

# THE ARTS

Each of the arts has its special vocabulary. In the performing arts, such as drama, opera, the dance, and concert music, performers must understand the particular language used in their profession. The visual arts, such as painting, sculpture, and architecture, also have special vocabularies. Many people find it useful to gain some knowledge of these vocabularies in order to discuss the arts and gain greater appreciation of them. In this lesson you will learn words referring to the arts.

## WORD LIST

audition  
ceramics  
classical  
daub  
medley  
melodious  
orchestrate  
palette  
pantomime  
texture

## DEFINITIONS

After you have studied the definitions and example for each word, write the vocabulary word on the line to the right.

1. **audition** (ô-dîsh'ən) *noun* A performance to demonstrate ability or skill; a tryout. *verb* To perform to demonstrate one's skill. (From the Latin word *audire*, meaning "to hear")

**Example** Each dancer had an *audition* before being offered a job with the troupe.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. **ceramics** (sə-rām'îks) *noun* a. Objects made from clay and hardened by intense heat. b. The art or technique of making such objects. (From the Greek word *keramos*, meaning "potter's clay")

**Related Words** *ceramic noun; ceramic adjective*

**Example** Daria made beautiful *ceramics* in her art class.

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. **classical** (klās'yî-kəl) *adjective* a. Pertaining to Western European arts of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, particularly drama, music, ballet, and architecture. b. Pertaining to the culture of ancient Greece or Rome.

**Related Words** *classic adjective; classic noun; classics noun*

**Example** Beethoven is considered by many to be the greatest *classical* composer.

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. **daub** (dôb) *verb* To apply paint or color with crude strokes. (From the Latin word *dealbare*, meaning "to whitewash")

**Example** Painters who *daub* at the canvas are usually lacking in skill.

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. **medley** (měd'lē) *noun* a. A musical arrangement made from a series of melodies from various sources. b. A mixture, a hodgepodge.

**Example** We sang a *medley* of old songs at camp.

6. **melodious** (mə-lō'dē-əs) *adjective* Having a pleasing succession of sounds; pleasant to hear.

**Related Word** *melody noun*

**Example** The bird's song was clear and *melodious*.

7. **orchestrate** (ôr'kī-strāt') *verb* To arrange music for performance by various instruments in a musical ensemble such as an orchestra. (From the Greek word *orkheisthai*, meaning "to dance")

**Related Words** *orchestra noun; orchestral adjective; orchestration noun*

**Example** Although Modest Mussorgsky composed *Pictures at an Exhibition* for solo piano, Maurice Ravel *orchestrated* it.

8. **palette** (pāl'it) *noun* a. A thin board on which an artist mixes different paints. b. A painter's range of colors.

**Example** When Johanna dropped her *palette*, all the colors ran together.

9. **pantomime** (păn'tā-mīm') *noun* Acting that consists mostly of gesture and is performed without speech. *verb* To perform using pantomime.

**Example** To show fear in *pantomime*, you might hold your hands up, open your eyes and mouth wide, and look scared.

10. **texture** (tēks'chər) *noun* The feel of the surface of an object. (From the Latin word *textum*, meaning "woven")

**Example** A picture with thick layers of paint, called *impasto*, has a rough *texture*.

5. \_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_

7. \_\_\_\_\_

8. **USAGE NOTE:** Do not confuse *palette* with *palate* ("the roof of the mouth") or *pallet* ("small bed").

9. **USAGE NOTE:** One who performs pantomime is called a *mime*.

10. \_\_\_\_\_

### Word History: palette

Latin: pala=shovel

Artists often use a *palette*, a thin board with a hole for the thumb, on which to mix their paints before they apply them to the canvas. The word *palette*, meaning "little shovel," comes from the Latin word *pala*, meaning "shovel." The thin, flat head of a *pala*, or "shovel," became the artist's *palette* because of the useful shape on which paints could be spread and blended easily.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

**EXERCISE 1 WRITING CORRECT WORDS**

On the answer line, write the word from the vocabulary list that fits each definition.

1. To apply color crudely
2. Containing a pleasant combination of sounds
3. A board on which to mix paints
4. Objects made from clay and hardened by heat
5. A performance by an actor or a musician to demonstrate ability
6. A form of drama in which actors use gestures and no words
7. A musical arrangement made from a number of different songs
8. Referring to the culture of eighteenth-century Western Europe
9. To arrange music for performance by an ensemble
10. The feel of a surface

1.

2.

3.

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9.

10.

**EXERCISE 2 USING WORDS CORRECTLY**

Each of the following questions contains an italicized vocabulary word. Decide the answer to the question, and write *Yes* or *No* on the answer line.

1. Does the *texture* of clay change when the clay is heated?
2. Would someone enjoy listening to a *melodious* song?
3. Must one *orchestrate* music to be played on a single violin?
4. Is *classical* ballet the same as modern dance?
5. Might a painter mix colors on a *palette* before applying the paint to canvas?
6. Is a *medley* a song that repeats the same tune over and over?
7. Are young children likely to *daub* on a canvas?
8. Is the main purpose of an *audition* to entertain a paying audience?
9. Does *pantomime* involve memorizing long speeches?
10. Is a person who makes beautiful clay bowls skillful at *ceramics*?

1.

2.

3.

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6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

### EXERCISE 3 CHOOSING THE BEST WORD

Decide which vocabulary word or related form best completes the sentence, and write the letter of your choice on the answer line.

1. The sculpture had a very bumpy \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. medley      b. texture      c. ceramics      d. palette
2. We listened to a long and varied \_\_\_\_\_ on the radio.  
a. palette      b. pantomime      c. medley      d. texture
3. The children admired the \_\_\_\_\_ in the pottery shop.  
a. ceramics      b. pantomime      c. audition      d. medley
4. Music students may learn to \_\_\_\_\_ a piece for a string quartet.  
a. orchestrate      b. daub      c. pantomime      d. audition
5. Did William's \_\_\_\_\_ please the orchestra conductor?  
a. palette      b. ceramics      c. pantomime      d. audition
6. Paula mixed colors haphazardly on her \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. medley      b. palette      c. ceramics      d. pantomime
7. My father prefers \_\_\_\_\_ music to popular music.  
a. classical      b. textured      c. pantomime      d. medley
8. \_\_\_\_\_ warbling filled the air outside my window.  
a. Orchestrated      b. Classical      c. Melodious      d. Textural
9. Eugenia carelessly \_\_\_\_\_ at the canvas with her paintbrush.  
a. orchestrated      b. daubed      c. pantomimed      d. auditioned
10. He loved to watch \_\_\_\_\_ and guess what the actors were doing.  
a. ceramics      b. orchestration      c. medley      d. pantomime

### EXERCISE 4 CHOOSING THE BEST DEFINITION

For each italicized vocabulary word in the following sentences, write the letter of the best definition on the answer line.

1. In *ceramics*, an artist works with \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. a material such as clay      c. household items  
b. paints and a canvas      d. steel or other metals
2. An artist uses a *palette* as a \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. tool with which to apply paint to a canvas  
b. knife to remove splattered paint  
c. surface on which to mix colors  
d. container for paints
3. *Melodious* sounds are \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. lively      b. frightening      c. abrupt      d. pleasing
4. In *pantomime*, the performers \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. use gestures      b. are not seen      c. speak loudly      d. are seated
5. An *audition* may require \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. construction work      c. writing and spelling  
b. acting or singing      d. sleeping

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

6. An artist who *daubs* at a canvas \_\_\_\_\_.  
 a. paints in detail c. uses two colors  
 b. paints skillfully d. applies crude strokes
7. *Texture* refers to \_\_\_\_\_.  
 a. smell b. color c. surface d. drama
8. A *medley* is a musical arrangement \_\_\_\_\_.  
 a. using tunes from various sources c. composed solely for orchestra  
 b. that lasts under two minutes d. played only in churches
9. *Classical* music goes back to seventeenth-century \_\_\_\_\_.  
 a. Europe b. America c. Asia d. guitars
10. To *orchestrate* is to \_\_\_\_\_.  
 a. sing b. conduct orchestras c. arrange music d. design instruments

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