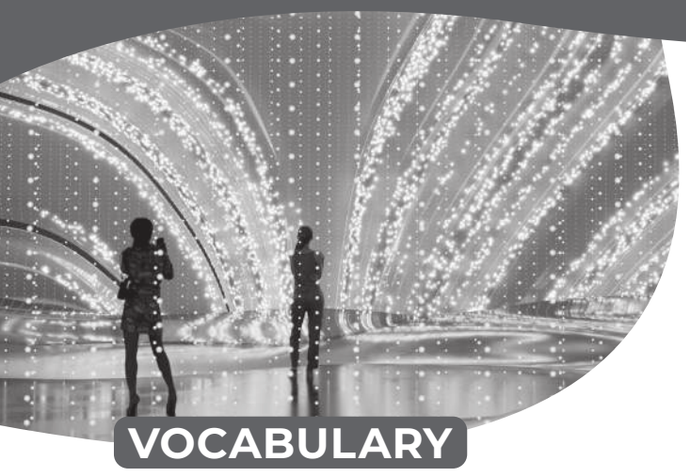
CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge University Press & Assessment
978-1-009-22830-5 — Shining Lights C1 Workbook with Digital Pack
Carole Alsop , Melissa Thomson
Excerpt
More Information

UNIT 1 PART OF THE ART



VOCABULARY

LEISURE COLLOCATIONS

1 **Complete the conversation with the collocations in the box.**

art enthusiast family gathering
flying visit keen participant
hilarious comedies perfect venue
quality time social whirl total flop
unforgettable experience

A: Thanks for coming out. I know I'm only here on a [1] _____ but it was good to spend some [2] _____ together.

B: Aw, thanks. Yeah, life has been a [3] _____ of new people recently, so it was nice to see you. I know we're cousins, but when we meet up at a [4] _____, there are so many relatives asking questions, we don't catch up properly!

A: I know! Last time, Uncle Stuart found out I was a bit of an [5] _____ and spent the whole meal showing me photos of his painting class. He's a very [6] _____ in that class. He showed me over thirty pieces of work and I didn't get to talk to anyone else that evening!

B: I saw! So, let's talk about what we just saw tonight. I loved the festival, the museum was the [7] _____, don't you think? It was an [8] _____ when they turned out all the lights at the start.

A: It was! Being in the dark really made the films scarier! A horror-film festival in a park or on a beach might be a [9] _____!

B: Either that, or some films would seem like [10] _____! You really need the darkness to get the right atmosphere.

READING AND USE OF ENGLISH

EXAM TASK READING AND USE OF ENGLISH PART 1

1 **For questions 1–8, read the text below and decide which answer (A, B, C or D) best fits each gap. There is an example at the beginning (0).**

ART in a gallery or ONLINE?

One of my most unforgettable [0] *experiences* was visiting Madrid's famous art gallery, the Prado. Nothing had prepared me for just how [1] ____ it was to be face-to-face with the masterpieces on display. I was completely overwhelmed.

The primary [2] ____ of any gallery is to actively involve the public in the enjoyment and understanding of art. Yet a different way of viewing art has come into being, with museums and galleries putting parts of their collections online. This has [3] ____ cultural treasures available to millions of people who would otherwise be [4] ____ the privilege.

I would argue, however, that to truly appreciate any work of art, you have to [5] ____ it first-hand. The difference [6] ____ partly from texture and size, qualities that are [7] ____ from an image on a screen. To [8] ____ to a physical work of art, you need to be close to it in a way that allows for an emotional response that is almost impossible in the online space.

0	**A**	circumstances	**B**	encounters
	C	contacts	**D**	(D) experiences
1	**A**	moving	**B**	sentimental
	C	persuasive	**D**	convincing
2	**A**	target	**B**	idea
	C	occasion	**D**	purpose
3	**A**	brought	**B**	got
	C	made	**D**	put
4	**A**	rejected	**B**	deprived
	C	restricted	**D**	denied
5	**A**	regard	**B**	attend
	C	determine	**D**	witness
6	**A**	issues	**B**	occurs
	C	arises	**D**	depends
7	**A**	elsewhere	**B**	absent
	C	removed	**D**	invisible
8	**A**	relate	**B**	engage
	C	link	**D**	associate

© in this web service Cambridge University Press & Assessment www.cambridge.org

CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge University Press & Assessment
978-1-009-22830-5 — Shining Lights C1 Workbook with Digital Pack
Carole Alsop , Melissa Thomson
Excerpt
More Information

READING

EXAM TASK READING AND USE OF ENGLISH PART 8

1 **You are going to read an article in which four artists talk about their work. For questions 1–10, choose from the sections (A–D). The sections may be chosen more than once.**

Which artist

recommends trying to think like a child when starting on a piece of work? ☐ 1

talks about experiencing differing levels of creative energy? ☐ 2

says that being eager to investigate is crucial for their work? ☐ 3

acknowledges the benefit of not trying too hard to come up with ideas? ☐ 4

mentions a false idea about creating art that is commonly held? ☐ 5

admits to finding some aspects of their work unexciting? ☐ 6

expresses a desire to be as original as possible? ☐ 7

says that their best work is not always what is most appreciated by others? ☐ 8

explains why they are unconcerned about criticism of their work? ☐ 9

confesses to feelings of disappointment when exhibiting their art? ☐ 10

What's it like being a professional artist?

Four artists talk about their work

A Lee Baxter

I recognised my gift for art as a young child, messing about with the tools at hand: pencils, crayons, poster paint, etc. Life without the ability to paint seems unimaginable, and inspiration can come from anywhere — from an image that appears in a dream to the endless variety of the clouds above. Then I'll be in a rush to grab my paints to depict what's inspired me. There are also spells of far less intense inactivity, which many artists go through, just waiting to spark up again. I'm a simple person when it comes to what I do, totally at ease sharing it with others. That's what exhibitions are for, as well as an opportunity to show it to buyers – I need an income! But it's also about letting people have their own reactions to each work. Maybe it gets the seal of approval, maybe they pick it apart. I don't take things personally because art's terribly subjective. And if I fretted about things like whether the subjects of my paintings are hackneyed or groundbreaking, it'd hold me back.

B Toni Saccheri

As an experimental artist, I create sound installations. It's a less conventional form of art, which I explore with the curiosity of a scientist. For me it's vital to do that. I want to question traditional music structures. I'm fascinated by the qualities of noise, of silence, of almost everything we hear. To create something absolutely unique, it's necessary to undo adult preconceptions. You need an urge to go back to the mindset you had before all those assumptions set in. Creating something completely novel is central to my work. Putting my creations on public display for the first time was an unsettling experience though. I had the perfect venue, a spacious contemporary art space typically frequented by art enthusiasts from all over, but the whole thing was a total flop. Very few people showed up, and those that did just didn't seem to get what my work's all about. It took a while to come back from that, and I've gradually developed a thicker skin for similar occasions.

C Charlie Rockwell

I discovered technology for creating art digitally when I was about ten, and I've been doing it ever since. By my senior year of high school, it was obvious that I loved digital drawing too much not to pursue it as a career. In fact, it's turned out to be fairly lucrative, perhaps because I've got a good grasp of how to exploit social media to publicise my work, and I exhibit on a variety of platforms. To be honest, spending hours on the promotional side of things can get a bit tedious, but it really pays off. There's plenty of scope for imagination in what I do, as it's not just geometric shapes and fantasy worlds that I draw. I do think originality can be a bit overrated sometimes, and creating a vision of something pleasing to the eye that you might want to decorate your home with is more what I'm into. My greatest inspiration seems to come when I'm doing menial tasks like mopping the floor. Maybe, it's a process of letting go and not forcing it.

D Ash Osman

Whether it's a photo, a painting, a sculpture, or any other type of art, it must have something to say, or by definition, it's meaningless. Painting is my chosen medium, and I've never got so caught up in the mechanics of it that I've ended up creating something pointless. As I drift off to sleep, I imagine myself in front of my latest project, closing my eyes and visualising what I'm working on. I tend to employ this technique particularly when there's a problem I've got to work out, like how to convey my message more effectively, and the next day I've often found a solution. Most people think art's merely a matter of slapping paint on canvas, when, in fact, creating it consumes your whole mind, and all your energy. When you put your work out there, and you have to to make a living, you confront the reality that not everybody understands your art. What I might view as my greatest achievements aren't necessarily the ones the public go for.

© in this web service Cambridge University Press & Assessment www.cambridge.org

CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge University Press & Assessment
978-1-009-22830-5 — Shining Lights C1 Workbook with Digital Pack
Carole Alsop , Melissa Thomson
Excerpt
More Information

GRAMMAR

PRESENT SIMPLE AND PRESENT CONTINUOUS

1 **Choose the correct options to complete the text.**

My friends [1] *always record / are always recording* videos of us out together and [2] *I admit / I'm admitting* that it really annoys me. [3] *I wish / I'm wishing* they'd just put down their phones and enjoy themselves. We've got tickets to a gig tonight and [4] *I guarantee / I'm guaranteeing* you that when the singer [5] *comes / is coming* on stage they'll all get their phones out. It's crazy to pay for tickets because [6] *they never actually listen / they're never actually listening* to the music, and as soon as the concert [7] *finishes / is finishing*, the videos are instantly forgotten about, or even deleted.

2 **Complete the table with the words/phrases in the box. Then circle the correct verb tense.**

as soon as before constantly forever
guarantee hope once predict

Function	Words/phrases used when expressing this function	Verb tense used when expressing this function
Indicating disapproval	_____ _____	*present simple / present continuous*
'Performative' verbs	_____ _____ _____	*present simple / present continuous*
Time clauses with conjunctions	_____ _____ _____	*present simple / present continuous*



3 **Complete the post using words and phrases from Exercise 2.**



How many of us take hundreds of photos but don't think about why we do this, either [1] _____ or after we've taken them? Or how many of us don't have any photos of our most cherished moment? A new trending app aims to tackle these two issues. Foto24 asks users to share a photo a day, and we [2] _____ that it's going to be the app of the year. This could be for two reasons, that either we're [3] _____ rushing and don't stop to capture the day to day, or that [4] _____ you start experiencing every concert and party through a lens, you can't stop. Undertaking Foto24's simple challenge [5] _____ that individuals slow down and document their daily lives. We [6] _____ you'll give it a go. Let us know how you get on!

4 **Complete the sentences with your own ideas. Use the present simple or present continuous.**

1 My friend is so annoying when we go to the cinema! She's continually ...
2 I'm going to watch a film as soon as ...
3 I don't like that in museums people are always ...
4 I hope my favourite singer ...
5 Sometimes I choose a film before ...
6 Once you know something about an artist, their work ...

PRESENT PERFECT

5 **Match the uses of the present perfect and present perfect continuous 1–5 to the sentences a–e.**

1 Present perfect continuous for activities which started in the past and are still happening.
2 Present perfect continuous for activities which have just finished.
3 Present perfect simple with activities that have/ haven't happened.
4 Present perfect simple with activities that have happened a certain number of times.
5 Present perfect simple after expressions like *It's the first time*, *This will be the second time,* etc.

a This will be the second time I've seen this artist's work.
b He's been taking a photo every day as a challenge.
c I haven't been to that photo exhibition.
d I've seen this band three times.
e Hi, I've been waiting for you. Come in!

© in this web service Cambridge University Press & Assessment www.cambridge.org

CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge University Press & Assessment
978-1-009-22830-5 — Shining Lights C1 Workbook with Digital Pack
Carole Alsop , Melissa Thomson
Excerpt
More Information

6 **Put the words in order to make sentences.**

1 checking / I've / for / day. / been / tickets / every
2 He's / loads / times. / in / the / United States / of / played
3 first / will / concert / This / she's / be / ever / here. / done
4 following / Have / her / you / social media / posts? / been
5 city. / The / shows / have / in / been / every / different
6 I've / for / buy button / had / an / my finger / hour! / on / the

7 **Choose the correct options to complete the text.**

Video mapping [1] *has become / has been becoming* the coolest event in the 'festival of light' that more and more cities around the world hold each year. To celebrate special events, artists [2] *have projected / have been projecting* images at night onto famous buildings such as Edinburgh Castle, Oaxaca Cathedral and the Berlin TV tower, turning them into dynamic canvases. Locals report that video mapping [3] *has made / has been making* them see their city in a new light, and usually for free. Over the past few years, more and more people [4] *have also employed / have also been employing* artists to do video mapping in various events, from advertising to the Olympics. This [5] *has pushed / has been pushing* the boundaries of creativity, blending technology and architecture, and appears to be an artform that is here to stay. [6] *Have you experienced / Have you been experiencing* it yet?

8 **STRETCH! Complete the second sentence so that is has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. Do not change the given word. Use between three and four words.**

1 He is an actor. He started at the age of five. **ACTING**
He _____ he was five.
2 She won't stop tagging me in photos. I hate that! **ALWAYS**
I hate that _____ me in photos!
3 He is still working on his next album. **NOT**
He _____ on his next album yet.
4 Video editing is easy when you learn. **HOW**
Once _____ edit videos, it's easy.
5 When tickets go on sale, we should get them. **SOON**
Let's get tickets _____ go on sale.

VOCABULARY

ARTS ADJECTIVES

1 **Complete the table with the adjectives in the box.**

disjointed far-fetched gripping
groundbreaking hackneyed harrowing
moving overrated tedious unconvincing

Positive description	Negative description

2 **Complete the article with words from Exercise 1.**

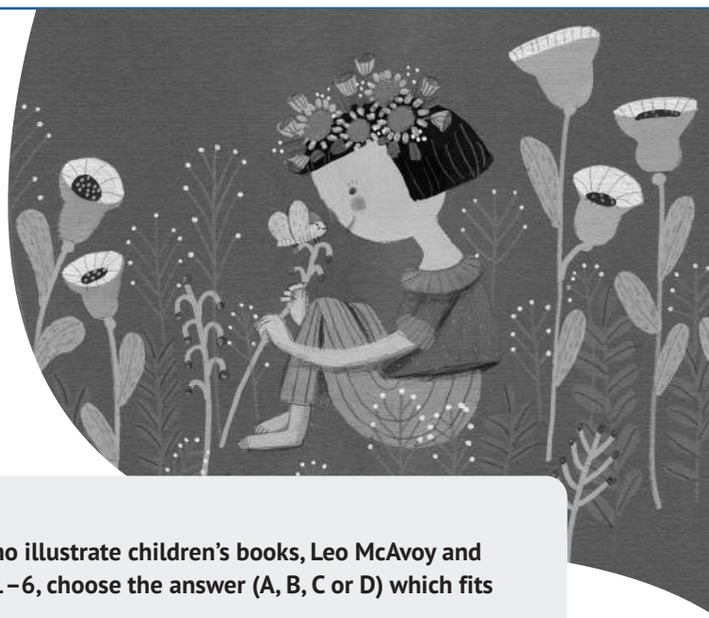
CAN WE RECOGNISE 'REAL' ART?

It isn't [1] _____ to say that everyone knows someone who looks at modern art and says, 'It's [2] _____. My kid could have done that.' However, research shows even the under-sevens can distinguish works by artists from those of children and animals. In a [3] _____ study, cognitive scientists showed participants unlabelled paired images, one by an abstract expressionist and the other by a child or monkey and asked which was more [4] _____ and therefore the one they deemed better. Curiously, when the art was labelled, children made comments such as 'it's good for a monkey', yet selected artist images when making quality judgments, showing that drawings by children are [5] _____ in comparison to real abstract art. From now on, art enthusiasts can respond to the [6] _____ phrase that even children can match the greats by simply saying, 'No, they couldn't have done that'.

© in this web service Cambridge University Press & Assessment www.cambridge.org

CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge University Press & Assessment
978-1-009-22830-5 — Shining Lights C1 Workbook with Digital Pack
Carole Alsop , Melissa Thomson
Excerpt
More Information



LISTENING

1 **Think about the books you read as a child. Describe the illustrations that you liked.**

EXAM TIP

Focus more on the question and not the possible answers as you listen. Try to answer the question based on what you hear.

EXAM TASK LISTENING PART 3

2 1.1 **You will hear an interview in which two artists who illustrate children's books, Leo McAvoy and Polly Wang, are talking about their work. For questions 1–6, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which fits best according to what you hear.**

1 What does Leo say about deciding to become a professional illustrator for children's books?
- A He was influenced by the comments of people whose opinions he trusted.
- B He had a sudden realisation that it was the right option for him.
- C He was unsure about having such an unconventional career.
- D He had a desire to combine his different interests.

2 What is important for Polly in developing her style when illustrating a book?
- A knowing that her best work has a humorous focus
- B receiving plenty of guidance about how to perfect it
- C experimenting with a wide variety of techniques
- D analysing exactly what is required for that piece of work

3 How does Polly feel about the book she's working on at the moment?
- A anxious to maintain the same level of quality throughout
- B enthusiastic about doing the research that is necessary
- C relieved that it is less demanding than it seemed initially
- D determined to prove that she was the right choice of artist

4 What does Leo find the biggest challenge when beginning a new project?
- A meeting the demands of the other people involved
- B working out what themes to use in his designs
- C ensuring that it reflects modern trends
- D interpreting the aims of the written story

5 What do Polly and Leo agree can be helpful for getting over creative blocks?
- A looking at the work of other artists
- B stepping away from their work for a while
- C spending some time with young children
- D setting themselves small targets

6 When asked about illustrating for older children, what do Polly and Leo both say?
- A They find it easier due to the need for fewer items.
- B They have to deal with more challenging topics.
- C They take longer to get a feel for the story.
- D They use more sophisticated approaches.

3 **Emotional Intelligence** **What do Polly and Leo find challenging about their job? Think of practical ways to support them with these challenges.**

© in this web service Cambridge University Press & Assessment www.cambridge.org

CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge University Press & Assessment
978-1-009-22830-5 — Shining Lights C1 Workbook with Digital Pack
Carole Alsop , Melissa Thomson
Excerpt
More Information

WRITING

A REVIEW

1 **Read the task. What kind of review does it ask you to write?**

EXAM TASK WRITING PART 2

An arts website has asked you to write a review of an exhibition you visited, describing what was on display, and explaining which aspects of the exhibition were the most interesting. You should also suggest at least one way in which you feel the exhibition could have been improved.

Write your review. Write your answer in 220–260 words.

EXAM TIP

Including a variety of adverbs of attitude in your review can help show your opinion.

2 **Complete the model answer with the words and phrases from the box.**

barely beautifully conveyed generally well-managed
hopefully hugely interactive impressively varied
particularly fascinating truly amazed

I recently visited the *Wide World* exhibition at the Thomas Art Gallery. I was [1] _____ **at the display of contemporary art by international artists, from South and Central America, Australia, Africa, and Europe. The exhibition featured a diverse range of artworks that included paintings, sculptures, and digital installations.**

One [2] _____ aspect of the exhibition was its thematic unity, despite the diversity of styles. One of the works that stood out most was Jules Blanc's large-scale watercolour painting that [3] _____ different aspects of light on nature. Another highlight was the [4] _____ digital installation by Katya Wlodek, where visitors could adjust colours and patterns on a screen, allowing for more active participation in art.

While the exhibition was [5] _____, one area where it could have been improved would have been by providing more information about the artists and their works. Although the names of the artists, where they were from and the date and name of the work with the materials used were all given, there was [6] _____ anything else to help viewers understand the work or the artist's intentions. A brief guide for each work giving some context and detail would have deepened my understanding of each piece and enhanced the exhibition overall. I'm sure many others who visited the exhibition would agree.

In conclusion, *Wide World* was a visually stimulating and thought-provoking exhibition notable for the [7] _____ work on display. By offering more information, future exhibitions could [8] _____ further improve the audience's appreciation of the artworks that are exhibited.

3 **Read the task again and plan your review. Make notes for each paragraph.**

1	Introduction (e.g. where, when, what was on display)	
2	Explain the most interesting aspects	
3	Suggest how it could be improved	
4	Sum up and make a recommendation	

4 **Now write your review. Use 220–260 words.**

SELF-EVALUATION

Check your writing:

Content: Have you covered all the points asked for? Have you written about interesting aspects and improvements? ☹ 😟 😐 ☺

Communication: Can the reader clearly see your opinion of the exhibition? Is the style appropriate for a review? ☹ 😟 😐 ☺

Organisation: Is the text well-organised and linked? Is there a good flow of ideas? ☹ 😟 😐 ☺

Language: Have you used a variety of structures and vocabulary? Have you included some new language form this unit? ☹ 😟 😐 ☺

© in this web service Cambridge University Press & Assessment www.cambridge.org

CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge University Press & Assessment
978-1-009-22830-5 — Shining Lights C1 Workbook with Digital Pack
Carole Alsop , Melissa Thomson
Excerpt
More Information

GIVING A PRESENTATION

1 PLANNING

I'm going to do a three-minute presentation. Three pieces of art/ music/literature I could present are ...

After sharing ideas with a group I've decided to present ...

To present this I'll need to bring ...

TIP If you sound interested, your audience will be interested!

USING YOUR VOICE EFFECTIVELY

How can you use your voice effectively? What do you remember from Unit 1?

-
-
-
-
-
-

Think of the last two presentations you have done. Did you use your voice well? What could be better?

2 USING YOUR VOICE EFFECTIVELY

What phrase will you use to start your presentation?

What are you going to talk about?

Why is it interesting?

How do you feel about it?

What phrase will you use to close your presentation?

© in this web service Cambridge University Press & Assessment www.cambridge.org

CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge University Press & Assessment
978-1-009-22830-5 — Shining Lights C1 Workbook with Digital Pack
Carole Alsop , Melissa Thomson
Excerpt
More Information

ORACY 1

3 ENGAGING YOUR AUDIENCE IN DIFFERENT WAYS

Choose 2–3 ways to engage your audience. Write notes.

Ask a question

- _____
_____
_____

Tell an anecdote

- _____
_____
_____

Present a surprising fact

- _____
_____
_____

Use a prop

- _____
_____
_____

Now add these ways to engage to your plan.

Rehearse your presentation. Was it around three minutes? What could you add/cut?

I've decided with my classmate _____ that we'll give each other feedback.

After the presentation:
I've spoken with my classmate _____ about her/his presentation, and she/he gave me feedback. I know now that next time I should …

_____
_____
_____

TIP

Collaboration and Teamwork

Be positive when you give feedback to a classmate. For every improvement you suggest, say two things they did well!

SELF-EVALUATION

I can …

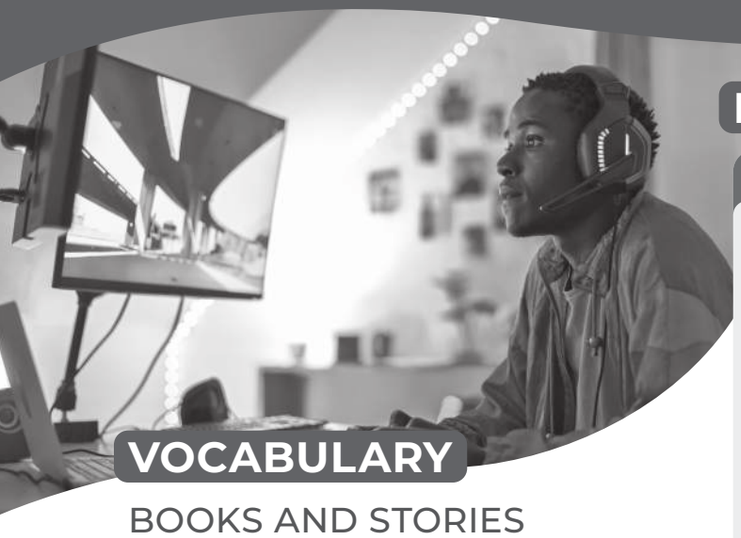
- use my voice effectively. ◯
- structure a presentation well. ◯
- engage my audience in different ways. ◯

© in this web service Cambridge University Press & Assessment www.cambridge.org

CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge University Press & Assessment
978-1-009-22830-5 — Shining Lights C1 Workbook with Digital Pack
Carole Alsop , Melissa Thomson
Excerpt
More Information

UNIT 2 TELL ME A STORY



VOCABULARY

BOOKS AND STORIES

1 Complete the sentences with adjective + noun collocations from Unit 2.

1 The play has received _____ from the critics.
2 The film-adaptation was an _____. It was a total flop!
3 Sadly, _____ don't always sell many books, even though critics love their writing.
4 The new superhero book series is _____; I can't stop!
5 The incredible true events of her life made a _____.
6 The author's dialogue-free graphic novel was a _____.

2 Complete the sentences with verb + noun collocations about books and stories.

1 My dad is a history teacher, and he's always _____ in the historical series I watch.
2 Would you _____ a book you didn't like to the end, or give up?
3 The audio book didn't _____ enough. I kept getting distracted!
4 That crime fiction podcast really _____ well! I can't wait to know what happens next!
5 I liked the thriller, but the start was slow. It didn't really _____ until chapter 7.
6 What books do teenage boys like? My son needs something to _____ in reading.

READING

EXAM TASK READING AND USE OF ENGLISH PART 5

1 You are going to read an article about storytelling. For questions 1–6, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to the text.

1 In the first paragraph, what does the writer say that there is lack of agreement about?
A why so many different genres of storytelling have thrived
B what makes certain stories successful
C how stories have been passed down through the generations
D whether storytelling developed due to its ability to enhance survival

2 In the second paragraph, the writer suggests that our physical reactions to stories
A may help us to understand other people's behaviour.
B are still largely a mystery to scientists.
C can cause unpleasant sensations.
D vary from one individual to another.

3 In the third paragraph, it is suggested that people everywhere appreciate stories that
A show some kind of originality.
B have a recognisable structure.
C teach them how to deal with problems.
D avoid being predictable.

4 In the fourth paragraph, when talking about interesting main characters in stories, the writer is explaining
A why not everyone can identify with them.
B their most typical qualities.
C how they tend to be affected by events.
D that they need not be good.

5 What point does the writer make about using stories for the purpose of escapism?
A It is a misguided way for people to deal with difficulties.
B It enables people to broaden their outlook.
C It helps people to become more creative.
D It prevents people from confronting everyday issues.

6 What does the writer suggest about stories in the final paragraph?
A They should be adaptable.
B They should provide moral guidance on universal issues.
C They should be capable of influencing people's moral outlook.
D They should reflect reality in a dramatic way.

© in this web service Cambridge University Press & Assessment www.cambridge.org

CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge University Press & Assessment
978-1-009-22830-5 — Shining Lights C1 Workbook with Digital Pack
Carole Alsop , Melissa Thomson
Excerpt
More Information

A LOOK INTO THE ART AND SCIENCE OF STORYTELLING

We all love a good story. Whether it's personal anecdotes, folk tales from the Middle East like *One Thousand and One Nights*, action movies or soap operas, stories capture our attention and fire both our imagination and a desire to know more. Some argue they serve an evolutionary purpose. Across millennia, stories, oral and written, have shared information that protected people and enabled greater longevity. For example, the ancient Greek fable of *The Boy Who Cried Wolf* warns about giving false alarms, and lying. In addition, some stories foster social cooperation, as in the ancient Mesopotamian poem, *The Epic of Gilgamesh*, where the relationships depicted illustrate the value of mutual support. Though some say that the idea of an evolutionary basis for storytelling is speculative at best, nobody would disagree that they are powerful tools for communication and persuasion.

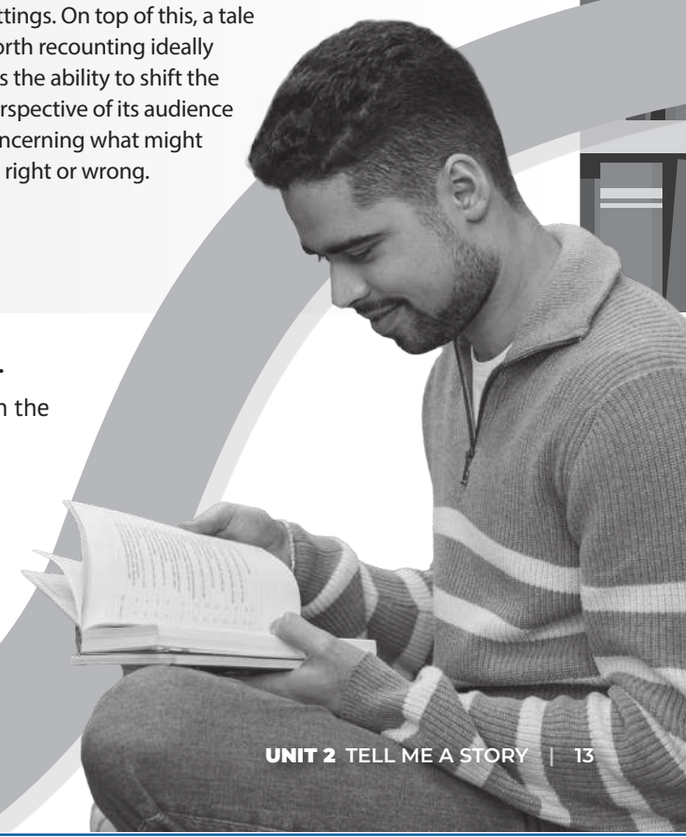
There has been great interest in the biological and neurological factors behind our love of stories. Research shows that many regions of the brain are activated when following a story, and brain imaging reveals that neurons in our brains, called mirror neurons, become active in line with the emotions and actions of the characters in a story, allowing us to experience empathy. During a story, our heart rate might increase, we might hold our breath or sigh with relief, and an **absorbing** story can also trigger the hormone oxytocin, creating feelings of connection and trust. Indeed, it seems likely that the brain is built to naturally engage with stories, making us almost **hard-wired** for them.

Studies of well-known stories from around the world indicate that the most popular ones have a beginning, middle and end, much like human life itself, with a narrative that includes elements of conflict, tension and risk of loss or failure. Only once these struggles have been resolved can there be closure. There are no great revelations there, admittedly, though of course much modern experimental literature and filmmaking is at pains to avoid appearing to follow these formulas, which may go some way towards explaining their lack of appeal to the vast majority of people.

In most storylines the protagonist, a central character or hero, provides a driving force. It is their fate that matters to us, and we appreciate the chance to observe human nature in a more intimate way than normal. Sometimes the protagonist is an essentially decent and **virtuous** character, making it easier for the ordinary person to relate to their emotions and the dilemmas they face. Yet, at other times, a more compelling type of protagonist is the villain we find ourselves engaging with against our will. They may be more **nuanced** as characters, or offer a window into our own darker sides, and perhaps encourage us to explore morally grey areas. The most acclaimed works of literature or drama see the protagonist undergo significant development over the course of the story. Their behaviour may provoke questions in us and allow for multiple interpretations.

It is undeniable that storytelling and fiction offer a means for us to be transported out of reality. This kind of distancing of the self from the real world should not be negatively characterised as mere escapism, running away from facing the facts of our real lives. A more positive take on it is that being swept away by a compulsive story and immersing ourselves in an alternative reality, provides something **akin to** a mental vacation, a form of stress-relief, beneficial in moderation, and only a cause for concern if the indulgence is excessive. Above all, escaping from reality offers access to something outside our experience, and a chance to understand other perspectives at a more first-hand level.

Although there is no one-size-fits-all approach for successful storytelling in novels, movies and TV dramas, captivating stories usually involve protagonists coming up against obstacles that must be overcome, such that any human could conceivably identify with their struggle, no matter how far-fetched it is. To become memorable, stylistic techniques such as use of similes and metaphors, **flashbacks**, suspense, or striking camera angles enrich the depiction of characters, events and settings. On top of this, a tale worth recounting ideally has the ability to shift the perspective of its audience concerning what might be right or wrong.



2 **Complete the definitions with the words in bold in the text.**

1 a short part of a film or story that goes back to events in the past _____
2 slightly different from the norm in appearance, meaning, sound, etc. _____
3 having some similar qualities _____
4 morally good _____
5 interesting and holding attention (like a sponge) _____
6 automatically thinking or behaving in a particular way _____

© in this web service Cambridge University Press & Assessment www.cambridge.org