

B2.II

UNIT 11

Exercise 1

You are going to read an article about what the word art means. Six sentences have been removed from the article. Choose from the sentences A-F the one which fits each gap (1-6).

WHAT IS ART?

What is its purpose? These are questions that have been asked over and over again throughout the ages.

1\_\_\_ Maybe Pollock and Warhol just don't do it for you. Art is different things to different people. Although you may find it difficult to define, many people know it when they see it. So we ask again: what is art?

Webster's dictionary defines art as "works produced by conscious use of skill and creative imagination especially in the production of aesthetic objects." This definition focuses on the fact that skill is required to create a piece of art and that the main goal is to produce something that is pleasing or beautiful. Others argue that art's impact is what's really important. Russian writer and scholar Leo Tolstoy argued that art is meant to make an emotional connection with its audience. That emotion can be pleasure, pain, love or hate. 2\_\_\_

Based on the first definition can we consider video games art? 3\_\_\_ Therefore video games sit squarely within the realms of art based on Webster's definition. But would Tolstoy consider video games art? Many video games create a wide range of emotions including happiness, anticipation, surprise, anger, confusion, frustration, and the list goes on and on. Many argue that video games are not art. Is this because they are somehow not seen as profound as painting? It seems that here we find a grey area.

In mainstream society many people would not consider video games art yet many works of seemingly simple abstract art regularly sell for millions. Perhaps it's not so apparent that abstract art takes skill. 4\_\_\_ However, would a circle that you made be aesthetically pleasing? The real question here is how does it make you feel? Maybe it makes you annoyed. Perhaps it makes you feel lonely, empty or sad.

Many people enjoy abstract art because it is more interactive than representational art. An artist can paint a picture of a scene and control the way that you react to the painting. The face of a woman could be mournful, the water flowing in a river calming, or the sky might look frightening. 5\_\_\_ Abstract art often plays with symbolism, history and theory. It's often enjoyed by high-brow art lovers and therefore seems inaccessible for the average viewer.

Whatever you consider art to be, few would disagree that the world would be a much more somber place without it. All signs would be simply informational with no graphics or style. Houses, furniture and cars would be completely utilitarian and dull. Art can make us happy; it can challenge us and change our point of view.

6\_\_\_

- A) they are arguably created using skill and creative imagination and many are aesthetically pleasing.
- B) when it comes to abstract art the artist leaves the interpretation entirely up to you.
- C) perhaps you have looked at a painting of abstract art in a museum and wondered how a red square with a yellow dot on it could possibly be worth a million dollars.
- D) sometimes it's intended to entertain, other times to educate, but its lasting influence will always be its ability to make us question who we are and what the world around us is made of.
- E) sometimes that emotion moves us to act, other times it encourages us to reflect on the past or dream about the future
- F) many people would look at an abstract painting and think, "i could easily draw a circle like that."

## Exercise 2

### Use of English. Transformations.

**Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. Do not change the word given. You must use between two and five words, including the word given.**

1. I didn't go to John's birthday party because I felt really sad.

**BLUE**

I \_\_\_\_\_ I didn't go to John's birthday party.

2. Bob was mad because he kept catching his roommate stealing his food!

**RED-HANDED**

Bob was always catching \_\_\_\_\_ his food so he was really angry.

3. I wasn't expecting her call so I didn't know what to tell her.

**BLUE**

She called \_\_\_\_\_ and I couldn't tell her anything.

4. It's really difficult to see a good football match nowadays.

**MOON**

You can only see a good football match \_\_\_\_\_.

5. My marks in maths and science are good but I still struggle in Chemistry.

**GREY**

I do well in math and most sciences, but chemistry \_\_\_\_\_.

6. I was so excited when I passed my driving test.

**LETTER**

The day I passed my driving test was \_\_\_\_\_ me.

7. I hate it when people listen to their music so loud.

**RED**

It really \_\_\_\_\_ people listen to their music so loud.

8. If you saw my mum's garden, you would say she is a professional gardener.

**FINGERS**

My mum \_\_\_\_\_ garden looks great.

9. I was really excited and pleased when I received your flowers.

**PINK**

I \_\_\_\_\_ of your flowers.

10. My sister is always so optimistic that she doesn't realize there are some problems at home.

**ROSE**

My sister can't see the problems at home as she looks at \_\_\_\_\_.

### Exercise 3

#### Paragraph Writing

Write a short paragraph (5-7 sentences) using at least five of the phrases from the list in the “Useful Phrases” section. Make sure your paragraph is coherent and the phrases are used correctly.

#### Example:

*To be honest*, I wasn't looking forward to the meeting. *Surprisingly*, it turned out to be quite productive. *As a matter of fact*, we managed to resolve several key issues. *All things considered*, it was one of the better meetings we've had. *Understandably*, everyone felt relieved afterward.