funny
 d new and pioneering, innovative
 e not as good as people say
 f attempts to impress with qualities it doesn't have
 g very boring
 h makes you think

B Choose the correct words to complete the sentences.

- 1 An artist doesn't necessarily have to be *groundbreaking* / *appalling* to make good art.
- 2 Many hyped blockbusters are actually *imaginative* / *overrated* and disappointing.
- 3 Personally I found the movie *pretentious* / *sensational* – it felt like the director was just trying to show off how clever she is.
- 4 We think the play was supposed to be serious, but the acting was so bad it was actually *iconic* / *hilarious*.
- 5 The painter's style is very *tedious* / *unconventional* – there is nobody that paints in the same way.
- 6 The painting is truly *pretentious* / *thought-provoking* – it makes you think about how we live in the modern world.
- 7 What a *sensational* / *overrated* performance by the lead actor – one of the best I've ever seen.
- 8 It was so *groundbreaking* / *tedious* – 90 minutes and nothing happens at all!

C Complete the text with the adjectives in the box.

acclaimed appalling iconic repetitive
 sensational underrated

Caroline Duncan's ¹ _____ exhibit is making quite a few headlines and attracting fans worldwide. And they are right to describe it as fantastic. In her groundbreaking work, Duncan combines different art forms, including painting, film, photography and writing, to tell the story of a fictional family's journey from Lebanon to Paris.

The first section includes ² _____ images and film footage of the Eiffel Tower in Paris from the 1970s. Real footage is mixed with fiction to create a film that shows the mundane and ³ _____ work and chores the family need to do as they struggle with ⁴ _____ poverty. We then explore the inner world of the characters through diaries, poetry and stories. In my view, Caroline Duncan is vastly ⁵ _____ as an artist, but I feel that that is about to change. She deserves to be much more highly ⁶ _____ for her work.



PRONUNCIATION

Contrastive stress

A Read the sentences aloud, paying attention to the contrastive stress on the underlined words.

- 1 Actually, I like a lot of modern art – it's abstract art I have difficulty with.
- 2 Why don't we go to the theater for a change, since we always go to the movies?
- 3 Although everyone says the new play is great, I found it very tedious.
- 4 I don't like opera, but I'm very interested in ballet.
- 5 While your eyes are drawn to the middle, what happens at the front is more exciting.
- 6 The movie was more of a romance than a thriller.
- 7 I much prefer landscape paintings – I'm not a fan of portraits.
- 8 No, I prefer listening to recorded music, not live music.



B Listen to the sentences from Exercise A. Practice saying the sentences in the same way as the speakers do in the recording.

2.1

GRAMMAR

Narrative tenses

A Choose the correct options to complete the sentences.

- 1 The exhibit space *was being prepared* / *was preparing* for the big opening when we arrived.
- 2 I jumped up the moment they *were calling* / *called* my name.
- 3 Everyone *was waiting* / *had waited* in suspense for the result to be announced.
- 4 We didn't stay at our usual hotel because it *was being damaged* / *had been damaged* in a fire the week before.
- 5 I was tired when I got home because I *have had* / *had had* to stay very late at work.
- 6 We *were telling* / *were told* the results would come out the following week.
- 7 Why *wasn't I informed* / *didn't I inform* about the change of plan?
- 8 The road was dangerous because it *had been snowing* / *has been snowing* during the night.

B Find and correct eight mistakes in the text. Sometimes more than one correct answer is possible.

Thursday May 23,

THE MEETING

So – big day today. Important meeting with some clients so I had to get to the office early. I got up at five, had a quick cup of coffee and had left the house at 5:20. I got half way to the office when I realized that I had been forgetting my phone. Can you believe it? I drove for at least half an hour already, so I really didn't feel like going back, but I was having no choice. So, that delayed me by about an hour.

And when I finally got to the office, I gave a message that my boss wanted to see me urgently. I ran to her office. I could see through the glass door she talked to my clients, who already arrived. Oh no!

Luckily, she wasn't annoyed and my clients were fine. The meeting went well, and by lunchtime, we have agreed on everything.



VOCABULARY

Ideas and inspiration; Compound adjectives

A Complete the magazine interview with one word in each blank. The first letter is given to help you.



Do you find it hard to get started on a new project?

It takes time, yes. Of course, having the idea to begin with is the important part. If I know what I want to paint or sculpt, I'm eager to get started. But sometimes, I hit a ¹w _____ – I just have no ideas at all. When I'm – quite literally – working from a blank ²c _____ right at the start of a project, I get a bit stressed.

What do you do when you're not inspired? How do you jump ³s _____ your creativity?

I usually ⁴d _____ inspiration from other artists. I go to galleries, look at pictures online, that sort of thing. I get a ⁵f _____ perspective on things in that way. Sometimes I ⁶b _____ ideas off friends and then I ⁷r _____ with an idea. For me, it's important to communicate with other people, but then, to get into the right ⁸s _____ of mind, I need to be alone. I ⁹t _____ my instincts and it's never long before I'm working again.

Can you describe what happens when you get started?

That's when you won't see me for days – possibly weeks! I totally ¹⁰i _____ myself in my work. During that time, nothing else matters. I would forget to eat if people didn't bring me food!

B Choose the correct options to complete the sentences.

- 1 Jim works long hours in the studio so he often listens to *part / late*-night radio programs.
- 2 Ken got a *part / self*-time job while studying for his doctorate.
- 3 In the acting world, you need to be *thick / self*-skinned because you can get more criticism than praise sometimes.
- 4 I wouldn't like to be *part / self*-employed. I'm happy working for my boss.
- 5 Flora left school and found a *world / highly* paid job with a TV production company.
- 6 Let's face it – the chances of anyone becoming a *well / world*-famous singer are pretty slim.
- 7 I try to remain *open / late*-minded about my job. If they offered me a transfer to a different branch, I like to think I would consider it.
- 8 If you work for yourself, you need to be a *well / open*-motivated worker because it's tempting to take it easy.

PRONUNCIATION

Questions for comment or criticism

A Read the conversation aloud, paying attention to the intonation at the end of the questions.

Woman: Jake from our creative writing course says that he gets all his ideas in his dreams!

Man: Is he crazy? Dreams are so random. And I wouldn't be able to remember mine anyway.

Woman: He keeps a dream diary by his bed. That's a good idea, don't you think?

Man: How can you keep a diary of dreams? Dreams don't make any sense.

Woman: Aren't you being a bit negative? The diary might work for him and help with his stories.

Man: Who writes about dreaming? You need to write about something you actually know or have experienced. Isn't that the point?

Woman: Are you serious? Writing isn't just about what we know. Anyway I've started a diary myself. I set an alarm for the middle of the night. So, I can wake up in the middle of the dream.

Man: Why would you do that? You'll just be tired and feel even less creative the next day. Better to sleep well and then actually come up with some interesting ideas yourself.

Woman: Isn't that a bit dismissive? And why don't you read some of his stories before you decide it's a bad idea?



B Listen to the conversation from Exercise A. Then practice reading it in the same way as the speakers do in the recording.

GRAMMAR

Future in the past

A Match the beginnings of the sentences (1–6) to the endings (a–f).

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| 1 We were going | — |
| 2 Meeting Stella would | — |
| 3 They were to | — |
| 4 I was just | — |
| 5 We weren't | — |
| 6 Jenny and Fiona | — |
- a supposed to use the computer for personal use, but nobody said anything.
 b about to go out when I got a phone call.
 c were going on vacation the next day so they were packing.
 d to call you, but we thought you might be sleeping.
 e turn out to be an unforgettable experience.
 f call us if there was any kind of problem.

B Choose the correct options (a, b or c) to complete the sentences.

- 1 The bridge ___ been completed last year but there were unexpected delays.
 a was to have
 b was
 c had to have
- 2 You ___ finish the reports before four o'clock. What happened?
 a were about to
 b would
 c were supposed to
- 3 Sorry – I interrupted you. You ___ something?
 a were about to say
 b would have said
 c weren't supposed to say
- 4 We were ___ go on vacation when we heard the news.
 a about just to
 b just about to
 c about to just
- 5 Who thought it ___ a good idea to play a trick on me?
 a would be
 b will be
 c had been
- 6 We knew he ___ a famous singer.
 a was always being
 b was always going to be
 c had always supposed to be
- 7 You had your instructions – you ___ me the minute you arrived.
 a were calling
 b were about to call
 c were to call
- 8 I didn't have much time with John because he ___ for Brazil the next day.
 a had been leaving
 b was leaving
 c would have left

READING

A PREDICT Look at the title of the article and the picture. Which words from the word cloud below do you think will appear in the article?

map pilot engineer bridge
creativity proposal perspective railway
carriage flag survey overground
construction canvas

B READ FOR GIST Read *The channel tunnel* quickly. Why did it take so long to create this transportation link between Britain and France?

C READ FOR DETAIL Read again and answer the questions.

- 1 Who put forward the first plan for a transportation link between the two countries?
- 2 Which proposal after 1979 did not involve an underwater tunnel?
- 3 How long did it take to build the tunnel?



THE CHANNEL TUNNEL

It was in 1885 that British and French governments finally agreed to construct a tunnel under the English Channel. It would be one of the largest engineering projects undertaken by the UK. But the talks had begun a long time before that – since at least 1957 when Louis Armand's study group came up with a proposal for two railway tunnels, with a third smaller tunnel for maintenance running between them.

But dreams of a link between England and France go back even further than that. The first proposal was made by a French mining engineer, Albert Mathieu, at the beginning of the 19th century, who suggested a road tunnel that allowed horse-drawn carriages to pass between the two countries. When hostilities broke out between the English and the French, the plan was abandoned. Engineers continued to study the blueprints, however, and thought they could adapt their recently acquired expertise in building overground tunnels to building one under water.

By 1871, England and France were on friendly terms again and further surveys were completed, and this time, they got as far as deciding where to start tunneling. However, this plan, too, had to be abandoned following a change of government in England.

D INFER MEANING Read the article again and choose the correct answer (a or b).

- 1 What do you understand by the use of the phrase 'finally agreed'? (Paragraph 1)
 - a The writer is unhappy about the tunnel.
 - b It had taken a long time to reach an agreement.
- 2 Why did engineers 'study the blueprints' despite problems between the two countries? (Paragraph 2)
 - a They had made a secret agreement with the authorities.
 - b They still believed that the project would be completed one day.
- 3 What can we infer from the sentence 'One British and one French worker were chosen by lottery to be the first to greet each other ...'?
 - a France and Britain wanted to be seen as equals in the project.
 - b The workers wanted to congratulate each other.

E REFLECT Think about the answers to these questions.

- 1 Do you believe that this project was worth the time and money spent on it? Why/Why not?
- 2 What other impressive engineering projects, ancient or modern, can you name?

On several occasions over the next 100 years, the project looked as if it might be revived. But it wasn't until the 1970s that another serious attempt was made, when both sides agreed to start digging. However, this was stopped for economic reasons. A change in government in 1979 brought the project back to life. Although this time, there would be no public funding, so it had to be privately financed. The Channel Tunnel Company won the contract, with the same 1960 three-tunnels-in-one idea. Other proposals included: Eurobridge (a suspension bridge) and Euroute (a sea tunnel joining man-made islands).

Construction began in 1988 at Folkestone in England and Coquelles in France simultaneously, the idea being to meet in the middle. It turned into a race to see who could get there first. Tunnel-drilling machines, weighing 1000 tons and needing about 20 people to operate, were used to drill through the rock and chalk layers. After two years, the tunnels met in the middle. One British and one French worker were chosen by lottery to be the first to greet each other when the breakthrough was made.

This tremendous engineering project was finally completed by May 1994. It is now considered to be one of the seven wonders of the modern world.

Glossary

blueprint (n) a drawing or plan showing how to build a machine/building, etc

drill (v) to make a hole using a special machine/tool

ventilation (n) a system allowing fresh air to move around a building

LISTENING

A PREDICT Put the words in the correct columns. Which of these words would you use to describe the building in the picture?

appalling awesome groundbreaking iconic
pretentious sensational thought-provoking
unconventional

Positive	Negative	Neither positive nor negative

B ANTICIPATE CONTENT You are going to listen to part of a radio program called *Frank Gehry: life and work*. Look again at the picture in Exercise A. Answer the questions.

- 1 What is Frank Gehry's profession?
- 2 How successful is he?
- 3 Is his style traditional or unconventional?
- 4 Think of another question you expect to be answered in the program.

2.3 C LISTEN FOR GIST Listen to the program and check your predictions in Exercise B.

2.3 D LISTEN FOR DETAIL Listen again and complete the sentences with one or two words in each blank. Sometimes more than one answer is possible.

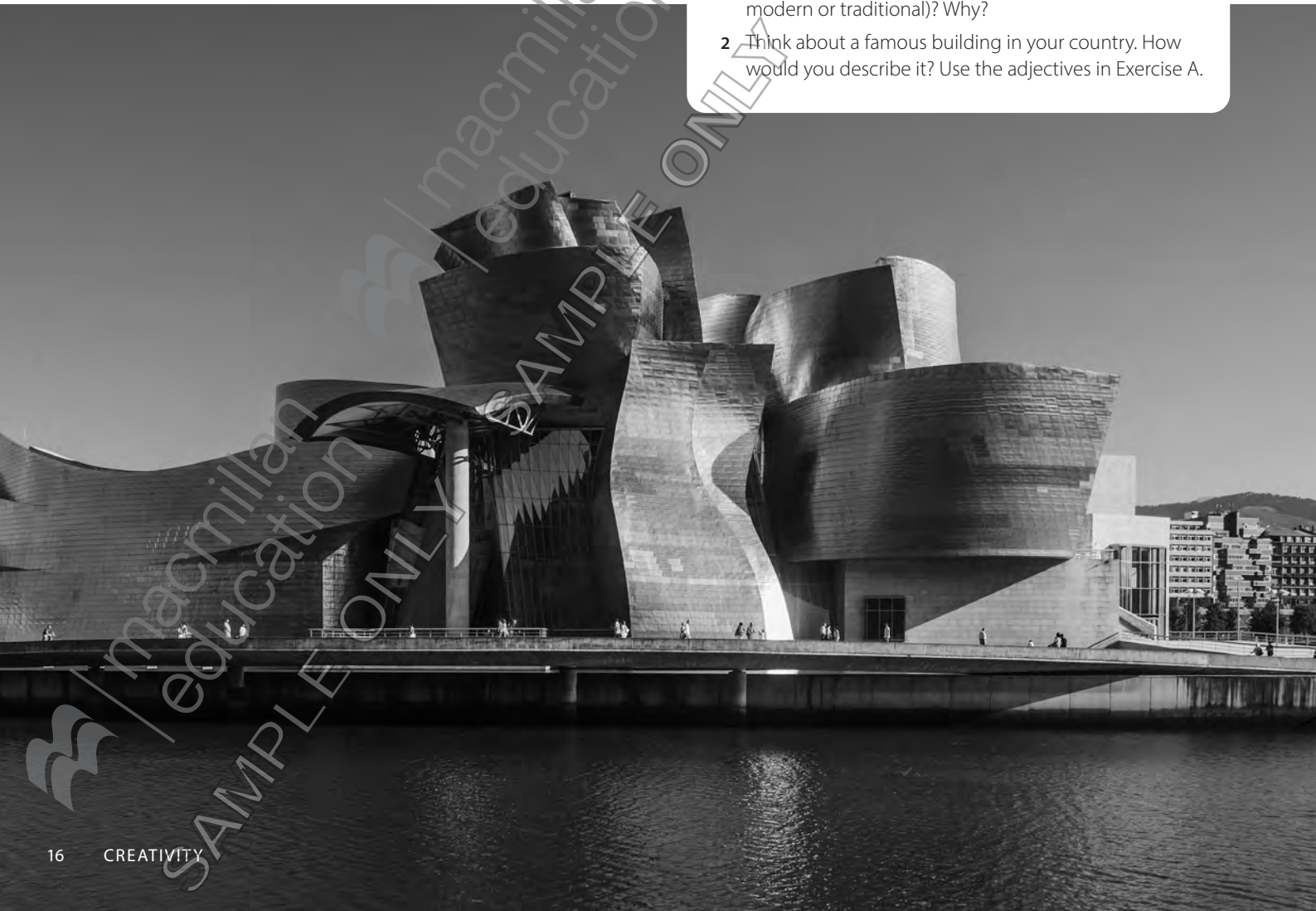
- 1 These days, architects like famous artists get admiration and _____.
- 2 While Gehry takes satisfaction in his achievements, he is not fond of _____.
- 3 Before achieving fame, Gehry had to deal with _____.
- 4 Gehry felt strongly that his buildings should mirror their _____.
- 5 Gehry is able to create striking and distinctive shapes through building with _____.
- 6 People who visit the Guggenheim Museum have been known to say that the building is _____ than the things in it.

Glossary

be a household name (phr) be very well-known
commission (n) a request for an artist to create a piece of work (for payment)
discipline (n) a subject that people study
signature style (n) style which is associated with a particular person

E REFLECT Think about the answers to these questions.

- 1 What style of architecture do you like (for example, modern or traditional)? Why?
- 2 Think about a famous building in your country. How would you describe it? Use the adjectives in Exercise A.



WRITING

A Which of these places would you most enjoy visiting and why?

- a gallery with works by unknown, living artists
- an exhibit of a well-known painter
- a museum with interesting objects from the past

B Read *Monet at the National Gallery* and match the paragraphs (1–5) to the brief paragraph summaries (a–e).

- | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|
| a | the writer's opinion of the exhibit | — |
| b | introducing the exhibit and its theme | — |
| c | a more detailed look at the paintings | — |
| d | how the exhibit is arranged | — |
| e | revisiting the theme of the exhibit | — |

Monet

at the National Gallery

- 1** When you mention the name 'Monet', most people think 'water lilies', but this exhibit is entitled 'Monet and Architecture', which is not a connection most art lovers would make. French Impressionist painter Monet painted Rouen Cathedral several times and there are buildings in many of his paintings, but ... architecture as an important theme?
- 2** Organized in such a way as to surprise and delight the visitor, the paintings are presented in an unusual fashion. You don't go from room to room looking at his early, middle and late periods; the idea is more than that you see how his later work was influenced by his early work. Monet, born in 1840, continued painting until the mid-1920s, so there is much to explore.
- 3** Examples of the Rouen Cathedral paintings are here, somehow making the weighty and massive construction seem ready to float away. This is also true of the Venice paintings. Already part of a floating city, the buildings of Venice seem to sail like gondolas on the water. There are paintings done in London, too, a city about which Monet boldly said, 'would be quite ugly if not for the fog'.
- 4** Buildings, though, are often just a focus point for other elements of the work, a point from which the eye is drawn into the painting. They are just another part of nature, subject to the same laws and conditions. You will come away with a sense of extraordinary beauty and the passing of time.
- 5** This is a wonderful exhibit that I would recommend to everyone – art lover or not. If you only know Monet for his water lilies, you don't know half the story.

C WRITING CONCISELY Find sentences or clauses in the review which express these ideas in a more concise way. Match each one to a grammatical feature.

- 1** The paintings are organized in such a way as to surprise and delight the visitor and are presented in an unusual fashion.
 - 2** Monet, who was born in 1840, continued painting until the mid-1920s...
 - 3** Monet was a French Impressionist painter who painted Rouen Cathedral several times ...
- a noun phrase
b reduced adjective clause
c participle clause

WRITING PRACTICE

A PREPARE You are going to write a review of a cultural or artistic event. Think about the answers to these questions and write notes.

- 1** Have you been to a cultural or artistic event recently (art/ photography exhibit, museum, concert, book reading, etc)?
- 2** Where was it? What was on display or what happened? If it was an exhibit, who was the main artist? Was there a theme?
- 3** How was the event organized? How were the artworks / museum objects / different aspects presented?
- 4** What did you like or dislike about the event?

B PLAN Organize your notes from Exercise A into a plan.

- Use an appropriate structure for a review.
- Don't forget to give your recommendation in the last paragraph.

C WRITE Write your review in 220–260 words. Use your plan to help you.

