

## A journey into mysterious art

🌟 A2 Level

🌟 Duration: 1 h

🌟 Age: adults, teens

🌟 Main focus

Students can understand short narratives and descriptions of someone's life that are written in simple words.

Students can describe people, places and possessions in simple terms.

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### Warm-up

**Exercise 1: Look at these famous paintings and answer the questions below.**

Do you know the artists?

Have you ever tried painting or drawing before?

Which one/ones do you like the most and why?

If yes, what did you draw/paint?



### 🌟 Interesting fact

#### DRAW

When you **draw**, you use pencils or pens to make lines on paper.

#### PAINT

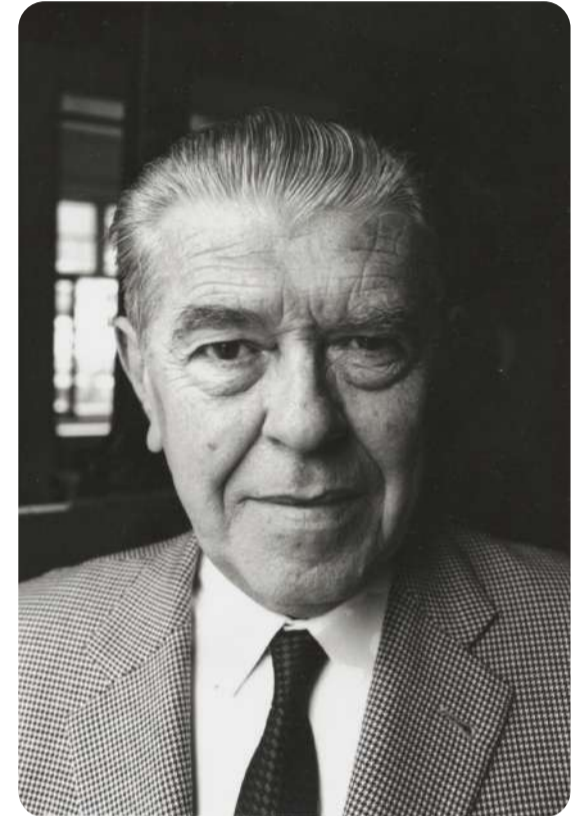
When you **paint**, you use brushes and paint to create images on a canvas or paper. You can use many different colours and mix them.

## Reading

**Exercise 2: Read the article about a famous surrealist painter – René Magritte. You can look up some unfamiliar words in the glossary below the text.**

René Magritte was a Belgian artist who lived from 1898 to 1967. He was famous for his **unique** style of surrealism, which means he painted things that were not real or were impossible in real life. Magritte was a **quiet** and **private person** who liked **to keep to himself**. He didn't like to talk about his paintings or **explain their meanings**. Instead, he wanted people **to come up with** their own **interpretations**.

One of Magritte's most famous works is called "The Son of Man". It shows a man in a suit with an apple in front of his face. The man's face is hidden, so we don't know who he is. Some people think the apple **represents** knowledge or temptation, while others think it's just a **random** object. The **background** is a cloudy blue sky, which adds to the **mysterious feeling** of the painting.



Another painting by Magritte is called "The Treachery of Images". It shows a pipe with the words "Ceci n'est pas une pipe" written underneath, which means "This is not a pipe" in French. This is a **strange** thing to write because the picture clearly shows a pipe. But Magritte wanted people to think about how we see things and how they are shown in art. Just because we see something in a painting doesn't mean it's real.



Magritte used simple colours in his paintings. He often used these colours to create a **dream-like** atmosphere. Overall, René Magritte was a unique and interesting artist who created some of the most **recognisable** paintings of the 20th century.

### 🔦 Glossary

**hidden** - located in a place where nobody can see it

**underneath** - below

**temptation** - the desire to do or have something that you know is bad or wrong

**surrealism** - a 20th century style and movement in art and literature in which images and events that are not connected are put together in a strange or impossible way, like a dream

**treachery** - hurting somebody who trusts you

## Vocabulary

### Exercise 3: Match the words in bold from the text with the following definitions:

- a. a feeling caused by something hard to understand \_\_\_\_\_
- b. the part of an image or scene that is behind the main objects \_\_\_\_\_
- c. easy to know or identify \_\_\_\_\_
- d. to find an answer / to create something, such as an idea, solution, or plan \_\_\_\_\_
- e. the particular way in which something is understood or explained \_\_\_\_\_
- f. to tell what something means \_\_\_\_\_
- g. to symbolize something else, often through visual or symbolic means \_\_\_\_\_
- h. having a special and uncommon way of expressing yourself \_\_\_\_\_
- i. something that happens or chosen without a specific reason \_\_\_\_\_
- j. surreal and magical \_\_\_\_\_
- k. someone who speaks little and prefers to listen \_\_\_\_\_
- l. someone who does not share much information with others \_\_\_\_\_
- m. to stay alone and avoid contact with other people \_\_\_\_\_
- n. unusual or surprising \_\_\_\_\_

### Exercise 4: Match the halves of the collocations from the text about René Magritte. Then match all additional collocations that seem possible and logical to you. Check together with the teacher.

#### Collocations from the text:

- |                      |                                      |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. unique            | a. to himself                        |
| 2. a random          | b. painting                          |
| 3. to explain        | c. object                            |
| 4. mysterious        | d. the meaning                       |
| 5. a quiet / private | e. feeling                           |
| 6. to keep           | f. atmosphere                        |
| 7. a dream-like      | g. person                            |
| 8. to come           | h. style                             |
| 9. a cloudy blue     | i. sky                               |
| 10. recognisable     | j. up with their own interpretations |

#### Other possible collocations:

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## Reading

### Exercise 5: Circle the right answer to each question:

**1. What was René Magritte known for?**

- a) Painting realistic objects
- b) Painting things that were not real or were impossible in real life
- c) Painting landscapes
- d) Painting portraits

**2. How did René Magritte feel about explaining the meanings of his paintings?**

- a) He enjoyed it
- b) He didn't like to talk about his paintings or explain their meanings
- c) He only explained the meanings of his most famous paintings
- d) He wanted people to come up with their own interpretations, but he also explained his

**3. What is the name of one of René Magritte's most famous works?**

- a) The Man with the Apple
- b) The Son of God
- c) The Son of Man
- d) The Man with the Suit

**4. What is the apple in "The Son of Man" thought to represent?**

- a) Knowledge or temptation
- b) A random object
- c) The man's face
- d) The mysterious feeling of the painting

**5. What is the background of "The Son of Man"?**

- a) A clear blue sky
- b) A cloudy blue sky
- c) A green field
- d) A dark forest

**6. What is the name of another painting by René Magritte?**

- a) The Betrayal of Images
- b) The Treachery of Images
- c) The Deception of Images
- d) The Illusion of Images

**7. What is written underneath the pipe in "The Treachery of Images"?**

- a) "This is a pipe"
- b) "This is not a pipe"
- c) "This is a painting"
- d) "This is not a painting"

**8. What was René Magritte trying to make people think about with "The Treachery of Images"?**

- a) How we see things and how they are represented in art
- b) The difference between a pipe and a painting of a pipe
- c) The meaning of the French language
- d) The importance of writing in art

**9. What kind of atmosphere did René Magritte often create in his paintings?**

- a) Realistic
- b) Dream-like
- c) Dark
- d) Bright

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### Writing (Homework)

**Imagine that you are an art critic and write a review of this painting. Describe your interpretation of the painting and how it makes you feel. Use collocations from the text as well as additional collocations from Exercise 4.**

This painting shows ...

This painting is...

The background is ...

In the painting, we can see ...

The atmosphere is ...

I think that the painter wanted to ...

It makes me feel ...





## Correct answers and teaching tips

### Exercise 1.

Created in the “Discussion questions” tool

First row: P. Picasso - Mediterranean Landscape; R. Magritte - The Treachery of Images, P. Picasso - Weeping Woman.

Second row: S. Dali - The Persistence of Memory; R. Magritte - The Lovers, S. Dali - Desert

### Exercise 2.

The text was created in the “Create a text” tool

### Exercise 3.

Created in the “Word-definition matching” tool

- |                           |                       |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| a. mysterious feeling     | h. unique             |
| b. background             | i. random             |
| c. recognizable           | j. dream-like         |
| d. to come up with        | k. quiet              |
| e. interpretation         | l. private person     |
| f. explain their meanings | m. to keep to himself |
| g. represent              | n. strange            |

### Exercise 4.

Created in the “Matching Halves” tool

- |       |   |
|-------|---|
| 1. h  | Other possible collocations:                          |
| 2. c  |   |
| 3. d  | a unique object / feeling / atmosphere / person       |
| 4. e  | a random feeling / person                             |
| 5. g  | to explain a feeling                                  |
| 6. a  | mysterious object / atmosphere / person / style / sky |
| 7. f  | a dream-like object                                   |
| 8. j  | to represent a feeling                                |
| 9. i  |   |
| 10. b |   |

### Exercise 5.

Created in the “Creative writing with target vocabulary” tool

1. b
2. b
3. c
4. a
5. b
6. b
8. b
9. a
10. b