# The best art critics

## LESSON 51



#### Listening and Understanding

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

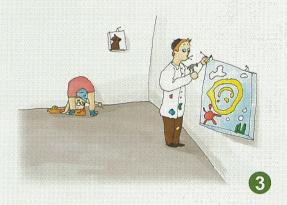


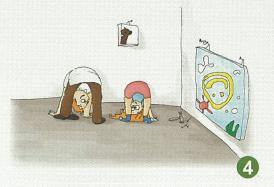
I am an art student, and I paint a lot of pictures.

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**

#### 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?

#### 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?)

#### **10** 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)

#### 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?