

AE Academic English UK

TED-Ed Art Listening Worksheet



Guernica (1937)

by Pablo Picasso

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Lecture Listening Comprehension

Aim: *To develop the students' ability to listen to a short lecture, to take notes, use those notes to answer a number of comprehension questions and then reflect on the lecture critically.*

Lesson Time: *Approximately 1:00 hour*

Lead in

- Ask Students to read the 'title' & predict the content of the lecture.
- Ask students to write down key terms & language from the discussion.
- Feed in / check key vocabulary.

Differentiation

Challenging

1. Students listen once & take notes (*Use the blank note-taking pages or pages with section headings*).
2. Give 3 minutes to tidy notes.
3. Listen again & add to notes (use a different **colour** pen).
4. Distribute questions. Set 10 minutes to answer using their notes.
5. Feedback: Distribute or project **ANSWERS**.

Medium

1. Students listen once & take notes (*Use the blank note-taking pages or pages with section headings*).
2. Distribute questions. Set 10 minutes to answer using their notes.
3. Listen again. Students answer the missed questions as they listen.
4. Give an extra 5 minutes to consolidate answers.
5. Feedback: Distribute or project **ANSWERS**.

Easier

1. Distribute questions. Students have 5 minutes to read the questions.
2. Students listen & answer the questions.
3. Give 5 minutes to tidy answers.
4. Students listen again. Check answers & answer the missed questions.
5. Give 5 minutes to tidy answers.
6. Feedback: Distribute or project **ANSWERS**.

Critical Thinking Questions

Option 1: Students individually reflect on the lecture by answering the questions, making notes of their responses, and writing a short critical response paragraph to submit for teacher or peer feedback.

Option 2: Students take part in a seminar by discussing the questions in small groups.

Option 3: Students prepare and deliver a short presentation on one of the questions.

Full URL Link: https://www.ted.com/talks/iseult_gillespie_why_is_this_painting_so_shocking

Why is Guernica so shocking?

[Listening Comprehension Questions]

Author: Iseult Gillespie

Subject: Art

Date: April 2019

Time: 5:04

Level: *** ** [B2/C1]

Link: https://www.ted.com/talks/iseult_gillespie_why_is_this_painting_so_shocking

Check these words before listening:

Key vocabulary

1. Fascist.
2. Civilian.
3. Frenzied.
4. Mural.
5. Protest.
6. Symbolism.
7. Chaotic/chaos.
8. Overwhelming.
9. Masterpiece.
10. Disorienting.
11. Pioneered.
12. Perspectives.
13. Casualties.
14. Tears.
15. Echo.
16. Statue.
17. Defeat.
18. Trapped.
19. Claustrophobia.
20. Atrocities.
21. Illuminates.
22. Controversial.
23. Destruction.
24. Matadors.
25. Brutality.
26. Carnage.
27. Debate.
28. Anti-war.
29. Imagery.
30. Violence.

Note-taking sheet (blank) Page 1

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Note-taking sheet (blank) page 2

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Note-taking sheet (section headings) page 1

1. Historical Context and Inspiration

2. Purpose and Message of the Painting

3. Style and Visual Impact

Note-taking sheet (section headings) page 2

4. Key Figures and Symbolism

5. Possible Meanings and Interpretation

6. Enduring Influence and Relevance

Why is Guernica so shocking?

https://www.ted.com/talks/iseult_gillespie_why_is_this_painting_so_shocking

Task

Use your notes to answer the following questions using the sections headings to help you.

1. Historical Context and Inspiration

1.1. When and where did the bombing of Guernica take place?

i.	ii.
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1.2. What was the political situation during the bombing? Tick ✓ the statements that are true according to the talk.

Statement	Yes	No
The bombing happened during the Spanish Civil War.		
The attack was carried out by fascist forces.		
Guernica was a military base that posed a major threat.		
The bombing was part of World War II.		

2. Purpose and Message of the Painting

2.1. What two purposes does the painting serve? **TWO-word answers only.**

i.	ii.
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2.2. What words are used in the talk to describe the symbolism in the painting? **ONE-word answers only.**

i.	ii.
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3. Style and Visual Impact

3.1. Which visual effects are created by the painting's style? **ONE-TWO-word answers only.**

i.	ii.	iii.
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4. Key Figures and Symbolism

4.1. What figures and symbols are shown in *Guernica*? Complete the five gaps in the paragraph.

ONE-word answers only.

On the far left, a woman holds her dead _____ her head bent back in grief. Below her, a broken _____ lies in pieces, clutching a splintered sword. In the centre, a screaming _____ is pierced by a spike. Beside it, a white _____ stands calmly, its meaning debated. Flames surround a falling _____, adding to the chaos.

5. Possible Meanings and Interpretation

5.1. Tick ✓ the statements that are true according to the talk.

	Statement	Yes	No
i.	The screaming horse may symbolise the threat of Franco's nationalism.		
ii.	The white bull could represent Spain or the brutality of war.		
iii.	The lightbulb is thought to represent hope for the future.		
iv.	The abundance of animals may refer to the market day of the bombing.		

End of page 1

6. Enduring Influence and Relevance

6.1. Match each statement with the correct idea, according to the talk.

	Statement		Idea
i.	Guernica retains its power...	a.	of the true casualties of violence.
ii.	It is often referenced at...	b.	to shock viewers and ignite debate.
iii.	Hundreds of viewers have grappled with...	c.	its harsh imagery.
iv.	Picasso's work remains a searing reminder...	d.	anti-war gatherings around the world.

i.	ii.	iii.	iv.
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That is the end of the listening comprehension task.

Critical Thinking Questions

These questions are designed to support seminar discussion, presentations or extended writing tasks. Ask your teacher what they would like you to do next as a follow activity.

	Questions	Notes
1.	Why do you think Picasso chose to depict the bombing in an abstract, fragmented style rather than a realistic one? → How might this style affect the viewer's emotional response?	
2.	The painting avoids showing any specific location or military action. What message might Picasso have been sending by doing this? → <i>How could this make the work more universal?</i>	
3.	Many of the figures in <i>Guernica</i> appear trapped or confined. What might this represent in the context of war? → <i>How does this connect to the overall mood of the painting?</i>	
4.	Why do you think Picasso included both human and animal figures in the scene? → <i>How might their symbolism add different layers of meaning?</i>	
5.	<i>Guernica</i> is still used today in anti-war protests. What does this suggest about the painting's relevance? → <i>Can you think of modern works of art that play a similar role?</i>	

Why is Guernica so shocking? (KEY)

https://www.ted.com/talks/iseult_gillespie_why_is_this_painting_so_shocking

1. Historical Context and Inspiration

1.1. When and where did the bombing of Guernica take place?

i.	<i>April 26th, 1937</i>	ii.	<i>Northern Spain</i>
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1.2. What was the political situation during the bombing? Tick ✓ the statements that are true according to the talk.

Statement	Yes	No
The bombing happened during the Spanish Civil War.	✓	
The attack was carried out by fascist forces.	✓	
Guernica was a military base that posed a major threat.		✓
The bombing was part of World War II.		✓

2. Purpose and Message of the Painting

2.1. What two purposes does the painting serve? **TWO-word answers only.**

i.	<i>Historical documentation.</i>	ii.	<i>Political protest.</i>
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2.2. What words are used in the talk to describe the symbolism in the painting? **ONE-word answers**

i.	<i>Confusion</i>	ii.	<i>Chaotic</i>
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3. Style and Visual Impact

3.1. Which visual effects are created by the painting's style? **ONE-TWO-word answers only.**

i.	<i>Disorienting</i>	ii.	<i>Two-dimensional</i>	iii.	<i>Multiple perspectives</i>
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4. Key Figures and Symbolism

4.1. What figures and symbols are shown in *Guernica*? Complete the five gaps in the paragraph. **ONE-word answers only.**

On the far left, a woman holds her dead child, her head bent back in grief. Below her, a broken soldier lies in pieces, clutching a splintered sword. In the centre, a screaming horse is pierced by a spike. Beside it, a white bull stands calmly, its meaning debated. Flames surround a falling woman, adding to the chaos.

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5.1. Tick ✓ the statements that are true according to the talk.

	Statement	Yes	No
i.	The screaming horse may symbolise the threat of Franco's nationalism.	✓	
ii.	The white bull could represent Spain or the brutality of war.	✓	
iii.	The lightbulb is thought to represent hope for the future.		✓
iv.	The abundance of animals may refer to the market day of the bombing.	✓	

6. Enduring Influence and Relevance

6.1. Match each statement with the correct idea, according to the talk.

	Statement		Idea
i.	Guernica retains its power...	a.	of the true casualties of violence.
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iii.	Hundreds of viewers have grappled with...	c.	its harsh imagery.
iv.	Picasso's work remains a searing reminder...	d.	anti-war gatherings around the world.

i.	<i>b</i>	ii.	<i>d</i>	iii.	<i>c</i>	iv.	<i>a</i>
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