

LESSON 51



Listening and Understanding

Listen to the recording, and then answer this question: Who is the student's best critic?



I am an art student, and I paint a lot of pictures.

Many people pretend that they understand modern art. They always tell you what a picture is 'about'. Of course, many pictures are not 'about' anything.

5 They are just pretty patterns. We like them in the same way that we like pretty curtain material.



I think that young children often appreciate modern pictures better than anyone else. They notice more. My sister is only seven, but she

10 always tells me whether my pictures are good or not. She came into my room yesterday. 'What are you doing?' she asked. 'I'm hanging this picture on the wall,' I answered. 'It's a new one. Do you like it?'

15 She looked at it critically for a moment. 'It's all right,' she said, 'but isn't it upside down?'



I looked at it again. She was right! It was!



Guided Conversation

1 Answer questions about the text.

Example: What do you do? I'm an art student.

- 1 Do you paint many pictures?
- 2 What do many people pretend to understand?
- 3 What do they always tell you?
- 4 Are all pictures 'about' something?
- 5 What are many pictures?
- 6 Why do young children appreciate modern pictures more than grown-ups do?
- 7 How old is your sister?
- 8 What does she always tell you?
- 9 When did she come into your room?
- 10 What were you doing?

2 Ask questions about the text.

Example: I'm an art student. (What ... do?)

i) Are you an art student?

ii) What do you do?

- 1 I paint a lot of pictures. (What ... do?)
(How many?) (Why?)
- 2 Many people pretend to understand modern art. (What?) (Who?)
- 3 They're just pretty patterns. (What?)
- 4 Young children notice more than adults.
(What?) (Who?)
- 5 My sister is seven. (How old?)
- 6 She came into my room yesterday. (When?)
- 7 She looked at my new painting. (What?)

3 Tell the story, using these key words.

- 1 student — paint — pictures
- 2 people — pretend — modern art
- 3 many — not 'about' anything
- 4 children — appreciate — better
- 5 sister — seven — tells — good or not
- 6 room — yesterday
- 7 I — hanging — picture — wall
- 8 looked — critically — moment
- 9 asked me — upside down
- 10 I — again — she — right

4 Guided summary. Write a complete sentence in answer to each question, to make a paragraph of not more than 70 words.

- 1 Does the writer study art, or does he study music? Does he paint a lot of pictures or not? (*and*)
- 2 Do many people really understand modern art or not?
- 3 Do paintings always have a meaning or not?
- 4 Are they sometimes pretty patterns or not?
- 5 Do young children appreciate modern paintings better than others or not? Do they notice more or not? (*not only ... but*)
- 6 When did the writer's young sister go into his room? Did she examine his new picture or not? (*and*)
- 7 Had he hung it upside down, or had he hung it the right way up? Did she notice this immediately or not? (*and*)

5 Talk about you.

- 1 Do you do any drawing or painting yourself, or have you ever done any? If so, what kind of things, and when?
- 2 Do you ever go to art exhibitions? If so, when, and with whom?
- 3 Which of these art forms do you find the most interesting: theatre, opera, dance, painting, sculpture, literature, or music? Why?
- 4 Do you think art should 'say something', or should it just please the eye or ear?