

**REFERENCE E-BOOK**

***Constructions in present-day English***

***Thematic section***

**ART CONSTRUCTIONS**

**Immediate constructions** (in bold-type) are word combinations with the dependent units on the left and on the right.

Extended constructions (underlined in the examples) include the immediate constructions into an utterance or text.

## **ART CONSTRUCTIONS**

Compiled by Helen Ostapenko, Oksana Romanenko, Daryna Rozum,  
Nina Topekha and Zhenya Vasylenko

### **SPEAKING ABOUT ARTISTS**

#### **\* artist's development -constructions**

"He's developed from a traditional way of working into something really radical."

These two paintings sum up Turner's **journey from figuration to abstraction** - that **great leap from classicism into modernism** which made him Britain's greatest artist.

#### **\* watercolour-constructions**

JMW Turner's delicate watercolour paintings can only be shown in January, when the sun is at its weakest.

On New Year's Day, the National Gallery of Ireland and the Scottish National Gallery bring out their Turner watercolours.

It's thanks to a rich English bachelor called Henry Vaughan who built up a huge collection of Turner watercolours, then left them to these galleries when he died in 1899.

Then as now, watercolours were very sensitive to sunlight, so Vaughan stipulated that his beloved pictures should only be shown in January when the sun was weakest.

After Turner died, in 1851, Vaughan carried on buying up Turner's paintings, collecting watercolours from every stage of his career.

### **SPEAKING ABOUT EXHIBITIONS**

#### **\*display-constructions**

They display them throughout January, then pack them away again until next year. The National Gallery's curator, Anne Hodge, brings out a selection for me to see.

#### **\* exhibition-constructions**

WILLIAM COOK visits two annual exhibitions, in Dublin and Edinburgh, which offer a rare chance to see them.

Dublin and Edinburgh still obey his stern command (the other thing he insisted on was that **admission to this exhibition should be free**).

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/5jtpmVtbHsp3zkgJWX5wknL/northern-light-turner-watercolours-in-midwinter>

## ***SPEAKING ABOUT ART and CRIME***

### ***\* fake / forgery-constructions***

He was a former art teacher who played a part in what Scotland Yard called "**the biggest art fraud** of the 20th Century".

It is a remarkable turnaround for the man who was once **given a one year prison sentence** in 1999 for **forgery**.

He now makes his living by painting what he calls "**genuine fakes**" from his studio in Staffordshire, and the story of his life is being turned into a screenplay which he hopes will eventually be made into a feature film.

It was between 1986 and 1994 that John Myatt worked with John Drewe to forge and auction off about 200 paintings by artists such as Alberto Giacometti, Roger Bissiere and Nicholas De Stael.

**The fraud was so elaborate** that auction houses such as Christie's and Sotheby's **were duped into authenticating the pictures**.

I never used original oil paint in any of **my forgeries**.

Drewe amassed up to £1.8m by selling the fake paintings, with Myatt estimating that he made around £275,000 from **the scam**.

Myatt has since worked with Scotland Yard's arts and antiques squad, helping them train police officers to spot forgeries.

But it is his business painting "genuine fakes" which remains his main source of income.

"I don't do copies. There are millions of painters who **could do a copy** of the Mona Lisa, for example, but I'm very happy to look at doing a work in the style of Leonardo Di Vinci."

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-stoke-staffordshire-18006049>

A court battle is fought over whether **a painting is fake**, a drawing said to be Warhol is disputed, but **is there ever a case for cherishing the fake and the forged?**

It was denounced by his brother as a fake but discussions on its authenticity are ongoing.

While his own paintings were of little interest to critics, **his forgeries earned millions** and conned, among others, Hitler's deputy Hermann Goering.

Before the war, frustrated that his style of painting did not suit the world's new-found interest in modern art, Van Meegeren had forged a Vermeer in his own style that was "unlike any previous Vermeer".

His painting, The Supper at Emmaus, was hailed as a previously unknown masterpiece by Vermeer and was one of the most visited paintings in the Netherlands until **it was revealed to be a fake**.

He has even inspired other forgers to fake his work.

He claimed he didn't initially set out to dupe art collectors, but after **a fake sold at auction for £25,000**, his collaborator John Drew offered him half the cash.

It was – according to Scotland Yard – the start of "the biggest art fraud of the 20th Century".

He now legitimately sells his paintings in the style of famous artists, with "genuine fakes" written on the back. But he believes 120 of his illegal forgeries are still in circulation.

Later this year he has an exhibition in his own name and says people seem to be "fascinated by fake paintings.

"The world of fakery is shabby, venal and unromantic. It is just a slightly more glamorous form of criminality."

<http://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-18180057>

*\* punishment for forgery-constructions*

Van Meegeren was arrested in 1945 and charged with treason for selling a Vermeer – classified as a Dutch national treasure – to the Nazis.

Facing a possible death penalty, he confessed all – that he was a forger.

He [John Myatt] was arrested in 1995 for fraudulently selling around 200 paintings in the style of modern masters.

A partnership of crime had begun.

Myatt was convicted for conspiracy to defraud, and spent four months in Brixton prison.

But he says it is wrong for forgers to benefit financially following criminal convictions for fraud.

Convicted forger John Myatt has had a little of the same recognition.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-18180057>

---

*\* attitude to fake art-constructions*

It was acrylic paint and household emulsion mixed with KY Jelly, but no one ever seemed to spot the difference between mine and the original

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-stoke-staffordshire-18006049>

A work by Van Gogh or Munch can fetch tens of millions.

His painting, The Supper at Emmaus, was hailed as a previously unknown masterpiece by Vermeer and was one of the most visited paintings in the Netherlands until it was revealed to be a fake.

Van Meegeren's work has since come to be appreciated in its own right.

Convicted forger John Myatt has had a little of the same recognition.

Later this year he has an exhibition in his own name and says people seem to be "fascinated by fake paintings".

"There can be quite a lot of demand from people who can't afford a Van Gogh but are looking for the same aesthetic experience for a fraction of the price."

Pretentious critics and the "disgusting amounts" of money changing hands can leave people feeling alienated by the art world, he adds.

He believes their outsider status captures the public imagination in a similar way that graffiti artist Banksy has.

Vernon Rapley, head of security at the V&A and formerly in charge of Scotland Yard's arts and antiques unit, says that people's interest in criminal masterminds makes the world of art forgery **appeal to a wider audience** than art lovers alone.

It is repugnant that forgers are able to benefit from **the notoriety of their crimes**.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-18180057>