

## Image bank: One Nation under CCTV (higher level)

### Topics

Art, Street art

### Aims

- To speculate about an image, as the basis for vocabulary work and to activate top-down and bottom-up knowledge as a way of accessing a listening text.
- To listen and check predictions
- To learn about aspects of Culture (here, Banksy and the American Pledge of Allegiance)
- To develop listening for specific information and summary writing skills

### Age group

14+

### Level

B2+

### Time

Approximately 40-60 minutes

### Materials

1. [Audio file](#)
2. [Image](#) (One Nation under CCTV)

### Introduction

This activity is designed to encourage students to develop their higher-level critical-thinking skills to speak about images.

The focus in this activity is on making predictions based on visual and verbal clues, before listening to a recording, as well as on aspects of Art and Culture. Students learn how to listen for key information, take notes and write a summary.

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### Procedure

1.	<p>Choose between 5 and 7 sentences from the audioscript and delete a word or words for students to guess, while looking at the image. For example, here:</p> <p>a. <i>As a graffiti artist, Banksy is ____ because he's made a lot of ____ from his art!</i></p> <p>b. <i>I probably took the photograph a kind of ____ of our ____ in London.</i></p> <p>c. <i>That phrase is a play on words of the ____ Pledge of Allegiance.</i></p> <p>d. <i>It's what people say when they promise to be ____ to a country, to the ____ ... you know.</i></p> <p>e. <i>Banksy also graffitied a policeman and a ____ who have stopped to watch the child.</i></p> <p>f. <i>They also offer a ____ interpretation of many things that we just accept as ____ in our daily lives.</i></p> <p>Students look at the image and, working in pairs, guess the missing words. Brainstorm possible answers and write their ideas on the half of the board.</p>
2.	<p>Play the recording. Students listen and check to see if their predictions were correct.</p>
3.	<p>Students listen again and take notes on what the photographer says about Banksy. Compare as a class.</p>
4.	<p>Students work in pairs or groups of three. Ask them to look at the notes they made and divide the sentences into 'key' information and 'extra' information. Once they have separated their sentences, they should use the 'key' information to write a 50-60 word summary of what the speaker says. A sample summary would be as follows:</p> <p><i>The speaker took this photo of some famous graffiti by the artist Banksy while on holiday with his family in London. This piece of graffiti is about how CCTV is an 'eye' that is always watching us. The speaker likes Banksy's graffiti because it says something critical about things we don't notice in our everyday lives. (56 words)</i></p>
5.	<p>Choose several images of 'Art', for example using photographs from the Art &amp; Craft set <a href="http://www.flickr.com/photos/eltpics/sets/72157626157273278/">http://www.flickr.com/photos/eltpics/sets/72157626157273278/</a> and show them to the students. Students work in pairs or groups to decide which pieces they consider Art and which they do not.</p> <p>Students compare their opinions and try to agree on a class definition of Art.</p>
6.	<p>Working in pairs, students design a piece of graffiti (a graffito) with a message, then present</p>

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and explain it to the class.

**Contributors**

Activity by: Fiona Mauchline  
Photograph by: Diarmuid Fogarty

**Transcript****Diarmuid**

OK. The picture shows a piece of graffiti by a British graffiti artist called Banksy, and you can find more of Banksy's graffiti on his website which is [www.banksy.co.uk](http://www.banksy.co.uk). As a graffiti artist, um, Banksy is unusual.....because he's made a lot of money from his art!

I took this photograph two or three years ago in London. The children had a holiday from school, so we took them to London and, um, we were walking along the street when I saw this piece of graffiti on a wall. I had seen it before, in a book, so I think I probably took the photograph as a kind of souvenir of our holiday in London. You know, like people take lots of photographs of, for instance, the Mona Lisa, if they go to an art gallery, um, to the Louvre art gallery in France, in, er, Paris.

I like this photograph because, um, I liked the piece of graffiti. I think it's quite clever; well, most of Banksy's graffiti **are** quite clever.

We can see a child, a graffitied child, who's putting some graffiti up that says *One nation under CCTV*. And, um, that's, um, that phrase is a play on words of part of the American Pledge of Allegiance...

**Interviewer**

What's a Pledge of Allegiance?

**Diarmuid**

Hm? Ah, yeah, it's what people say when they promise to be loyal to a country, to the flag ... you know, like if you change nationality or become a soldier or something. American children say it in school every morning before classes start.

**Interviewer**

Ah, yeah, yeah, I remember. OK, thanks.

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### Diarmuid

Um, yeah, so the American Pledge of Allegiance says *One nation under under God*, and of course God is like an eye that can see everything we do and that keeps an eye on us and makes sure that we behave properly, correctly, you know, that we don't do, um, "**bad things**". And CCTV does more or less the same thing.

Of course the irony of the piece of graffiti is that graffiti is a crime BUT the child is here, painting the graffiti, and, ah, and Banksy painted the child painting the graffiti right under the CCTV camera that you can see in the top right of the photo.

What you **can't** see in the photo but you can see, um, in the original graffiti, and it would be in the bottom left, is more graffiti.....because Banksy also graffitied a policeman and a, and a passer-by who have stopped to watch the child painting the graffiti.

Eh, so, yes, I took it to have a souvenir of our holiday in London, I quite **like** it, I think it's quite funny, I think a lot of Banksy's pictures are quite funny, but if you stop and think about them for a few moments, then, you know, they also offer a critical interpretation of many of the things that we just accept as normal in our daily lives.