

Course: Beginner Level 2

Day №16

Popular Culture

What is Graffiti? Have you seen one before?



Which of these things do you think is art?



Art or Vandalism?

In the year 2000 strange paintings appeared on the sides of buildings in Bristol and London. These weren't drawings by bored teenagers; they were funny and very artistic. But who was the artist? Nobody knew.

Over the next few years more and more of these amazing pictures appeared. Usually, people hate graffiti: they think it is ugly and unattractive, just a form of vandalism. And of course it's illegal. But this work was different. Some of the paintings were funny, some were frightening, but they were always interesting and original.

Some people said the artist was called 'Banksy'. But who was Banksy? It became a huge mystery and several newspapers tried to find out Banksy's real identity. It was fantastic publicity for the artist and his work became famous in America and Australia. In 2007 a gallery in London sold one of his wall paintings for \$576,000. In 2009 Bristol City Art Gallery organised an exhibition of his work. More than 300,000 visitors came to the exhibition. But nobody knew Banksy's real name, not even the manager of the gallery. Of course, some people think it is shocking that paintings on the sides of buildings can be 'art'. But these days almost anything is art!

True or False

- | | | |
|---|---|--------------------------|
| 1 | Banksy did his first wall painting in 2007. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2 | His paintings are sometimes scary. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3 | People can't buy Banksy's paintings. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4 | Nobody knows Banksy's real name. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5 | Everybody agrees that Banksy's work is art. | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Find their meanings

- | | | | |
|---|------------|---|------------------------------------|
| 1 | graffiti | a | show where you can see paintings |
| 2 | vandalism | b | pictures and words on walls |
| 3 | illegal | c | bad, very surprising |
| 4 | original | d | damaging buildings or other things |
| 5 | exhibition | e | new, different from other things |
| 6 | shocking | f | not allowed |

Answer the following questions:

1. *Do you think Banksy's paintings are art or vandalism? Why?*
2. *The text says that these days almost everything is art. Do you agree? Can you think of an example?*
3. *Art is part of our culture. What other things do you think are part of the popular culture?*

Read the Dialogue

- J: I'm going to the Banksy exhibition. Do you want to come?
 S: Is it expensive?
 J: No, it's free.
 S: Er, no thanks. I don't like going to exhibitions really. They're boring.
 J: But Banksy's really good. I love his work.
 S: Who's Banksy? Is he famous?
 J: Yes. He's a really famous modern artist. He paints graffiti on the sides of buildings.
 S: That sounds stupid. I prefer traditional paintings to modern ones. Anyway, I want to stay at home. It's the final of *Pop Star Search* on TV this evening.
 J: Oh no. I hate listening to those stupid kids singing.
 S: Well, I love it. It's so exciting.
 J: It's rubbish.
 S: Oh, you hate everything on TV.
 J: No, I don't! But I like serious programmes more than talent shows. I prefer watching films or documentaries. Programmes that make you think.
 S: But I don't want to think when I watch TV. I just want to relax.

Who said the following:

- 1 doesn't like going to exhibitions?
- 2 prefers traditional paintings to modern ones?
- 3 hates listening to kids singing?
- 4 loves *Pop Star Search*?
- 5 prefers watching films?

Create questions using the words below:

- | | |
|--------------|-------------------------|
| it/expensive | <i>Is it expensive?</i> |
| he/know | <i>Does he know?</i> |
| 1 it/cheap | 3 she/smoke |
| 2 it/new | 4 they/work |

Which of these things do you prefer?

- 1 Do you prefer modern or traditional art?
- 2 Do you like these things or not?
 - watching the news
 - going to operas
 - reading magazines
 - listening to jazz
- 3 Look at the photos in exercise 1. Which ones do you prefer? Why?

I like ... more than ... because

- 1 visiting museums to going to concerts.
- 2 watching films to watching documentaries.
- 3 romantic films to action films.
- 4 modern art to traditional art.

Do you prefer visiting museums to going to concerts?

***Thank you for
today!***

***We're looking forward to
seeing you again!***