

## Visiting the art capital

### 1. Discuss the questions.

- Do you recognize the places in the photos? What city are they in?



- Have you ever been there?
- Would you like to visit?
- What is this city famous for?
- Why do you think this city attracts people?
- What might some people hate it for?

### 2. Read the quotations about New York. Discuss which of them you think are true based on your own experience or what you have seen on TV/in films.

- *“When you leave New York, you are astonished at how clean the rest of the world is.”* Fran Lebowitz
- *“I look out the window and I see the lights and the skyline and the people on the street rushing around looking for action, love, and the world's greatest chocolate chip cookie, and my heart does a little dance.”* Nora Ephron
- *“The true New Yorker secretly believes that people living anywhere else have to be, in some sense, kidding.”* John Updike
- *“New York is an ugly city, a dirty city. Its climate is a scandal (...), its traffic is madness (...). But there is one thing about it – once you have lived in New York and it has become your home, no place else is good enough.”* John Steinbeck

3. Read the quotation and say what you think it means. Watch a [video](https://youtu.be/Rjslwk96w1k) [https://youtu.be/Rjslwk96w1k] and check your answer.

*"We're in New York but we're in the middle of the world."*

4. Read the sentences and replace the underlined words and phrases with the synonyms in the box.

accessible   contemporary   complex   drive  
extraordinary   unconventional   vibrant

- a) There are huge amounts of amazing cultural organizations that have helped make NYC such an artistic place.
- b) New York is one of the most dynamic and colourful cities that combines different art worlds.
- c) There are a lot of unusual installations and art shows in New York.
- d) Because people work really hard in New York, you can really feel the ambition and the energy on the street.
- e) The main goal of art organizations is to make art available to everyone.
- f) Modern artists try to express valuable ideas through their abstract and surrealistic art.
- g) One of the goals of art institutions is to reveal the nature of art that is not simple and show how and why it is made.



**5. Read the sentences again and decide if these ideas are mentioned in the video. Watch the [video](#) again and check your answers.**

- a) There are extraordinary amounts of amazing cultural organizations that have helped make NYC such an artistic place.
- b) New York is one of the most vibrant cities that combines different art worlds.
- c) There are a lot of unconventional installations and art shows in New York.
- d) Because people work really hard in New York, you can really feel the ambition and the drive on the street.
- e) The main goal of art organizations is to make art accessible to everyone.
- f) Contemporary artists try to express valuable ideas through their abstract and surrealistic art.
- g) One of the goals of art institutions is to reveal the nature of art that is complex and show how and why it is made.

**6. Discuss the questions.**

- What is the general idea the people in the video are trying to express?
- Why is New York a great place for artists and art lovers?
- Do you know other cities that are known for their art scene?
- Does your country have a diverse art scene? What about your nearest city?
- What are some of the famous museums and art galleries in New York?

**7. Read two descriptions of museums. Decide which of them is about The Metropolitan Museum of Art (The Met) and which one is about The Museum of Modern Art (MoMA).**

Museum A

This grand classical building receives extraordinary amounts of visitors each year and hosts regular events. It has a complex character representing art across time and cultures. You can find sketches from centuries ago along with modern installations there and admire some really famous portraits and landscapes.

**Museum B**

This brand-new building is a perfect space for contemporary art and unconventional art shows. It attracts people who like vibrant places and want to feel the real drive of New York. It gives you a taste of modern art from its surrealistic and abstract paintings to lifelike sculptures. One of the ideas this place aims at is making art accessible to the general public.

- 8. Read the descriptions in ex. 7 again and find the words for each category. Some words can be used in more than one category.**

TO DESCRIBE WORKS OF ART: .....

.....

TO DESCRIBE BUILDINGS: .....

.....

TO DESCRIBE TYPES OF ART: .....

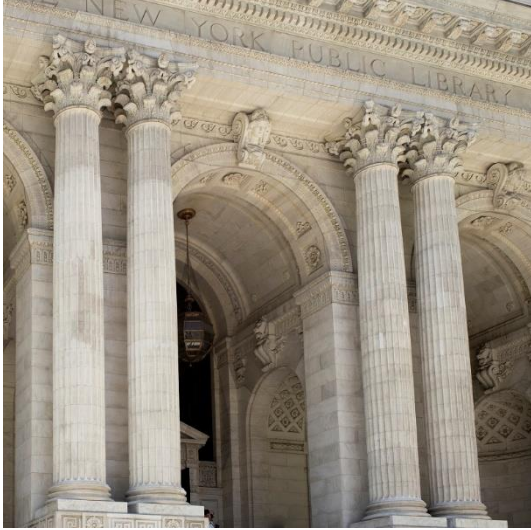
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- 9. Read the statements and say whether you agree or disagree with them. Give reasons for your answers.**

- If I visited New York, I wouldn't waste time going to museums.
- If I had to choose a museum to visit, I'd go to a modern one.
- I don't fully understand contemporary art.
- I think classical art is boring.
- If I could choose one famous piece of art to have at home, it would be a sculpture.
- Art has become more accessible to the public in the last couple of years.

**10. Imagine that you are planning an art show. Describe it in detail by answering the questions below.**

- Which of these two venues would you choose? Why?



New York Public Library



The Oculus  
(artistic landmark/shopping centre)

- What kind of art would you present? Would you like to have classical or contemporary art? Would you have paintings, sculptures or other installations?
- Would you invite only famous artists?
- Would you make it accessible to everyone or more exclusive?