THE FAKE REMBRANDT

A FULL ENGLISH LESSON PLAN

READING • SPEAKING • WRITING • LISTENING • VOCABULARY



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The Fake Rembrandt — Full Lesson Plan

A Fantastic Tales short story and lesson plan, courtesy of ManWrites.

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Introductory Questions

1. Look at the title. What do you think a fake Rembrandt might be?

2. Have you ever seen a painting that impressed you? Describe it.

3. Can someone become a great artist without going to art school?

4. What might a person's clothes or accent make you assume about them?

5. What makes a painting valuable: its beauty, its history or the artist's name?

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The Fake Rembrandt

Emma knocked on the door and waited.

Her heart was beating faster than usual. She wondered what exactly she had got herself involved in.

No one knew she was here. Not her editor. Not even her girlfriend.

For eight years, Emma had written about art for The Guardian. She had interviewed famous painters, gallery owners and collectors. She had attended private exhibitions in London, Paris and New York.

But she had never done anything like this.

For three months, she had been trying to find the man known only as The Artisan — the man believed to be behind the fake Rembrandt that had shocked the art world.

Finally, he had agreed to meet her.

The door opened.

A young man stood there.

‘Hi,’ said Emma. ‘I’m here to see The Artisan.’

The young man stared at her. He couldn't have been more than twenty.

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‘You on your own?’

His East London accent was strong. He had tattoos on his neck and another small tattoo below one eye. His T-shirt had a picture of a gun on the front.

‘Yes.’

He jerked his head.

‘Come in.’

He closed the door behind her and locked it.

Directly ahead was an old industrial lift, the kind once used in factories and warehouses.

They stepped inside. The young man pulled the metal gate closed and pressed a button.

The lift began to rise with a loud hiss and whirr.

As they reached the third floor, Emma heard music.

Drill rap.

The young man opened the gate.

The room beyond was enormous. Canvases leaned against the walls. Paint covered the floor in a thousand different colours. Tables were crowded with brushes, oils, rags and tubes of paint.

The young man walked over to a phone and turned off the music.

Silence filled the room.

‘Great space,’ Emma said.

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‘Yeah. It’s alright.’

Emma looked around.

‘So where is he?’

The young man frowned.

‘Who?’

‘The Artisan.’

‘That’s me.’

Emma stared at him.

‘I’m sorry?’

He lifted his T-shirt. Across his stomach, among dozens of other tattoos, were the words:

THE ARTISAN.

Emma took a step back.

This wasn't what she had expected at all.

She had imagined an older man. Educated. Refined. Someone who had studied at one of the great art schools.

Not this kid.

‘You want a drink?’

‘Yes, please.’

A gin and tonic would have been nice.

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The Artisan opened a small fridge, took out two bottles of mineral water and handed one to her.

Emma almost laughed.

For some reason, she had expected beer. Or vodka.

‘So this is where you work?’

‘Yeah. Live here too.’

He pointed towards a mattress in the corner.

Emma looked at the paintings around the room.

‘Where did you train?’

‘Train?’

‘Art school. College.’

He smiled.

‘Didn't.’

‘You didn't go to art school?’

‘Too expensive. Taught myself.’

Emma stared at him.

‘How?’

‘Galleries. Museums. Books. Looking at paintings.’

‘And Rembrandt?’

His expression changed slightly.

‘What about him?’

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‘You know his work?’

The Artisan gave her a long look.

‘Yeah. I know Rembrandt.’

‘His use of light is—’

‘Nah.’

Emma stopped.

‘Excuse me?’

‘Everyone goes on about the light. Light and shadow. Everyone knows that.’

Emma raised an eyebrow.

‘So what should they talk about?’

He picked up a paintbrush.

‘The paint.’

‘The paint?’

‘Sometimes he'd put it on thick. Really thick. Then right next to it, hardly anything. Let what's underneath show through.’

Emma said nothing.

The young man turned the brush around in his fingers.

‘And sometimes he didn't paint details at all.’

‘What do you mean?’

‘Hair, for example.’

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He held out the wooden end of the brush.

‘Sometimes he'd scratch it straight into the wet paint with this.’

Emma looked at the brush.

‘The handle.’

‘Yeah.’

She knew he was right.

‘Impasto,’ she said.

The Artisan looked at her.

‘I know what it's called.’

Emma felt her face become warm.

Of course he did.

He put the brush down.

‘You lot always talk about Rembrandt painting light. That's the easy bit to see. You've got to look at what he did with the paint.’

For the first time since entering the building, Emma forgot about the locked door, the tattoos and the gun on his T-shirt.

She looked at him differently.

This young man knew what he was talking about.

More than that.

He understood it.

The Artisan took a drink of water.

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‘You want to see something?’

Emma nodded.

He walked towards the far end of the studio.

A large canvas stood against the wall, covered by a white sheet.

‘Been working on this for a while.’

He took hold of the sheet.

‘I wanted you to see it first.’

He pulled it away.

Emma froze.

She knew the image immediately.

An old man holding a baby.

‘No,’ she whispered.

The Artisan smiled.

‘Simeon in the Temple.’

Emma stepped closer.

Rembrandt's final painting.

It had been found unfinished in his studio after his death.

But this painting wasn't unfinished.

Emma stared at the old man's face. The hands. The folds of cloth. The paint catching the light.

It was extraordinary.

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‘You did this?’

‘Yeah.’

‘But Rembrandt never finished it.’

‘I know.’

Emma turned towards him.

The Artisan shrugged.

‘Thought I'd finish it for him.’

For several seconds, Emma couldn't speak.

It was an outrageous thing to say.

Arrogant.

Almost offensive.

And yet she couldn't take her eyes off the painting.

It was magnificent.

‘Why did you bring me here?’ she finally asked.

The young man smiled.

‘You write for The Guardian. People listen to you.’

Emma looked back at the painting.

‘I thought I found you.’

The Artisan laughed.

‘Nah.’

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Emma turned.

‘What?’

‘I let you find me.’

He stepped beside her and looked at the painting.

Then he turned to her.

‘I need your help to show this to the world.’

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Reading Comprehension Questions

1. What is Emma doing at the beginning?
2. Who knows that Emma is there?
3. Which newspaper does Emma write for?
4. How long has she written about art?
5. Who has she interviewed?
6. How long has she been trying to find The Artisan?
7. What is The Artisan believed to be responsible for?
8. Who opens the door?
9. How old does Emma think he is?
10. What does he ask Emma?
11. How is his accent described?
12. What does his T-shirt show?
13. What does he do after closing the door?
14. How do they reach the third floor?
15. What music does Emma hear?
16. What is the room like?
17. What does the young man do to the music?

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18. Who does Emma ask to see?

19. How does the young man identify himself?

20. What sort of person had Emma expected?

21. What drink would Emma have liked?

22. What drink does The Artisan give her?

23. Where does he live?

24. What does he point to in the corner?

25. Why did he not attend art school?

26. How did he teach himself?

27. What familiar subject does The Artisan interrupt Emma about?

28. What does he think people should discuss instead?

29. What contrast in paint thickness does he describe?

30. How does he say Rembrandt sometimes created hair?

31. What technical word does Emma use?

32. Why does Emma feel her face become warm?

33. What does Emma stop worrying about?

34. How does her opinion of The Artisan change?

35. What covers the large canvas?

36. Who does The Artisan want to see the painting first?

37. What does he do with the sheet?

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38. What image does Emma recognise?

39. What is the painting called?

40. According to the story, what happened to Rembrandt's final painting?

41. How is The Artisan's version different?

42. What details does Emma study?

43. What does The Artisan say he thought he would do?

44. How does Emma react to his statement and his work?

45. Why has The Artisan brought Emma to the studio?

46. What does Emma believe about finding him?

47. What does The Artisan reveal about their meeting?

48. What help does he ask for?

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The Fake Rembrandt — Story and Reading Comprehension Questions

This is the story divided into clear sections with reading comprehension questions below each section. This format might be easier for certain classes. You can find the model answers for the questions at the end of the lesson plan.

Section 1

Emma knocked on the door and waited.

Her heart was beating faster than usual. She wondered what exactly she had got herself involved in.

No one knew she was here. Not her editor. Not even her girlfriend.

For eight years, Emma had written about art for The Guardian. She had interviewed famous painters, gallery owners and collectors. She had attended private exhibitions in London, Paris and New York.

But she had never done anything like this.

For three months, she had been trying to find the man known only as The Artisan — the man believed to be behind the fake Rembrandt that had shocked the art world.

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Finally, he had agreed to meet her.

Reading Comprehension Questions

1. What is Emma doing at the beginning?

2. Who knows that Emma is there?

3. Which newspaper does Emma write for?

4. How long has she written about art?

5. Who has she interviewed?

6. How long has she been trying to find The Artisan?

7. What is The Artisan believed to be responsible for?

Section 2

The door opened.

A young man stood there.

‘Hi,’ said Emma. ‘I’m here to see The Artisan.’

The young man stared at her. He couldn't have been more than twenty.

‘You on your own?’

His East London accent was strong. He had tattoos on his neck and another small tattoo below one eye. His T-shirt had a picture of a gun on the front.

‘Yes.’

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He jerked his head.

‘Come in.’

He closed the door behind her and locked it.

Directly ahead was an old industrial lift, the kind once used in factories and warehouses.

They stepped inside. The young man pulled the metal gate closed and pressed a button.

The lift began to rise with a loud hiss and whirr.

As they reached the third floor, Emma heard music.

Drill rap.

The young man opened the gate.

Reading Comprehension Questions

8. Who opens the door?

9. How old does Emma think he is?

10. What does he ask Emma?

11. How is his accent described?

12. What does his T-shirt show?

13. What does he do after closing the door?

14. How do they reach the third floor?

15. What music does Emma hear?

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Section 3

The room beyond was enormous. Canvases leaned against the walls. Paint covered the floor in a thousand different colours. Tables were crowded with brushes, oils, rags and tubes of paint.

The young man walked over to a phone and turned off the music.

Silence filled the room.

‘Great space,’ Emma said.

‘Yeah. It’s alright.’

Emma looked around.

‘So where is he?’

The young man frowned.

‘Who?’

‘The Artisan.’

‘That’s me.’

Emma stared at him.

‘I’m sorry?’

He lifted his T-shirt. Across his stomach, among dozens of other tattoos, were the words:

THE ARTISAN.

Emma took a step back.

This wasn't what she had expected at all.

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She had imagined an older man. Educated. Refined. Someone who had studied at one of the great art schools.

Not this kid.

Reading Comprehension Questions

16. What is the room like?

17. What does the young man do to the music?

18. Who does Emma ask to see?

19. How does the young man identify himself?

20. What sort of person had Emma expected?

Section 4

‘You want a drink?’

‘Yes, please.’

A gin and tonic would have been nice.

The Artisan opened a small fridge, took out two bottles of mineral water and handed one to her.

Emma almost laughed.

For some reason, she had expected beer. Or vodka.

‘So this is where you work?’

‘Yeah. Live here too.’

He pointed towards a mattress in the corner.

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Emma looked at the paintings around the room.

‘Where did you train?’

‘Train?’

‘Art school. College.’

He smiled.

‘Didn't.’

‘You didn't go to art school?’

‘Too expensive. Taught myself.’

Emma stared at him.

‘How?’

‘Galleries. Museums. Books. Looking at paintings.’

Reading Comprehension Questions

21. What drink would Emma have liked?

22. What drink does The Artisan give her?

23. Where does he live?

24. What does he point to in the corner?

25. Why did he not attend art school?

26. How did he teach himself?

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Section 5

‘And Rembrandt?’

His expression changed slightly.

‘What about him?’

‘You know his work?’

The Artisan gave her a long look.

‘Yeah. I know Rembrandt.’

‘His use of light is—’

‘Nah.’

Emma stopped.

‘Excuse me?’

‘Everyone goes on about the light. Light and shadow. Everyone knows that.’

Emma raised an eyebrow.

‘So what should they talk about?’

He picked up a paintbrush.

‘The paint.’

‘The paint?’

‘Sometimes he'd put it on thick. Really thick. Then right next to it, hardly anything. Let what's underneath show through.’

Emma said nothing.

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The young man turned the brush around in his fingers.

‘And sometimes he didn't paint details at all.’

‘What do you mean?’

‘Hair, for example.’

He held out the wooden end of the brush.

‘Sometimes he'd scratch it straight into the wet paint with this.’

Emma looked at the brush.

‘The handle.’

‘Yeah.’

She knew he was right.

‘Impasto,’ she said.

The Artisan looked at her.

‘I know what it's called.’

Emma felt her face become warm.

Of course he did.

Reading Comprehension Questions

27. What familiar subject does The Artisan interrupt Emma about?

28. What does he think people should discuss instead?

29. What contrast in paint thickness does he describe?

30. How does he say Rembrandt sometimes created hair?

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31. What technical word does Emma use?

32. Why does Emma feel her face become warm?

Section 6

He put the brush down.

‘You lot always talk about Rembrandt painting light. That's the easy bit to see. You've got to look at what he did with the paint.’

For the first time since entering the building, Emma forgot about the locked door, the tattoos and the gun on his T-shirt.

She looked at him differently.

This young man knew what he was talking about.

More than that.

He understood it.

The Artisan took a drink of water.

‘You want to see something?’

Emma nodded.

He walked towards the far end of the studio.

A large canvas stood against the wall, covered by a white sheet.

‘Been working on this for a while.’

He took hold of the sheet.

‘I wanted you to see it first.’

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He pulled it away.

Reading Comprehension Questions

33. What does Emma stop worrying about?

34. How does her opinion of The Artisan change?

35. What covers the large canvas?

36. Who does The Artisan want to see the painting first?

37. What does he do with the sheet?

Section 7

Emma froze.

She knew the image immediately.

An old man holding a baby.

‘No,’ she whispered.

The Artisan smiled.

‘Simeon in the Temple.’

Emma stepped closer.

Rembrandt's final painting.

It had been found unfinished in his studio after his death.

But this painting wasn't unfinished.

Emma stared at the old man's face. The hands. The folds of cloth. The paint catching the light.

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It was extraordinary.

‘You did this?’

‘Yeah.’

‘But Rembrandt never finished it.’

‘I know.’

Emma turned towards him.

The Artisan shrugged.

‘Thought I'd finish it for him.’

For several seconds, Emma couldn't speak.

It was an outrageous thing to say.

Arrogant.

Almost offensive.

And yet she couldn't take her eyes off the painting.

It was magnificent.

Reading Comprehension Questions

38. What image does Emma recognise?

39. What is the painting called?

40. According to the story, what happened to Rembrandt's final painting?

41. How is The Artisan's version different?

42. What details does Emma study?

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43. What does The Artisan say he thought he would do?

44. How does Emma react to his statement and his work?

Section 8

‘Why did you bring me here?’ she finally asked.

The young man smiled.

‘You write for The Guardian. People listen to you.’

Emma looked back at the painting.

‘I thought I found you.’

The Artisan laughed.

‘Nah.’

Emma turned.

‘What?’

‘I let you find me.’

He stepped beside her and looked at the painting.

Then he turned to her.

‘I need your help to show this to the world.’

Reading Comprehension Questions

45. Why has The Artisan brought Emma to the studio?

46. What does Emma believe about finding him?

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47. What does The Artisan reveal about their meeting?

48. What help does he ask for?

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Essential Vocabulary

editor	collector	exhibition
artisan	fake	accent
tattoo	industrial	warehouse
hiss	whirr	canvas
rag	frown	refined
mineral water	mattress	train
expression	raise an eyebrow	paintbrush
thick	show through	scratch
handle	impasto	you lot
studio	take hold of	sheet
freeze	immediately	unfinished
fold	extraordinary	shrug
outrageous	arrogant	offensive
magnificent	take your eyes off	for a while

Vocabulary Practice Exercise

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Follow the steps below to help you learn and remember new words and phrases more effectively:

1. Write each new word or phrase in your vocabulary notebook.

2. Look up the meaning of each word in your dictionary. Write a clear and simple definition next to the word.

3. Create your own sentence using the word or phrase correctly. Try to make the sentence meaningful and connected to your own life or experiences.

Examples

Refined – *showing good manners and an interest in culture.*

Example sentence: *Emma expected to meet a refined man who had studied at a famous art school.*

Arrogant – *behaving as if you are better or more important than other people.*

Example sentence: *His arrogant reply annoyed the other students.*

Why do this?

Doing this regularly will help you improve all areas of your English — reading, writing, speaking, and listening. By writing definitions and making your own examples, you are actively using the language, which helps it stick in your memory.

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Vocabulary Practice Exercise

Match each word (1–10) with its correct definition (a–j).

1. editor _____
2. collector _____
3. exhibition _____
4. refined _____
5. canvas _____
6. mattress _____
7. scratch _____
8. impasto _____
9. arrogant _____
10. magnificent _____

Definitions

a. a public display of works of art

b. a surface of strong cloth used for painting

c. behaving as if you are better than other people

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d. a person who prepares and checks material for publication

e. extremely beautiful or impressive

f. a person who gathers and keeps objects of a particular kind

g. to make a mark by dragging something sharp across a surface

h. showing good manners and an interest in culture

i. a thick layer of paint that creates a raised texture

j. the soft part of a bed that you lie on

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True or False

Read the statements below and decide if they are True or False. If a statement is false, correct it and rewrite it so that it is true according to the story. You can find all the correct answers at the end of the lesson plan.

1. Emma has worked for The Guardian for three months.
2. Emma tells her editor where she is going.
3. The young man locks the door after Emma enters.
4. Emma expects The Artisan to be an older man.
5. The Artisan gives Emma a bottle of beer.
6. The Artisan learnt to paint at an expensive art school.
7. The Artisan says that paint thickness is worth examining.
8. Emma recognises the image when the sheet is removed.
9. Emma thinks the painting is badly made.
10. The Artisan wants Emma to help him show his painting to the world.

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What is the Correct Synonym?

A synonym is a word of similar meaning. Match each word from the story with its synonym from the box below.

Word Box: *conceited, incomplete, cultured, looked displeased, huge, insulting, remarkable, looked fixedly, splendid, at once*

1. enormous → _____
2. refined → _____
3. immediately → _____
4. extraordinary → _____
5. arrogant → _____
6. magnificent → _____
7. frowned → _____
8. stared → _____
9. unfinished → _____
10. offensive → _____

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What is the Correct Antonym?

An antonym is a word of opposite meaning. Match each word from the story with its antonym from the box below.

Word Box: *thin, genuine, modest, old, finished, unknown, dry, tiny, public, weak*

1. fake → _____
2. famous → _____
3. private → _____
4. young → _____
5. strong → _____
6. enormous → _____
7. thick → _____
8. wet → _____
9. unfinished → _____
10. arrogant → _____

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Words and Meanings

Match each expression from the story (1–10) with its correct meaning (a–j).

1. got herself involved in
2. on your own
3. jerked his head
4. show through
5. raised an eyebrow
6. you lot
7. for a while
8. took hold of
9. couldn’t take her eyes off
10. let you find me

Meanings

a. allowed you to discover where I was

b. a group of people like you

c. alone, without another person

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d. lifted one eyebrow to show surprise or doubt

e. became part of a situation or activity

f. moved his head quickly to indicate a direction

g. could not stop looking at something

h. be visible through a layer covering something

i. for a period of time

j. gripped or held something

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Art World Language

Artists, critics and collectors use words to describe paintings and discuss their history. Some of these words appear in the story; others will help you talk about its ideas. A copy can be openly labelled. A forgery involves deception.

Exercise One — Words and Meanings

Match each art expression (1–10) with its correct meaning (a–j).

1. original
2. copy
3. forgery
4. portrait
5. landscape
6. still life
7. brushstroke
8. composition

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9. provenance

10. restoration

Meanings

a. the arrangement of the elements in a work of art

b. a painting of objects such as fruit or flowers

c. the first work made by an artist, rather than a reproduction

d. the history of a work's ownership and origin

e. a painting or picture of a person

f. the repair of a damaged or ageing work of art

g. a reproduction of another work, which may be openly described as a copy

h. a mark made by a brush carrying paint

i. a picture of a natural scene

j. a work made or presented to deceive people about its creator or authenticity

Exercise Two — What Do They Mean?

Rewrite each sentence in simpler English, explaining the art word in it.

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1. This is the original, rather than a reproduction.
2. The museum sells clearly labelled copies.
3. The collector discovered that the painting was a forgery.
4. She painted a portrait of her father.
5. His landscape shows a valley and a river.
6. The still life contains a bowl of apples.
7. You can see every brushstroke in the thick paint.
8. The composition draws your eye towards the child.
9. The gallery asked for evidence of the painting's provenance.
10. The painting needs restoration because its surface is damaged.

Exercise Three — Complete the Conversations

Complete each conversation with a suitable expression from the Word Box. Use each expression once.

Word Box: *provenance, forgery, still life, original, restoration, portrait, composition, copy, brushstroke, landscape*

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1. A: “Was this made by the artist himself?”
B: “Yes, it is the _____.”

2. A: “Is this reproduction pretending to be genuine?”
B: “No. It is clearly labelled as a _____.”

3. A: “Someone sold this as a Rembrandt to deceive the buyer.”
B: “Then it is a _____.”

4. A: “What kind of picture did she paint of her mother?”
B: “A _____.”

5. A: “What do you call a painting of mountains and fields?”
B: “A _____.”

6. A: “The artist arranged flowers and fruit on a table.”
B: “She wanted to paint a _____.”

7. A: “What made this single mark in the paint?”
B: “A brush. It is a _____.”

8. A: “Why is the child placed in the centre of the picture?”
B: “That is part of the _____.”

9. A: “How can we find out who owned the painting before?”
B: “We need to investigate its _____.”

10. A: “The surface is damaged. Can it be repaired?”
B: “It may be possible through _____.”

Speaking Practice

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Work with a partner. One student is an artist and the other is a journalist visiting the artist’s studio.

Create a short conversation in which:

· the journalist asks about a painting;

· the artist describes the subject and technique;

· they discuss whether it is an original, a copy or a forgery;

· they use at least three expressions from this exercise;

· they explain any unfamiliar terms clearly.

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Gap Fill Exercise

Look at the word bank below. Complete each sentence with the correct word. Not all words will be used.

Word Box: *handle, refined, exhibition, canvas, arrogant, editor, mattress, extraordinary, accent, scratch, warehouse, collector*

1. The newspaper's _____ checks an article before it is published.
2. His strong East London _____ gave Emma a clue about where he came from.
3. The old _____ once held goods waiting to be transported.
4. The artist stretched a piece of _____ over a frame before painting.
5. He slept on a _____ in the corner of his studio.
6. Emma expected an older, _____ man with polished manners.
7. Be careful not to _____ the table with that sharp metal tool.

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8. Hold the brush by its wooden _____.

9. His claim that nobody could teach him anything sounded _____.

10. The painting was so _____ that Emma could hardly speak.

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Discussion Questions

1. Why does Emma keep her visit a secret? Was this a sensible decision?

2. How do the locked door and industrial lift affect the atmosphere?

3. What does Emma assume when she sees the young man's tattoos and T-shirt?

4. Why does she expect an older, educated and refined artist?

5. What does her surprise at the mineral water tell us about her assumptions?

6. Is formal education necessary to develop expertise? Give examples.

7. What is the difference between knowing the name of a technique and understanding it?

8. Why does Emma feel embarrassed when she says "Impasto"?

9. At what point does Emma begin to respect The Artisan?

10. How does the story challenge the idea of what an artist should look or sound like?

11. Is finishing another artist's unfinished work creative, disrespectful or both?

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12. Why can Emma admire the painting while disliking The Artisan’s attitude?

13. Does a beautiful fake have less artistic value than a genuine painting?

14. What is the difference between making a copy and deceiving a buyer?

15. Why does The Artisan need a journalist rather than only a gallery owner?

16. How does the final revelation change your understanding of the meeting?

17. Should Emma help him? What questions should she ask first?

18. What responsibilities does a journalist have when writing about a suspected forgery?

19. How might the public react to The Artisan’s painting?

20. What does the title “The Fake Rembrandt” mean to you after reading the story?

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Role Play: Emma Meets The Artisan

This is a role play activity.

There are three characters in the role play.

1. Emma — an experienced art journalist who admires the painting but needs reliable answers.

2. The Artisan — a self-taught painter who wants the world to see his work.

3. Emma's editor — interested in a strong story but concerned about accuracy and deception.

Imagine that Emma calls her editor from the studio. The three characters must decide whether the newspaper should publish a story about The Artisan.

Emma should explain what she has seen and ask about the earlier fake Rembrandt. The Artisan should explain what he wants and how his new work should be described. The editor should ask for evidence and clear information before agreeing to publish.

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Work in groups of three. Use your own ideas for anything the story does not explain. Prepare and practise your role play.

When you are ready, show the class.

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Debate: Is the Artist's Name Important?

The Motion

"This house believes that a painting should be judged by its quality rather than by the artist's name."

Option A — Full Two-Team Debate

Divide the class into two teams.

Team A — For the Motion

Argue that beauty, skill and emotional impact matter more than fame or a signature. A talented unknown artist deserves the same careful attention as a famous painter.

Team B — Against the Motion

Argue that the artist's identity, historical context and originality help us understand a painting. A convincing copy does not have the same history as an original.

Preparation (10 minutes)

Each team should prepare their arguments. Think about:

· Would you admire a painting less if you discovered it was a copy?

· How do fame and reputation affect our judgement?

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· Why might museums care about a painting's origin?

· Can we value a copy while still being honest about who made it?

The Debate

1. Team A gives an opening statement (2 minutes).

2. Team B gives an opening statement (2 minutes).

3. Rebuttal round — each team responds to the other's points (2 minutes each).

4. Closing statements — each team sums up its strongest argument (1 minute each).

The Vote

After the debate, the rest of the class votes on which side made the more convincing argument. The teacher can act as moderator and timekeeper throughout.

Option B — Simplified Class Discussion

If a full debate does not suit the class, discuss the motion together. Each student says whether they agree or disagree and explains why. The teacher moderates, encourages different opinions and asks follow-up questions.

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Writing

This is a creative writing exercise.

You are going to continue writing the next part of the story.

· Does Emma agree to help The Artisan?

· What does she ask him about the earlier fake Rembrandt?

· Does she tell her editor where she has been?

· How is the new painting shown to the public?

· What happens when people learn who painted it?

Think about all these questions to help you write the next part of the story.

Now write the story.

When you have finished, read it out loud in front of your classmates. *Or give it to your teacher for review.*

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Reading Comprehension Questions — Answers

1. She is knocking on a door and waiting.
2. No one, including her editor and girlfriend.
3. The Guardian.
4. Eight years.
5. Famous painters, gallery owners and collectors.
6. Three months.
7. A fake Rembrandt that shocked the art world.
8. A young man.
9. No more than twenty.
10. Whether she is on her own.
11. It is a strong East London accent.
12. A picture of a gun.
13. He locks it.
14. They use an old industrial lift.
15. Drill rap.
16. It is enormous and full of canvases and painting materials.
17. He turns it off.

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18. The Artisan.

19. He says he is The Artisan and shows the words tattooed across his stomach.

20. An older, educated, refined man who had attended a great art school.

21. A gin and tonic.

22. Mineral water.

23. In the studio where he works.

24. A mattress.

25. It was too expensive.

26. By visiting galleries and museums, reading books and looking at paintings.

27. Rembrandt's use of light.

28. What Rembrandt did with the paint.

29. Thick paint beside very thin paint that lets the layer underneath show through.

30. By scratching into wet paint with the wooden end of a brush.

31. Impasto.

32. She realises he already knows the term and feels embarrassed.

33. The locked door, the tattoos and the gun on his T-shirt.

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34. She sees that he knows and understands what he is talking about.

35. A white sheet.

36. Emma.

37. He pulls it away.

38. An old man holding a baby.

39. Simeon in the Temple.

40. It was found unfinished in his studio after his death.

41. It is finished.

42. The old man's face, the hands, the folds of cloth and the paint catching the light.

43. Finish the painting for Rembrandt.

44. She finds the statement outrageous, arrogant and almost offensive, but the painting magnificent.

45. She writes for The Guardian and people listen to her.

46. She believes she found him herself.

47. He let her find him.

48. He wants her help to show the painting to the world.

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True or False — Answers

1. False — She has written about art for The Guardian for eight years.

2. False — Her editor does not know she is there.

3. True

4. True

5. False — He gives her mineral water.

6. False — He taught himself because art school was too expensive.

7. True

8. True

9. False — She thinks it is extraordinary and magnificent.

10. True

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What is the Correct Synonym? — Answers

1. enormous = huge
2. refined = cultured
3. immediately = at once
4. extraordinary = remarkable
5. arrogant = conceited
6. magnificent = splendid
7. frowned = looked displeased
8. stared = looked fixedly
9. unfinished = incomplete
10. offensive = insulting

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What is the Correct Antonym? — Answers

1. fake ↔ genuine
2. famous ↔ unknown
3. private ↔ public
4. young ↔ old
5. strong ↔ weak
6. enormous ↔ tiny
7. thick ↔ thin
8. wet ↔ dry
9. unfinished ↔ finished
10. arrogant ↔ modest

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Words and Meanings — Answers

1. got herself involved in = e (became part of a situation or activity)

2. on your own = c (alone, without another person)

3. jerked his head = f (moved his head quickly to indicate a direction)

4. show through = h (be visible through a layer covering something)

5. raised an eyebrow = d (lifted one eyebrow to show surprise or doubt)

6. you lot = b (a group of people like you)

7. for a while = i (for a period of time)

8. took hold of = j (gripped or held something)

9. couldn’t take her eyes off = g (could not stop looking at something)

10. let you find me = a (allowed you to discover where I was)

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Art World Language — Answers

Exercise One

1. original = c
2. copy = g
3. forgery = j
4. portrait = e
5. landscape = i
6. still life = b
7. brushstroke = h
8. composition = a
9. provenance = d
10. restoration = f

Exercise Two — Suggested Answers

1. This is the first work made by the artist, rather than a reproduction.
2. The museum sells reproductions and clearly identifies them as such.

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3. The collector discovered that the painting had been made or presented to deceive people about its authenticity.

4. She painted a picture of her father.

5. His painting shows a natural scene with a valley and a river.

6. The painting shows a group of objects, including a bowl of apples.

7. You can see each mark made by the brush in the thick paint.

8. The arrangement of the picture's elements directs your attention towards the child.

9. The gallery asked for records showing the painting's ownership and origin.

10. The painting needs repair because its surface is damaged.

Exercise Three

1. original

2. copy

3. forgery

4. portrait

5. landscape

6. still life

7. brushstroke

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8. composition

9. provenance

10. restoration

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Gap Fill Exercise — Answers

1. editor
2. accent
3. warehouse
4. canvas
5. mattress
6. refined
7. scratch
8. handle
9. arrogant
10. extraordinary

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Vocabulary Practice Exercise — Answers

1. d (a person who prepares and checks material for publication)
2. f (a person who gathers and keeps objects of a particular kind)
3. a (a public display of works of art)
4. h (showing good manners and an interest in culture)
5. b (a surface of strong cloth used for painting)
6. j (the soft part of a bed that you lie on)
7. g (to make a mark by dragging something sharp across a surface)
8. i (a thick layer of paint that creates a raised texture)
9. c (behaving as if you are better than other people)
10. e (extremely beautiful or impressive)

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