It was forged!



- Main page
- Contents
- Featured content
- Current events
- About Factapedia
- Help

search



toolbox

- Upload file
- Special pages
- Print version

La Contessa

La Contessa is owned by the Swiss art collector Bernard Barthez. The painting is worth over \$125 million and is kept at a secret place in Switzerland. Barthez has said: 'I will never sell this painting. She is my most precious jewel.'

The painting was discovered in a chapel in Florence in 1953. The painting is small (12 x 18 cm) and at that time it was in bad condition. It was bought by Mr Barthez in 1958 for \$28,000.

In 1961 it was shown at a small exhibition in Paris. The painting did not interest the public and the exhibition closed after only four weeks.

The painting is not signed, but there are some clues about the artist. Like the *Mona* Lisa, it is painted on wood. Experts agree - the age and style of the painting show that it was probably painted by Leonardo da Vinci.

In 1975, La Contessa was brilliantly restored by Francis Markham. He studied da Vinci's style and used it later in his career to forge pictures. His forgeries were discovered and he was sent to prison in 1984.





Pronunciation 1 • Listen and repeat the words. Which letters are silent?

Amber You know, I don't think La Contessa was restored by Markham. I think it was forged.

Yes! Markham kept the real Contessa, and gave Lewis

Mr Barthez the copy.

Amber The real Contessa is worth a fortune and Barthez has

just discovered the truth!

Let's google Barthez. Oh, no! Look at this! He died Lewis

three days ago!

Amber Lewis, this is awful! Now I'm scared. Why? What will Mrs Markham do?

Amber For \$125 million? Anything! Let's give the letter back. Amber No, I've got a better idea ...

Comprehension 2 Read the texts and choose the correct answer.

- 1 La Contessa is a) a painting. b) a person.
- 2 Mr Barthez is from a) Switzerland. b) Florence.
- **3** *La Contessa* is worth **a)** \$28,000. **b)** \$125 million.
- 4 The painting is a) very big. b) very small.
- 5 The artist a) signed the painting. b) didn't sign the painting.
- 6 Amber thinks Mr Barthez has a) the real *Contessa*. b) a copy.
- 7 Mr Barthez a) is alive. b) has just died.
- **8** Amber is **a)** frightened. **b)** happy.

Vocabulary 3 • Match the verbs to the pictures. Listen, check and repeat.



4 Circle the correct verb.

- 1 My grandfather built/discovered this house fifty years ago.
- 2 They produced/painted chocolate in my town.
- 3 Leonardo da Vinci sewed/designed the first helicopter.
- 4 Did you make/invent this cake?
- 5 My brother is designing/is painting his bedroom black.
- **6** Scientists discovered/invented a new planet last year.
- 7 Last year they produced/constructed a new bridge.
- 8 I think the Chinese invented/constructed umbrellas.
- 9 My aunt produced/knitted this jumper for me.
- 10 I make my own clothes. I learned to sew/design at school.

Pronunciation 5 • Listen and repeat the words. Which letters are silent?

knit write two half walk thumb hour white design

Expressions

- It's worth a fortune.
- google
- this is awful
- I'm scared



Grammar

mous frauds

In the USA, \$5 notes are washed and re-designed by forgers, and used as \$100 n

One of the most famous frauds was the sale of the Eiffel Tower, in Paris. In 1925, the tower was sold to a scrap-metal business by a man called Victor Lustig. And the tower wasn't sold just once – he sold it again the next year!

500,000 false notes are produced every year. They are copied on computers and look completely real. This false money is not easily discovered – you need a special machine. Ultra-violet light is used to show the real notes.

In the USA, \$5 notes are washed and re-designed by forgers, and used as \$100 notes. In Australia, the problem with forged notes was really bad – Australian notes are not produced with paper now. They are made of plastic.

John Myatt is one of the most famous forgers of the twentieth century. He painted about 200 forgeries of famous artists' work. The forgeries were not discovered by art experts, and the paintings were sold in art galleries in London, New York and Paris. He earned about \$500,000 from his forgeries – but he was arrested in 1995 and sent to prison. He now works as a legal artist. His paintings are sold for about \$10,000.



1 Find the past participle of these verbs in the text.

produce copy discover use wash make sell arrest send

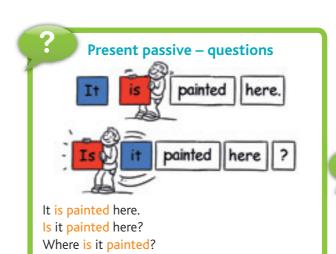
2 Write the the correct form of the verb.

- 1 The drawings (produce) <u>are produced</u> by artists.
- 2 The drawings (copy) _____ on to special paper.
- 3 A computer (use) _____ to make the money.
- 4 Things (buy) _____ with the forged money in shops and stores.
- **5** A machine (use) _____ to find forgeries.
- **6** The forged notes (take) _____ to the police station.
- 7 The forgers (arrest) _____.
- 8 They (take) _____ to prison.



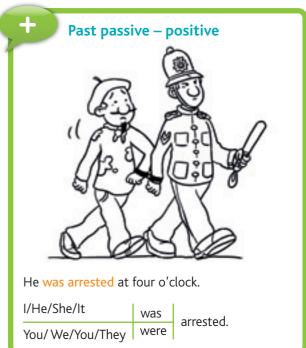
3 Write negative Present passive sentences.

- 1 The work is done in this room. *The work isn't done in this room.*
- **2** The paintings are sold in art galleries.
- 3 It's made here.
- **4** They are produced in this factory.
- 5 The machines are sold in Italy.
- **6** The computer is used to print money.
- 7 The false money is easily discovered.
- **8** Australian money is made of paper.



4 Write the questions in the correct order.

- 1 this machine/made/is/in China? *Is this machine made in China?*
- 2 the pictures/painted/in this room/are?
- 3 the money/designed/by computer/is?
- 4 the paintings/in art galleries/are/sold?
- 5 the machines/where/made/are?
- 6 the notes/why/made here/are?
- 7 how/the money/to China/sent/is?
- 8 when/done/the work/is?



5 Write the Past passive forms.

1	The Eiffel Tower (sell) <u>was sold</u> in 1925.
2	The man (arrest)	yesterday.
3	The book (write)	in 1995.

- 4 They (take) _____ to London by car.5 We (drive) _____ to the airport in a taxi.
- 6 You (arrest) _____ two years ago.
- 7 It (sell) _____ in 2006.
- 8 She (take) _____ to school by her mother.

Past passive – questions

It was painted here. Was it painted here? Where was it painted?

6 Write the questions.

- 1 She was taken to the station. (?) Was she taken to the station?
- 2 They were sold in art galleries (Where?) Where were they sold?
- **3** He was arrested in 1995. (When?)
- 4 She was arrested. (?)
- **5** They were driven to their home. (?)
- 6 It was produced in 2004. (When?)

Grammar

When ... ?

- 1 dynamite/invent
 - **a)** 1867 **b)** 1667
- the first mobile/make a) 1973 b) 1986 **a)** 1973
- Mona Lisa/paint
- **b)** 1500 **a)** 1300 DNA/discover
- **a)** 1903 **b)** 1953
- Eiffel Tower/construct **a)** 1789 **b)** 889
- the Great Pyramid of Giza/build **a)** 4500 BC **b)** 2500 BC
- first photograph/take

 a) 1926

 b) 1826

 The fret light 1826
- The first Harry Potter story/write **b)** 1987 **a)** 1997
- Mount Everest/climb/for the first time **a)** 1925 **b)** 1953
- 10 first human voice/record **a)** 1860 **b)** 1930
- **1** When was dynamite invented?



- 7 Write the questions for the quiz.
- 8 In pairs, choose your answers. Then ask and answer. Note down your answers.
 - **A:** When was dynamite invented?
 - **B**: I think it was invented in 1667.
- 9 Listen and check. Add up your scores and compare.

Extra

Grammar bite

It was painted by Leonardo da Vinci



- 1 dynamite/invent/Alfred Nobel Dynamite was invented by Alfred Nobel.
- 2 the first mobile/make/Cooper and Krolopp
- 3 Mona Lisa/paint/Leonardo da Vinci
- 4 DNA/discover/Watson and Crick
- 5 Harry Potter/write/JK Rowling



Vocabulary 1 Match the words to the pictures. Then listen, check and repeat.

shapes a rectangle a triangle oval round (A) square materials cotton glass leather metal paper plastic stone wood(F)texture hard rough (Q smooth soft sticky

2 In pairs, cover the words, point to a picture, and ask and answer.

- What shape is it? It's round/square.
- What is it made of? It's made of glass.
- What does it feel like? It's hard and smooth.

Describe objects 3 • Listen and complete the conversation. Then practise it in pairs.

A: OK, can you guess what it is? **B:** What shape is it?

A: It's a ¹ _____.

B: What's it made of?

A: It's made of ² _____ and ³ _____.

B: What does it feel like?

A: It's 4 _____ and warm.

B: What's it used for?

A: It's used for writing or storing stories or ⁵ _____.

B: I know! Is it a ⁶ _____?

A: Yes it is!

4 In pairs, play the guessing game. Take turns to think of an object and answer questions about it.



one red paperclip

Kyle MacDonald had a red metal and plastic paperclip – and he wanted to swap it for a house ... in a year!

On July 14, 2005, he exchanged his paperclip for a pen. On the same day the pen was traded for a doorknob. The doorknob was exchanged for a barbeque. This was exchanged for a generator, then an 'instant party', then a snowmobile. He designed a website and all these exchanges were reported on his blog.

Soon, people discovered the website and Kyle MacDonald was famous. His website was followed online by a thousand people, and the story was reported on CNN, ABC and the BBC.

The next exchanges were: a small lorry, a recording contract, then a year's free use of a flat in Phoenix, Arizona. The flat was swapped for an afternoon with Alice Cooper! Kyle exchanged this for a snow globe, and the snow globe for a part in a Hollywood movie!

Finally, on July 12, 2006, the movie role was

exchanged for – a three-bedroom house. In one year, a red paperclip was changed into a three-bedroom house. Kyle MacDonald's book, One Red Paperclip, was published in 2007, and in 2008 his story appeared in the Guinness Book of Records – Most successful Internet trade in the world.

> Kyle had a party in his new house, and invited all the people from the exchanges.

At the party, he proposed to his girlfriend, and the ring was made from - a red paperclip.



Listening

- 2 Listen. What is the story about?
- 3 Listen again. Answer the questions.
 - 1 What is the name of the radio station?
 - **2** What is the name of the singer?
 - **3** Who joined him on stage?
 - **4** What present did Kyle give to the singer?
 - **5** What present did the singer give to Kyle?

Speaking

4 In pairs, read the text. Ask and answer about the exchanges.

A: What was exchanged for the paper clip? **B**: A pen. What was exchanged for the pen?

Writing

Writing a summary

Cut extra information. Keep the key points.

5 Read the text and the summary. What information is not in the summary?

John Myatt is one of the most famous forgers of the twentieth century. He painted about 200 forgeries of famous artists' work. The forgeries weren't discovered by art experts, and the paintings were sold in art galleries in London, New York, and Paris. He earned about \$500,000 from his forgeries – but he was arrested in 1995 and sent to prison. He now works as a legal artist. His paintings are sold for about \$10,000. 74 words

John Myatt is a famous picture forger. He earned a lot of money, but he was arrested and put in prison. He is a real artist now. 30 words

A summary

6 Write a summary of the text on page 84 (one red paperclip). Use less than 50 words.



Research

Look at the draft below and write only information you need.



Draft Write a draft.

· Introduction

Kyle MacDonald had ...

- · What did he want to do?
- · When did he start?
- · How many exchanges were made?
- · When did he get the house?
- · What did he do in the new house?



Have you included all the important information? Write the final version.

Learning Tip

10 free use of a flat for a year

11 afternoon with Alice Cooper

You can **scan** a text (read it quickly) to get information. Don't read every word!

Reading 1 Scan the text and complete the list of Kyle's exchanges.

Words you need

paperclip swap/trade barbeque generator snow globe propose

1 paperclip

3 doorknob

5 generator

6 instant party

7 snowmobile

13 14 a house!

12 snow globe



Look again

Grammar

1 Complete the sentences with the correct Present passive form.

- 1 Money <u>is made</u> (make) on a special machine.
- 2 His paintings (sell) in local art galleries.
- ___ (not/produce) in **3** Cars ___ this country.
- 4 Australian money _ (not/make) of paper.
- _ this money _ (make) in the USA?
- _ false notes easily _ (discover)?

2 Complete the sentences with the correct Past passive form.

- 1 Their house was sold (sell) for £3 million!
- (arrest) last night. 2 The forger
- 3 North America __ (not/discover) in 1666.
- 4 My shoes ___ (not/make) in Italy.
- $_{\scriptscriptstyle -}$ this suit $_{\scriptscriptstyle -}$ (design) by Armani?
- 6 _____ his CDs ____ (play) in the USA?

3 Write Present or Past passive questions from the prompts.

- 1 where/oil/produce? Where's oil produced?
- 2 when/the Eiffel Tower/build?
- **3** why/the men/arrest/last night?
- 4 how/cheese/make?
- **5** where/Fiat cars/produce?
- 6 when/the Mona Lisa/paint?

Vocabulary

4 Circle the correct verb.

- 1 They've built/produced a new bridge.
- 2 When my mum was at school, she painted/knitted gloves.
- 3 Scientists will never invent/discover life on Mars.
- 4 They construct/produce their own cheese on this farm.
- **5** My sister loves fashion. She designs/builds her own clothes.
- 6 My mum makes/paints pictures.

Communication

5 Complete the sentences to make a dialogue.

A:	What 1 is it?	
B:	It's round.	
A:	What's it 2 of?	
B:	Leather, I think.	
A:	What does it 3	like?
B:	It's hard and smooth.	

A: What's it 4_____ for?

B: For playing games – It's a football!

Now you can ... use all forms of Present simple passive (ex 1) Past simple passive (ex 2) Passive questions (ex 3) use verbs (ex 4) ask about shapes, materials, textures (ex 5)

Culture spot

Six strange facts about London

The London Eye

One in four people living in London was born in another country. Over 300 different languages are spoken in London.

In 1666 London was destroyed by fire but only about eight people died. At that time, most of the houses were made of wood. More than 13,000 houses were destroyed.

Big Ben

Big Ben isn't the name

of this famous clock -

bell. The bell weighs

13,208 kilograms! If

bell, but you have to

make a booking.

it's the name of the huge

you want, you can climb the stairs and see the



'London Bridge' was first built in around 1200. A 'new' London **Bridge was opened** in 1831 but it was sold to an American for \$2,460,000! That bridge is now in the middle of the desert in **Arizona! The modern London Bridge was** opened in 1973.

The most unusual new the London Eye. If you structure in London is London, you won't want to miss a ride on 'The Eve'.



'The Tube' was the first underground train system in the world. The first line was opened in January 1863. The engines used coal for fuel and so stations were very smelly and dirty!

1 Read the texts and tick () the four true sentences.

- 1 If you go on the London Eye, you'll see a lot of London.
- 2 An old London Bridge is now in Japan.
- **3** There are only thirty languages spoken in London.
- 4 The houses in old London were made of wood.
- **5** The first underground stations were full of smoke.
- 6 Big Ben isn't a clock or a tower.

2 Same or different? Discuss your ideas in groups.

- Are there any strange facts about your town or capital?
- Make notes and compare with other groups in your class.