

READING

1 Read the blog post about digital art. Number the information in the order it appears in the text.

- A A history of digital art ____
- B Transforming physical art to digital art ____
- C Digital art in the future ____
- D Information about digital art and artists ____
- E An explanation of NFT art ____

Reading and Use of English Part 6

2 Read the blog post again. Six sentences have been removed from the text. Choose from the sentences A–G the one which fits each gap (1–6). There is one extra sentence you do not need to use.

- A I've just started an online course in creating digital artworks.
- B Some investors have paid millions of dollars for works by artists like Beeple.
- C Most people outside the art world have never heard of them either.
- D I've been doing some research into the history of the subject.
- E Recently, international art houses like Christie's and Sotheby's have started selling NFTs.
- F The prize-winning British artist Damien Hirst has been producing unusual art since the 1990s.
- G The internet has made it possible for artists to share their work with a global audience.

3 Look at the highlighted words in the text and try to guess their meaning from the context. Match them to meanings 1–7.

- 1 the only one of its kind _____
- 2 two things or people working together _____
- 3 played online in real time _____
- 4 money in digital form _____
- 5 accepted and used _____
- 6 a big change _____
- 7 creating argument or disagreement _____

DIGITAL ART

Hi, everyone. OK, here's a question. Do the names PAK, Snowfro or Beeple mean anything to you? How about Tyler Hobbs or Krista Kim? If the answer is 'no', don't worry, you're not alone. ¹ ____ These guys are all digital artists. They may not be as famous as Rembrandt or Frida Kahlo, but they're still incredibly successful. In fact, many of their works have sold for thousands of dollars, sometimes millions! So what is digital art? Basically, it's a **partnership** between an artist and a computer. A digital artwork can be a painting, a song, an image, a piece of music or a video.

There's a lot of interest in digital art right now, but it's not as 'new' as you might think. ² ____ Back in the 1960s and 1970s, artists started experimenting with computers to create completely new and different art forms, especially abstract images inspired by an earlier art movement. Then in the 1980s, we had personal computers, which meant new opportunities. Did you know Andy Warhol created a series of digital drawings on a PC which were lost and not discovered again until 2014? Amazing! Then, of course, we had the technological **revolution** of the 1990s. ³ ____ And now we have this new phenomenon that's completely changing the way art is made and sold – NFT art.

Let me try to explain. NFT stands for 'non-fungible token'. This is a digital file combined with a certificate that proves it's genuine. It can be bought and sold online using **cryptocurrency**. An NFT artwork has no physical form – it only exists online, but because its data code is unique it can only be sold by the person who owns it. So, just like a work by Picasso or Andy Warhol, this makes it extremely valuable. ⁴ ____ Just as an example, one of Beeple's larger pieces was sold for almost \$29 million. But NFT art is also **controversial**. Some people think it's just a way for rich investors to make even more money. Others say it makes life more difficult for artists who sell their physical works through galleries. I can see their point of view.

Having said that, some well-known, established artists have also **embraced** NFTs. ⁵ ____ Recently, Hirst created NFT versions of thousands of his original artworks. After offering these for sale, he destroyed the physical versions by burning them and **live-streamed** a video of the event. Some people have criticised him for destroying millions of dollars' worth of art. But as he explained, burning the physical artworks was part of the process. Each work has kept its value, as the **unique** code has been transferred to the NFT.

No one really knows what the future of NFTs will be, or whether they'll continue to make so much money. In theory, anyone can become a digital artist. So, after doing this research, I decided to learn more. ⁶ ____ So far, it's going well. I'm not sure yet if I'll manage to sell my work online – but it could be fun to try!



GRAMMAR 1

Present perfect simple and continuous

4 Read sentences A–G in exercise 2 again. In which sentence(s) is the present perfect simple or continuous used to talk about:

- 1 life experiences with *ever* or *never*? ____
- 2 the length of time of an action? ____
- 3 recently completed actions and states? ____
- 4 an action that started in the past and is still happening? ____
- 5 completed actions in an unfinished time period? ____

5 Choose the correct verb form.

- 1 Have you ever **visited / been visiting** an immersive art exhibition?
- 2 This term, my sister has **tried / been trying** to learn programming – I think it's quite challenging!
- 3 Vinyl records have **become / been becoming** more popular than streaming.
- 4 Can you believe my dad has never **bought / been buying** any music online?
- 5 Asha has **worked / been working** on her school history project for weeks.
- 6 We've just **discovered / been discovering** a website that's really good for booking concerts and exhibitions.
- 7 I haven't seen you for ages – where have you **hidden / been hiding**?
- 8 What have you **learned / been learning** on the course you've just **finished / been finishing**?

6 Complete the text with the correct form of the words in brackets.

How ¹_____ (the music business/ change) in recent years? Not so long ago, most people bought music on CD or downloaded albums from iTunes, but streaming ²_____ (transform) the way we consume music.

CD sales ³_____ (decline) steadily for a number of years, and this ⁴_____ (not make) it easy for new artists to break into the industry.

Since platforms like Spotify and Apple Music came to dominate music sales, more and more people ⁵_____ (download) individual tracks. As a result, the idea of an album with a carefully arranged set of songs ⁶_____ (become) less important commercially.

Present perfect for completed actions

7 Read the sentences. Does the speaker focus on:
A the result of the action?
B the action itself?

- 1 Ella has been preparing all week for today's exam. ____
- 2 I've just read a really brilliant book – I'll lend it to you. ____
- 3 Tom arrived a couple of minutes ago – we've been waiting for him for ages. ____
- 4 Lauren's very musical – recently she's been learning to play the saxophone. ____
- 5 I'm completely exhausted, but at least I've finished my essay. ____
- 6 Kai has sent me his art project photos – they're really beautiful. ____

8 Complete the dialogues with the correct form of the verb in brackets.

- 1 **A:** What's that delicious smell?
B: We _____ (make) chocolate brownies – I'll let you know when they're ready.
- 2 **A:** I really like the new colour in your bedroom.
B: I _____ (just/finish) painting it – it took me all weekend.
- 3 **A:** Why are you staying at home this evening?
B: My sister bought me a new album for my birthday, and I _____ (not listen) to it yet.
- 4 **A:** Amalia looks tired – do you think she's OK?
B: She _____ (stay) up late all week to practise for her music exam.
- 5 **A:** What was the problem with your phone?
B: I don't know exactly, but the guy in the repair shop _____ (fix) it for me.
- 6 **A:** I hear your brother's band is releasing a new single.
B: That's right. They _____ (film) the video this week – it looks really good.

Streaming ⁷_____ (also/affect) the big record labels. As streaming platforms have taken over the job of distributing music, record labels ⁸_____ (work out) how to adapt – for some, this ⁹_____ (mean) changing their business model to focus more on marketing.

So, what else ¹⁰_____ (change)? Well, vinyl record sales ¹¹_____ (make) a steady comeback in recent years, and their popularity continues to grow. At the same time, the number of downloads worldwide ¹²_____ (fall). But right now, streaming is still the most popular way to get your music.

9 Write a response to each statement. Use the present perfect simple or continuous.

- Your shoes are soaking wet.

- You look very happy and relaxed.

- I hear you have an important exam next week.

VOCABULARY 1

Art and music

10 Replace the underlined words in each sentence with the correct form of a word from the box.

abstract album artwork charts
exhibited inspired release track
turntable vision

- Peter Doig is a Canadian artist whose paintings have been shown in public places around the world. _____
- In recent years, more people have started listening to music on a device used to play vinyl records. _____
- Michelangelo had a very clear picture in his imagination for his work on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel. _____
- Since the start of her career, Taylor Swift has sold over 100 million collections of songs on CD, record or online worldwide. _____
- Some European cities, such as Barcelona, Berlin and Lisbon, are famous for the works of art in their streets. _____
- I'm really excited about the latest piece of music made available to the public from my favourite band. _____
- Mr Brightside* by the Killers stayed longer in the UK's list of songs that have sold, streamed or downloaded in a week than any other single. _____
- By the middle of the 19th century, some European artists were experimenting with art that was not representing things in a realistic way. _____
- The landscape of New Mexico provided the ideas for many paintings by the American artist Georgia O'Keefe. _____
- In 2020, the American band Green Day released a CD with ten recorded songs that was only 26 minutes long. _____

11 Complete the reviews with the correct form of the words from exercise 10. You will need to use some words twice.

Music If you listen to one recording this week, make it the latest ¹ _____ from this amazing band. I've just bought my copy and I can tell you it's definitely their most impressive to date. Everything about it is brilliant, even the cover ² _____. Better still, it's on vinyl, so I've been able to enjoy it using my new ³ _____. The sound quality is amazing! I've been playing it almost non-stop since I got home – I love every one of the ⁴ _____. It's no exaggeration to say that this is one of the best ⁵ _____ I've ever heard. I predict it will be at the top of the ⁶ _____ for weeks.

Art I really love this photographer. I've just discovered that a local gallery has some of her ⁷ _____. That's quite surprising considering she has ⁸ _____ all over the world, and her paintings are really in demand. If there were ⁹ _____ for bestselling artists, like there are for music, I'm sure she'd be at the top! Her work is ¹⁰ _____ by the natural world, especially the ocean. However, she has a unique artistic ¹¹ _____ when it comes to representing nature. Her photos aren't realistic – they are more like ¹² _____ paintings with an amazing use of colour. There's one I particularly love of a wild, dark sea on a stormy day. It's almost perfect.

Books

12 Choose the correct alternative.

- The first Harry Potter novel was **iconic / published** in 1997.
- The Little Mermaid* is a **classic / paperback** of children's literature.
- The German writer Goethe is best known as a **novelist / poet**, but he also wrote novels, plays and scientific works.
- Alice in Wonderland* was beautifully **illustrated / published** by the artist John Tenniel.
- Some first **classics / editions** of well-known books can be extremely valuable.
- The Kite Runner*, the first novel by Khaled Hosseini, spent two years in the **bestseller / paperback** charts.
- Andrea Camilleri was an Italian **bestseller / novelist** who wrote detective fiction.
- Paperback / Classic** books first became popular in the 1930s.
- The cover of the 1974 novel *Jaws* is one of the most **iconic / illustrated** covers of all time.



13 Complete the text about crime fiction with the words in the box. There is one word you do not need.

bestseller	classics	editions	iconic
illustrated	novelist	paperback	poet
published			

Crime novels regularly top the ¹ _____ charts in many countries. But when did popular detective fiction begin? Opinions vary, but critics believe that *The Moonstone* by Wilkie Collins, ² _____ in 1868, may have been the first true detective novel. A few decades later, Arthur Conan Doyle's ³ _____ detective Sherlock Holmes appeared. These stories were incredibly popular with readers around the world and many, like *The Hound of The Baskervilles*, have become ⁴ _____ of the genre. They were even translated into Chinese by the ⁵ _____ Cheng Xiaoqing, who was himself a writer of detective fiction. In the 20th century, writers like Agatha Christie, Georges Simenon and Raymond Chandler achieved great success, and early ⁶ _____ of their novels are now quite valuable. In the 1960s and 70s, graphic novels, which are full-length novels ⁷ _____ like a comic book, became more common. Today, crime fiction seems as popular as ever. Hundreds of new novels are published each year in different formats – from hardback and ⁸ _____, to e-book and audio book.



LISTENING

14 **02** Listen to a podcast by a music journalist, Zoe, giving advice to musicians about sharing their music online. What does she say about:

- 1 how musicians make money?
- 2 how musicians should think about YouTube?
- 3 people listening to music for free?
- 4 having subscribers*?
- 5 presenting yourself and your music?

**subscriber* a person who pays money to have regular access to content online

15 Read the summary of what Zoe says in exercise 16. Try to predict the type of information that will complete the gaps. Think about the information and the types of word. Make notes.

Listening Part 2

16 **02** Listen again. For items 1–10, complete the sentences with a word or short phrase.

Zoe says that many musicians make ¹ _____ from downloads than from CDs or vinyl records. When live music stopped happening during the pandemic, musicians had to find ² _____ to sell their music.

Zoe believes that YouTube is the best place for new musicians to ³ _____ their music and increase the number of their fans. She advises new musicians to create their own ⁴ _____ and start uploading music to it.

Some people worry that posting music for free means people might not ⁵ _____ it. Zoe doesn't think this is a problem. On YouTube, millions of people are able to listen to your music, and some of them will ⁶ _____ to buy it.

YouTube helps musicians ⁷ _____ subscribers to their channel. It allows them to keep their fans up-to-date with ⁸ _____, and enables fans to share these with their friends.

To build interest among subscribers, Zoe suggests uploading tracks over a period of time, not all at ⁹ _____. And to keep fans ¹⁰ _____, include video clips of 'behind the scenes' activities, too.



VOCABULARY 2

Negative prefixes

17 Complete the words in the dialogues with the correct prefixes.

1 A: I don't see the point of looking at old paintings in a museum. I mean, they're completely ___relevant to most people's lives.

B: Really? I ___agree – I think we can learn a lot about a period in history from its art.

2 A: Have you seen these ___pleasant comments about my latest poem on Instagram?

B: Ignore them, they're obviously written by someone who's ___mature and jealous of your work.

3 A: I don't get outsider art – it seems ___logical to produce artworks that no one will see.

B: Yes. You could also say it's ___responsible to claim you're an outsider when you've had formal training.

4 A: Hurry up – we need to book our concert tickets online before they all ___appear!

B: Don't be so ___patient – they haven't started selling them yet.

5 A: I'm not sure I like this statue – some of the details are physically ___correct and it feels unfinished.

B: Actually, I like the fact that it's slightly ___perfect. It makes it interesting.

Compound nouns

18 Match the sentence halves to make compound nouns.

- 1 Famous artists who worked in **water** ___
 - 2 I enjoy watching films, but the **sound** ___
 - 3 In the past, most cultures had **story** ___
 - 4 Graffiti is a form of **under** ___
 - 5 Ed Sheeran's first **hit** ___
 - 6 Part of the purpose of **performance** ___
 - 7 *The Starry Night* is a famous **oil** ___
 - 8 *Rolling Stone* magazine's greatest **song** ___
- A** **tellers** who educated people about their history and culture.
- B** **writer** of all time is Bob Dylan.
- C** **art** is to make the audience think differently.
- D** **colour** include Cezanne, Kandinsky and Turner.
- E** **painting** by the artist Vincent Van Gogh.
- F** **ground** art that often gets a negative response.
- G** **track** is usually my favourite part.
- H** **single** was *The A Team*, released in 2011.

Reading and Use of English Part 3

19 For questions 1–8, read the text. Use the word given in capitals at the end of some of the lines to form a word that fits in the gap in the same line.

Much of the popular music of the 20th and 21st centuries has been created by bands, from the Beatles to BTS. But there's another kind of ¹ _____ – the singer-songwriter who composes and performs their own songs. It's not ² _____ to say that their music has also had a major influence.

MUSIC

ACCURATE

In Europe, there's a long tradition of poets and ³ _____ travelling around, performing their poems, stories and songs for money. In America in the mid-20th century, 'protest' singers began to appear. They often sang about social issues which made them ⁴ _____ with the authorities. In some cities, an ⁵ _____ music culture grew, with clubs where performers and their audience could meet in secret.

STORY

POPULAR

GROUND

Songwriters like Paul Simon, Joni Mitchell and Tracy Chapman have enjoyed commercial success and have written some of our most ⁶ _____ songs. Today, artists like Ed Sheeran and Taylor Swift continue that tradition – both are ⁷ _____ popular, with a global fanbase. Who could ⁸ _____ that singer-songwriters are just as important as the world's greatest bands?

ICON

**BELIEVE
AGREE**

GRAMMAR 2

so and such

20 Choose the correct alternative.

- 1 Ed has been **so / so much** happy since he passed his music exam.
- 2 It's a great exhibition – we're very surprised that **so / such** few people have visited it.
- 3 Zara can get around **so / so much** more cheaply with her student travel card.
- 4 Marina Abramović is **so / such** a brilliant performance artist – I love her work.
- 5 Musicians play a lot of live concerts because they make **so / such** little money from downloads.
- 6 You should come to their next concert – there's always **so much / such** a great atmosphere.
- 7 Nate prefers to buy albums on vinyl because the sound is **such / so much** better.
- 8 I wish people wouldn't post negative comments about our videos – it's **so / so much** unnecessary.

21 Complete the dialogue with *so*, *such* or *so much*.

- Tara:** What do you want to do first?
- Bea:** I'm not sure – there's ¹_____ choice. What about you?
- Tara:** What about the exhibition at the modern art gallery? It's had ²_____ brilliant reviews, I think it would definitely be worth seeing.
- Bea:** OK, let's start there. Let's see, ... there's a lunchtime concert in the park – that might be good, as the weather's ³_____ nice.
- Tara:** Great. What about lunch? We have ⁴_____ little time, I don't want to waste it in a pizzeria.
- Bea:** Agreed. And it would be ⁵_____ cheaper to take our own food from the market.
- Tara:** Good idea. Then we could visit that café we went to before – they served ⁶_____ good coffee!
- Bea:** I'd like to visit the castle if we have time.
- Tara:** Sure. Now the new metro line is open we can get there ⁷_____ more quickly.
- Bea:** Great. Does that mean I'll have time to do some shopping as well?
- Tara:** Shopping? That is ⁸_____ typical of you ...

Reading and Use of English Part 4

22 Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence. You must use between two and five words, including the word given.

- The novel was the inspiration for Marcia's decision to study creative writing. **SO**
Marcia was _____ the novel that she decided to study creative writing.
- When we came before there were a lot fewer artworks in the museum. **MANY**
There are _____ artworks on display than the last time we came.
- Filming a concert on your phone is against the law. **MAKE**
It is _____ a video of a concert on your phone.
- That was the most disappointing exhibition I've ever been to. **SUCH**
I've _____ a disappointing exhibition.
- The website stopped working this morning, so they haven't sold any more tickets. **BEEN**
No more tickets _____ since the website crashed this morning.
- We couldn't earn an income just from downloads and CD sales. **US**
It was _____ make enough money from just selling our music.

WRITING

23 Read the extracts 1–8 from different essays. Decide which phrases in bold match each function A–F. Then think of at least one more phrase for each item.

- A** state the essay's main argument
B introduce a reason to support the argument
C introduce an explanation
D give an example
E explain a possible effect
F introduce a conclusion
- Some songwriters use their songs to draw attention to social issues **such as** poverty. ____
 - Another reason is that** the introduction of paperback novels changed the publishing industry. ____
 - Although** hip hop is often criticized, **in my view** it is an important musical genre. ____
 - To sum up**, arts subjects are just as important as science subjects. ____
 - The first reason is that** most Instagram poems are quite short. ____
 - Consequently**, some people find performance art hard to understand. ____
 - A good example of this is** the way album cover design has changed. ____
 - This means** that some digital artworks are incredibly expensive. ____

Writing Part 1: Essay (1)

24 Write your answer in 140–190 words in an appropriate style.

In your English class you have been talking about the arts. Your English teacher has asked you to write an essay using all the notes and giving reasons for your point of view.

Why is it important for governments to give money to support the arts?

Write about:

- benefits to society
- employment
- _____ (your own idea)

Write your essay.