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Level 1 – 26th June 2025

Tourist damages priceless painting because of selfie

FREE online quizzes, mp3 listening and more for this lesson here:

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com2506/250626-selfie-damages-painting-1.html>

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Please try Levels 0, 2 and 3. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2506/250626-selfie-damages-painting-1.html>

Tourists do silly things for a selfie. A tourist in Italy damaged a valuable painting. The man was in the famous Uffizi Gallery. This is full of priceless paintings. The man wanted a photo of himself in front of a 300-year-old portrait by an Italian painter. He lost his balance and fell backwards. He put his hand through the painting. Museum staff reported him to the police. Experts are now repairing the painting. They say it isn't badly damaged.

The tourist made people angry. The Uffizi Gallery told a newspaper that selfies are a headache. It said people taking selfies to put on social media "is now out of control". The museum has strict rules to stop behaviour that does not respect Italy's culture. The director of another Italian museum said a similar thing happened in her gallery. She said: "Sometimes we lose our minds to take a picture, and we don't think about [what can happen later]."

Sources: <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14837713/Fury-Italy-tourist-tears-hole-18th-century-painting-posing-selfie.html>
<https://www.artnews.com/art-news/news/medici-portrait-damaged-by-tourist-at-uffizi-galleries-florence-1234745923/>
<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cw5yky19623o>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2506/250626-selfie-damages-painting-1.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Tourists do silly things | a. repairing the painting |
| 2. A tourist in Italy damaged | b. paintings |
| 3. The man was in the famous | c. a valuable painting |
| 4. This is full of priceless | d. by an Italian painter |
| 5. The man wanted a photo | e. for a selfie |
| 6. a 300-year-old portrait | f. balance |
| 7. He lost his | g. of himself |
| 8. Experts are now | h. Uffizi Gallery |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. The tourist made | a. rules |
| 2. selfies are a | b. on social media |
| 3. taking selfies to put | c. culture |
| 4. out of | d. headache |
| 5. The museum has strict | e. her gallery |
| 6. respect Italy's | f. people angry |
| 7. a similar thing happened in | g. lose our minds |
| 8. Sometimes we | h. control |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2506/250626-selfie-damages-painting-1.html>

Tourists do (1) _____ a selfie. A tourist in Italy damaged (2) _____. The man was in the famous Uffizi Gallery. This is (3) _____ paintings. The man wanted a photo of himself in front of a 300-year-old portrait by an Italian painter. He (4) _____ and fell backwards. He put his hand through the painting. Museum (5) _____ to the police. Experts are now repairing the painting. They say (6) _____ damaged.

The tourist (7) _____. The Uffizi Gallery told a newspaper that selfies (8) _____. It said people taking selfies to put on social media "is now out of control". The museum (9) _____ to stop behaviour that does not (10) _____. The director of another Italian museum said a similar thing happened in her gallery. She said: "Sometimes we (11) _____ to take a picture, and we don't think about what (12) _____."

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2506/250626-selfie-damages-painting-1.html>

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SELFIES SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2506/250626-selfie-damages-painting-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about selfies in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper. When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

e) _____

f) _____

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WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

e) _____

f) _____

