

C1.3 UNIT 11

EXERCISE 1 For each of the following situations write a sentence with the correct phrasal verb with 'at'

get at	chip away at
marvel at	glance at
hint at	talk at

e.g:

1. Your friend is talking about something and you don't see her point. What would you say to her?

→ "Sorry, I don't know what you're getting at."

2. Small profit margins are damaging the value of the business. Re-phrase this using one of the phrasal verbs.

→

3. Your boss is asking you if you have read the report yet, and you have only looked at it very quickly. What would you say to him?

→

4. You are telling your friend about your new colleague who doesn't let you get a word in edgewise. What would you say to your friend about him?

→

5. Your partner is talking profusely about her birthday that is coming up and all the things she has seen recently in the shops. What would you say?

→

6. You're talking about your holiday and how you were astonished by the old historic buildings. What would you say?

→

7. Your best friend is telling you that his partner is always putting them down. What do you tell him will happen to their confidence?

→

EXERCISE 2 Provide a word for each space.

THE HISTORY OF TEXT-BASED ART

Conceptual art, (1).....its best, is the simplest visual representation of an idea as possible. This isn't good or bad, and it isn't necessarily central to text-based art, but it is the as (2)undefined 'goal' of transitional work of the 1950's we've been discussing. (3) that in mind, specifically the marriage of Conceptual Art and text-based work still (4)come, let's look at Jasper Johns.

(5)its most basic terms, Johns painted a series of random numbers in gray. The big deal here is that Johns chose to ignore both (6)hidden interior landscape of Ab-Ex painting and chose as subject matter something as clinically abstract as numbers, (7)he also worked with targets, maps and flags, your basic mass-manufactured informational products. Thus, post Ab-Ex, distrust language, distrust image, open your eyes to a new nature and... paint it? (8)Johns had ditched painting altogether and done this instead on cardboard then he might not have become (9)darn famous. This first cautious step, incautious as it may have seemed at the time, freaked people out (10).....he was using the tools of the past to suggest the direction of the future. Again, I wonder (11)he didn't just ditch paint altogether to get to the root of the concept, but Johns' idea of being an artist meant classic tools like canvas, paint and brush, something that was (12).....in the process of being dismantled.

Of which, and before we get to the dismantling via Fluxus, Yoko Ono and a (13)new direction in literature, there are a few innovations from Franz Kline in 1952 (!) that again suggest a new direction though (14)rooted in painting.

EXERCISE 3 Use the word given to form a word that fits the gap.

1: COGNITION

4: GENERAL

7: ESTABLISH

2: BELIEVE

5: LEAD

8: NEED

3: MEDICINE

6: COVER

9: GUIDE

Why is "contemporary art" so much difficult to understand? As I'll argue here, both art history and (1)..... science shed light on that knotty question. Much of what I'll say challenges established (2) on the subject, however. I therefore urge readers to beware the "Simmelweis reflex." Few are likely to recognize that term. But (3) students know it well. It's used to caution them against the natural human tendency to reject new ideas that contradict (4)accepted beliefs and practices.

Ignaz Semmelweis was a young Hungarian doctor working in Vienna in the mid-nineteenth century. While serving in the maternity ward of a (5)Viennese hospital, he made an astonishingly simple life-saving(6) He found that the high mortality due to childbed fever could be drastically reduced if doctors would follow his advice to wash their hands with a chlorine solution before examining women in labor. But because what he recommended challenged both the status and the preconceived ideas of the medical(7), he was villified, and years passed before his simple practice was fully instituted. As a result countless women (8)died.

In the artworld, (9) ideas are not likely to have such dramatic consequences. Yet the decades since the 1970s have witnessed many questionable practices in the name of "art" - ranging from self-mutilation and animal cruelty to public endangerment. Moreover, the broad cultural impact of such practices may be more damaging than we realize.