

Welcome to your latest copy of Newsweek's English Teacher Program. You have asked to receive this as part of a special promotion.

This week's article is taken from our issue dated Nov. 20, 2006 and looks at the article entitled "China's Art Factory," by Jessica Au, which can be found in the Art Section near the back of the magazine.

We would like to remind you that the Newsweek English Teacher Program is sent to you *once a month*. We look at our chosen article in detail and know you will require time to go through it and use it to its full advantage, so we feel that a month allows you to get the most from each Teacher Program.

We hope you and your students enjoy this week's edition and find it a useful and entertaining way to improve their English!

With kind regards,

The Marketing Team, NEWSWEEK INTERNATIONAL

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Newsweek English Program

"*China's Art Factory*"
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Vocabulary

Glossary

Before you look at the definitions provided, try to figure out the meaning of each word based on its use in the sentence and the paragraph. Write down a synonym for the word, and then compare your synonym with the definition below. As you look at each word, also consider its language root (English borrows many words from other languages). The number in brackets after each word is the number of the paragraph in which the word is located.

bold [subhead]: adventurous, fearless (from Old English *beald*)

wander [1]: move about without a fixed course (akin to Middle High German *wandern*)

leash [1]: a line for leading or restraining an animal (from Anglo-French *lesse*, probably from *lesser*, to leave)

captive [1]: held under control, but having the appearance of independence (from Latin *captivus*)

embrace [1]: acceptance (from Anglo-French *embracer*)

rampant [1]: characterized by menacing wildness; widespread (from Anglo-French *ramper*)

materialism [1]: preoccupation with physical things (from Latin *materia*)

seeking [2]: searching for (Middle English *seken*)

propelled [2]: driven forward (from Latin *propellere*)

pluralistic [2]: characterized by many different perspectives (from Latin *pluralis*)

persecuted [2]: harassed (from Latin *persequi*, to pursue)

forebears [2]: ancestors (Middle English, *fore* + *bear*)

worth [3]: monetary value (from Old English *weorth*)

ferocious [3]: fierce, intense (from Latin *feroc-*, *ferox*)

bidding [3]: offering (akin to Old High German *bitten*, to entreat)

gallery [4]: a building where art work is displayed (from Medieval Latin *galeria*)

greedy [4]: having a strong desire for wealth and possessions (Middle English *gredy*)

consumerism [4]: preoccupation with buying things (from Latin *consumere*)

spread [4]: expansion (Middle English *sprede(n)*)

vapidness [4]: characterized by dullness (Latin *vapidus*)

depict [5]: to represent (Latin *depictus*)

bustle [5]: noisy activity (probably alteration of obsolete *buskle*, to prepare)

burgeoning [5]: flourishing (Middle English *burjonen*)

schizophrenic [5]: characterized by contradictory attitudes (New Latin)

distinct [6]: notable (from Latin *distinctus*)

drawbacks [6]: disadvantages

links [6]: connections (Middle English, of Scandinavian origin)

stringent [7]: strict (Latin *stringent*)

slavishly [8]: copying, imitative (from Medieval Latin *sclavus*)

respectively [9]: in the order given

Idioms

See how these words and phrases are used in the article. Then use them to replace the italicized words below. The number in brackets following the idiom refers to the paragraph in which it appears.

making money [subhead]; come across, one-act, pointed [1]: make sense of, twenty- and thirtysomething, brand-new [2]; eating it up, bringing the hammer down, on the line [3]; the world over [4]; come at, has much to do with [5]; scorching [6]: on top of [7]; cash in on, boom, in the short run [8]; sign of the times, morphing [9]

a. "China's young creators have gained the self-confidence to express a *completely new* China," says Chinese contemporary art dealer Michael Goedhuis.

b. Still, only about 500 students managed to pass the stringent two-day entrance exams, which include a four-hour practical exam, a written theory test and an English test, *in addition to* having to submit samples of their previous work.

c. Han's cabbage is not a vegetable *that has only done one thing*...

d. China's burgeoning art scene *is closely related to* the country's growing liberalization, which has allowed visual arts, in particular, greater freedom of expression.

- e. ...just as they are for contemporary artists *all over the world*.
- f. Products of the go-go generation, these artists *in their 20s and 30s* are too young to remember the turmoil of the Cultural Revolution.
- g. A bold new generation of artists is less interested in politics than in *earning money*.
- h. Artists and galleries are also trying to *get rich from the popular trend* by slavishly reproducing what they think is the recipe for a successful sale.
- i. And the world is *loving it*.
- j. Still, even that is *a symbol of what's happening now*.
- k. ...a 2006 portrait by newcomer Zeng Chuanxing of a young bride dressed in a paper gown attracted ferocious bidding, eventually *completing the auction sale* at £164,800—more than seven times the auction house's estimate.
- l. In today's ever *changing*, forward-racing China, there is clearly plenty to think about.
- m. "Walking the Cabbage"—like all the works by Han, a performance artist—is a *sharp and critical* commentary on China's rush to modernize and its captive embrace of rampant materialism.
- n. Wander through Beijing's crowded Tiananmen Square and you may *see* Han Bing walking a cabbage on a leash.
- o. Other artists *approach* this theme from a different angle...
- p. This might make sense *in the immediate future*, but could spell disaster for the future of Chinese contemporary art, says longtime observer Brian Wallace...
- q. But there are distinct drawbacks to China's *extremely popular* art market and growing international reputation.
- r. "We had close to 30 people *involved* competing for Zeng's piece," says Pilar Ordovas, a specialist in Chinese contemporary art at Christie's.
- s. Han is part of a new generation of Chinese artists seeking novel and vibrant ways to *understand* their country's economic boom.

Conversation

Discussion

What relationship do you see between art and economic success? Do you believe art should not be affected by what will sell? Does such motivation detract from the quality of art?

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Usage

Suffixes

Suffixes are added to the ends of words and word roots to form related words. They change the meaning of the word or root, and sometimes its part of speech. Knowing suffixes will expand your vocabulary. They let you change one word into a family of words that can serve different functions in your writing or speech. Here's an example:

Take the verb **invent**.

Make it a noun: **invention, inventor**.

Make it an adjective: **inventive**.

Or an adverb: **inventively**.

So when you learn how to use suffixes, your knowledge of one word becomes knowledge of five. You can say more!

There is a pattern to suffixes. You use different suffixes to create words that are different parts of speech.

A. Adverb Suffixes

Perhaps the simplest suffixes to recognize in English are *-ly* and *-ally*. Add either of these to an adjective and it becomes an adverb, as in this example:

serious + ly → seriously

tragic + ally → tragically

B. Noun suffixes

Specific suffixes, identified in the left-hand column of the chart below, can make nouns out of other parts of speech. The middle column defines the suffix, while the right-hand column shows you examples of nouns made by adding the suffix.

Suffix	Meaning	Examples
-acy	quality or state	democracy, privacy
-al	act of	betrayal, denial
-ance, ence	state of being	allowances
-ant	one who	consultants, accountants
-er, or	one who	inventors, managers, polluters, borrowers
-ism	doctrine or belief	feminism, socialism
-ist, -yst	one who	catalyst, analysts, activists
-ity	quality of	responsibility, liability, sustainability
-ment	condition of	movement, payment, management
-ness	state of being	happiness, sadness
-ship	position held	citizenship
-sion, -tion	state of being or action	obligations, emissions, pollution, questions

C. Verb Suffixes

Suffixes in the left-hand column can make words or word roots into verbs.

Suffix	Meaning	Examples
-ate	cause to be	terminate, elaborate
-en	cause to be, become	quicken, hasten, sicken
-ify, -fy	make, cause to be	vilify, unify
-ize	cause to become	modernize

D. Adjective Suffixes

The table below shows adjective suffixes.

Suffix	Meaning	Examples
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-able, -ible	capable of being	tradable
-al	pertaining to	global, Industrial, environmental
-an	pertaining to	European
-esque	reminiscent of	Rubenesque
-ful	full of	eventful, delightful
-ic	pertaining to	dramatic
-ious, -ous	characterized by	religious
-ish	having the quality of	skittish, squeamish
-ive	having the nature of	creative, restive
-less	without	restless, fearless
-ment	having the quality of	investment

Exercises

The sentences below are taken from "China's Art Factory." In parentheses, are two words based on the same root. Without looking at the article, choose the word that correctly completes the sentence.

- "Walking the Cabbage is a pointed commentary on China's rush to (modern/modernize) and its captive embrace of rampant (materialism/materialist). [1]
- "I want people to see how much of our daily lives are routines that we've (blindly/blindness) absorbed," says the 31-year-old graduate of the Central Academy of Fine Arts, China's top art school. [1]
- Han is part of a new generation of Chinese artists seeking novel and vibrant ways to make sense of their country's (economic/economical) boom. [2]
- They are rejecting the (politic/political) pop imagery and (satire/satirical) portraits of Mao that propelled their predecessors into the (global/globe) spotlight... [2]
- Instead, they are choosing to present China as a (pluralism/pluralistic), (capitalism/capitalistic) society. [2]
- Nor have they had to live in fear of being persecuted or imprisoned for their art, like many of their (creative/creativity) forebears, including Zhang Xiaogang and Wang Guangyi. [2]
- Last year Sotheby's and Christie's together sold more than \$210 million worth of contemporary Asian, (predominant/predominantly) Chinese, art. [3]
- At a contemporary-art sale at Christie's London last month, a 2006 portrait by newcomer Zeng Chuanxing of a young bride dressed in a paper gown attracted (ferocious/ferocity) bidding. [3]
- "We had close to 30 people on the line competing for Zeng's piece," says Pilar Ordovas, a (specialist/specialism) in Chinese contemporary art at Christie's. [3]
- Art (critics/criticisms) and gallery owners agree that China's young artists are addressing unexplored social themes—including the greedy (consumer/consumerism) of post-Tiananmen China. [4]
- Greater (opening/openness) and the spread of technology mean that photography, video and performance art are also quickly becoming accepted mediums for China's multimedia generation. [4]
- "It's very (reflective/reflection) of what's going on in China now." [4]
- Cui Xiuwen's paintings depict a wounded schoolgirl in the Forbidden City, whose glazed eyes hint at lost (innocence/innocent) and (isolated/isolation) in the bustle of contemporary China. [5]

particular, greater freedom of (expression/expressive). [5]

15. And Cao Fei, 28, recently won the best-young-artist award from Uli Sigg for her schizophrenic video "Chain (Reaction/Reactive)," which shows actors dressed in (medicine/medical) garb performing mechanical (moving/movements). [5]

16. But there are distinct drawbacks to China's scorching art market and growing international (repute/reputation). [6]

17. For one thing, more and more (arters/artists) are getting into it (strict/strictly) for the money. [6]

18. "My students now make direct links in their heads between the (commercial/commercialism) aspects of painting and learning it as an art form," says Beijing artist Yu Chen. [6]

19. (Competitive/Competition) is fierce; for the current academic year, the Central Academy received more than 20,000 applicants. [7] BONUS: *Applicants* is one noun that correctly completes the sentence. What is another noun, based on the same root, that would also be correct?

20. Artists and galleries are also trying to cash in on the boom by (slavish/slavishly) reproducing what they think is the recipe for a (success/successful) sale. [8]

21. Trends like "Scar Painting," which addressed the (painless/painful) memories of the Cultural Revolution, and "Cynical Realism," which mocked the (uniform/uniformity) of communist politics and culture, dominated the art scene in the late '70s and early '90s. [9]

22. "But it can certainly raise (quests/questions) in public, provoking people to think." [9]

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Comprehension Quiz

1. Comprehension Questions

- a. What is the point of "Walking the Cabbage"?
- b. What is one theme Chinese artists are addressing?
- c. How has the liberalization of China affected artists?
- d. How has interest in Chinese art affected what artists produce?
- e. What kind of experiences did Chinese artists have in the past?

2. True or False

Mark each of the following statements with a T if the answer is true, or an F if the answer is false.

- a. New Chinese artists are rejecting political imagery.
- b. Few people outside China are interested in Chinese art.
- c. New technology has had a big effect on Chinese art.
- d. Because it's hard to make money as an artist, very few young Chinese want to become artists.
- e. Today's Chinese artists reflect the many changes their country is experiencing.

3. Make it True.

For each statement you marked false above, rewrite the sentence so that it's true.

4. Essay Question

Write a 500-word essay responding to the following question.

In what ways has commercial success affected Chinese art? Include both the positive effects and the negative effects. Overall, do you think the positives outweigh the negatives, or vice versa?

Teacher's Notes

Vocabulary

Idioms

a. brand-new; b. on top of; c. one-act; d. has much to do with; e. the world over; f. twenty- and thirtysomething; g. making money; h. cash in on, boom; i. eating it up; j. sign of the times; k. bringing the hammer down; l. morphing; m. pointed; n. come across; o. come at; p. in the short run; q. scorching; r. on the line; s. make sense of

Usage

Answers

1. modernize, materialism; 2. blindly; 3. economic; 4. political, satirical, global; 5. pluralistic, capitalistic; 6. creative; 7. predominantly; 8. ferocious; 9. specialist; 10. critics, consumerism; 11. openness; 12. reflective; 13. innocence, isolation; 14. expression; 15. medical, movements; 16. reputation; 17. artists, strictly; 18. commercial; 19. Competition, BONUS: applications; 20. slavishly, successful; 21. uniformity; 22. questions

Comprehension Quiz

1. Comprehension Questions

- "Walking the Cabbage" is performance art that shows how much people's lives have changed without their really thinking about it.
- Chinese artists are addressing themes such as greedy consumerism, rampant materialism, and loss of innocence. [Any of these themes is correct.]
- The liberalization of China has made it possible for artists to express themselves more freely.
- Some Chinese artists are focused on making art that they think will sell.
- In the past, many Chinese artists were persecuted.

2. True or False

a. T; b. F; c. T; d. F; e. T

3. Make it True

- People all over the world are enthusiastic about Chinese art.
- Because there is a lot of money to be made, many young Chinese want to become artists.

4. Essay

Answers will vary.

Meet the Author of the Newsweek English Program:

Julie Weiss holds a Ph.D. in American Studies. She develops curriculum materials for primary and secondary schools, and writes for education publications.