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Level 2 – 26th June 2025

Tourist damages priceless painting because of selfie

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com2506/250626-selfie-damages-painting-2.html>

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Please try Levels 0, 1 and 3. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2506/250626-selfie-damages-painting-2.html>

Tourists do silly things to get a selfie. One tourist in Italy damaged a valuable painting. The man was visiting the famous Uffizi Gallery in Florence. This is full of priceless paintings. The man wanted a photo of himself in front of a portrait by an Italian painter who died in 1726. The man lost his balance and fell backwards. He tried to stop himself from falling, but he put his hand through the painting. Museum staff reported him to the police for causing damage to the painting. Experts are now repairing the painting. They say that there was not a lot of damage.

The tourist's careless action made people angry. The director of the Uffizi Gallery told a UK newspaper that selfies are now a headache. He said: "The problem of visitors coming to museums to...take selfies for social media is now out of control." He said the museum has strict rules to stop behaviour that does not respect Italy's culture and heritage. The director of Italy's Palazzo Maffei Museum commented on a similar incident that happened in her gallery. She said: "Sometimes we lose our minds to take a picture, and we don't think about the consequences."

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-2.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Tourists do silly | a. Uffizi Gallery |
| 2. The man was visiting the famous | b. lot of damage |
| 3. This is full of priceless | c. to the painting |
| 4. a portrait by | d. paintings |
| 5. Museum staff reported him | e. the painting |
| 6. causing damage | f. things to get a selfie |
| 7. Experts are now repairing | g. an Italian painter |
| 8. there was not a | h. to the police |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. The tourist's careless | a. take selfies |
| 2. selfies are now a | b. our minds |
| 3. visitors coming to museums to | c. heritage |
| 4. social media is now out | d. the consequences |
| 5. respect Italy's culture and | e. action |
| 6. a similar incident that happened | f. headache |
| 7. Sometimes we lose | g. in her gallery |
| 8. we don't think about | h. of control |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2506/250626-selfie-damages-painting-2.html>

Tourists do (1) _____ get a selfie. One tourist in Italy damaged (2) _____. The man was visiting the famous Uffizi Gallery in Florence. This is full of priceless paintings. The man wanted a photo of himself in front (3) _____ by an Italian painter who died in 1726. The man lost his balance and fell backwards. He tried to stop himself from falling, but he put (4) _____ the painting. Museum staff reported him to the police for causing damage to the painting. Experts (5) _____ the painting. They say that there was not a (6) _____.

The tourist's (7) _____ people angry. The director of the Uffizi Gallery told a UK newspaper that selfies are (8) _____. He said: "The problem of visitors coming to museums to...take selfies for social media is now (9) _____." He said the museum has strict rules to stop behaviour that does not respect Italy's (10) _____. The director of Italy's Palazzo Maffei Museum commented on (11) _____ that happened in her gallery. She said: "Sometimes we (12) _____ to take a picture, and we don't think about the consequences."

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2506/250626-selfie-damages-painting-2.html>

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SELFIES SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2506/250626-selfie-damages-painting-2.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) _____

