

THE FITZWILLIAM MUSEUM

Education Department

The Art of English

Pre-Intermediate

Tip: a picture of scenery is called a landscape

I. Landscapes – Past tenses (Gallery 2)

1a) Imagine that you are sending some of these landscape paintings as postcards home. What would you write?



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1b) Use the landscape paintings in this gallery to find holiday destinations for the following people:

- A couple on a honeymoon (holiday to celebrate their wedding)
- A family with young children
- Someone who enjoys country walks and nature
- Somebody with an interest in history and art

1c) Discuss favourite holiday destinations with your partner. Describe the best holiday you've ever been on.

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2. Describing a scene: present continuous tense (Gallery 8)

Tip! To describe the action in a picture, use the present continuous tense: 'he is smiling at the camera.'



2a) Find the painting that contains the scene above.

Complete these sentences that describe what is happening:

On the left hand side of the picture, a few people_____

In the background, a horse_____

A man on a roof _____

Some men sitting at a table_____

A line of people_____

2b) Which of these is the better title for this painting:

The Procession to the Church or The Village Festival?

Explain your choice to your partner.

2c) Work in pairs. One person looks at the painting and describes something in it. His/her partner should decide whether the sentence is true or false without looking back at the painting.

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3. Armour: what are you going to do? (Gallery 31)

3a) Imagine that the museum is being attacked by enemies. You are trapped in the armoury!

Talk to your partner about what you are going to do to escape. Pretend that you can use any of the objects in the room to help you.

*Firstly, I am going to put on this scary helmet.
Then I'm going to...*

Tip: use the phrase *I am going to + verb*

3b) Can you find out the name of the piece of armour that protects these body parts:

Leg	
Head	
Chest	
Hand	
Foot	

3c) Go through the doors into gallery 32. Using the miniatures (small paintings of people), play 'Guess Who I Am?' with your partner.

*Are you male or female?
Do you have blonde hair?
Are you wearing rings on your fingers?
Are you...?*

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4. Fans: comparing objects (gallery 34)

4a. Use the words below to compare the fans with your partner.

This is the most beautiful fan in here.

No, this one is even prettier.

Useful Adjectives	
More Most Less Least	Beautiful Useful Delicate Colourful Expensive Detailed Elegant Precious
pretty, heavy, light, ugly, silly, small, large +(i)er or (i)est	

4b. A *fan* has two different meanings

- an object used for making a breeze
- a person with a passion for something (a sports fan or a music fan for example)

Talk to others in your group about English words with more than one meaning.

4c. Come out into gallery 33. Choose a single object with your partner. Then challenge each other: 'can you find something bigger? Can you see anything more colourful?'