



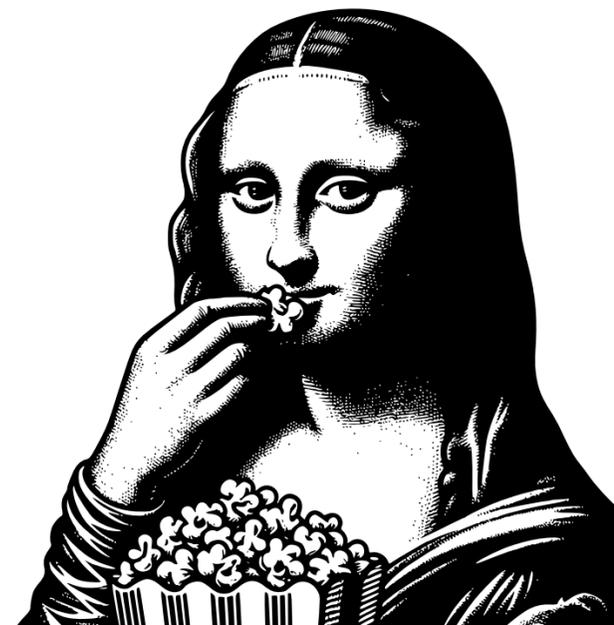
Why is the Mona Lisa famous?

Reading lesson, B2



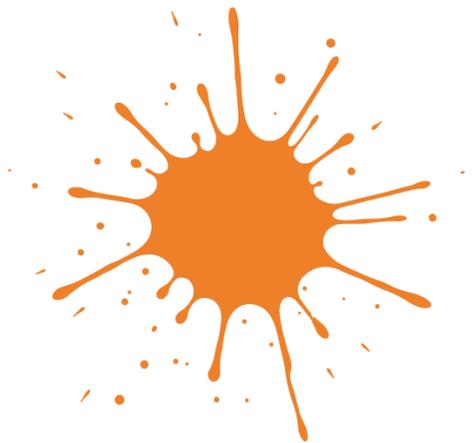
Warm-up 1

- What role does art play in society today?
- Why do humans collect, protect, and display art?
- What makes one artwork more valuable than another?
 - artistic skill?
 - historical importance?
 - public opinion?
 - money and marketing?



Warm-up 2

- Can you name artworks that are famous even if you don't personally like them?
- Do you think fame always equals quality? Why / why not?
- Can something become famous by accident?

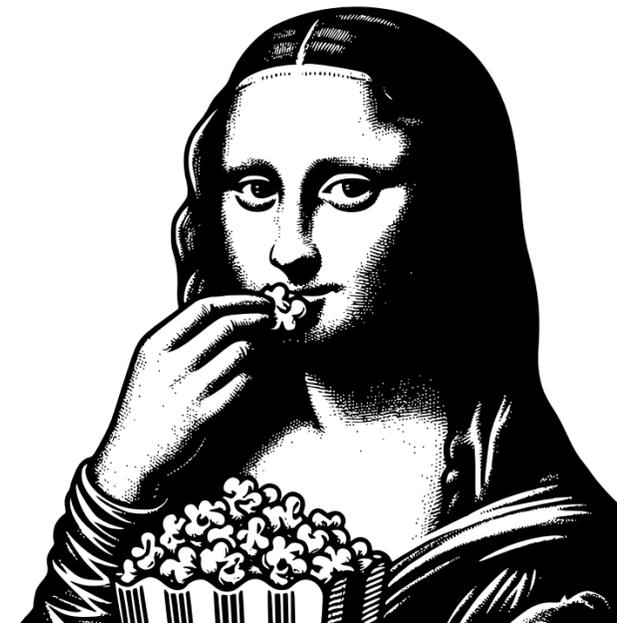




Vocabulary 1

1. recognizable
2. reputation
3. transformation
4. sensation
5. vulnerability
6. recovered
7. reinforced
8. self-sustaining

- A. easily identified
- B. the general opinion people have about something
- C. a major change
- D. a situation that attracts extreme public interest
- E. the state of being unprotected or weak
- F. found and returned after being lost or stolen
- G. made stronger or more influential
- H. able to continue without outside help



Vocabulary 2

Answer the questions using the vocabulary above.

1. What can damage a person's **reputation** today?
2. What public event has recently become a media **sensation**?
3. In what situations do people show **vulnerability**?
4. What skills are **self-sustaining** in modern careers?
5. Can social media **reinforce** stereotypes? How?
6. What brands or symbols are instantly **recognizable** worldwide?

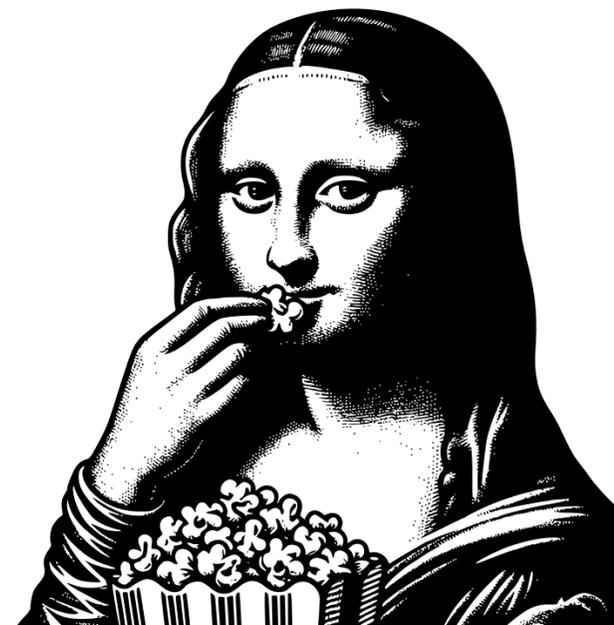




Before we read...

What helped make the Mona Lisa world-famous?

- A) Artistic innovation
- B) A dramatic event
- C) Wealthy collectors



Reading - put the paragraphs in the correct order



A Its transformation into a global icon began in 1911, when the painting was stolen from the Louvre Museum. The theft caused an international sensation. Newspapers published daily updates, speculated about suspects, and even questioned the museum's ability to protect its collection. As a result, the Mona Lisa became a household name almost overnight.

Today, the Mona Lisa is often described as the most recognizable painting in the world. However, its reputation was not always so impressive. When Leonardo da Vinci painted the portrait in the early 16th century, it was admired for its technique, but it did not stand out dramatically from other works of the period. For centuries, it remained one artwork among many in royal and museum collections.

B **C** When the Mona Lisa was finally recovered two years later, it was no longer just a portrait. It had become a legend. Increased security, media attention, and constant reproduction in books and advertisements reinforced its status. Over time, its fame became self-sustaining: people valued it because everyone else already did.

The story of the Mona Lisa suggests that cultural value is not created by beauty alone. Sometimes, history, media, and public imagination play a far greater role than the artwork itself.

D

E

Ironically, the painting gained the most attention while it was absent. Crowds visited the Louvre not to admire the artwork itself, but to see the empty space where it once hung. The crime turned the painting into a symbol – not only of artistic value, but of vulnerability, mystery, and desire.

1._ 2._ 3._ 4._ 5._

True or false?

Decide if the sentences are True (T) or False (F).

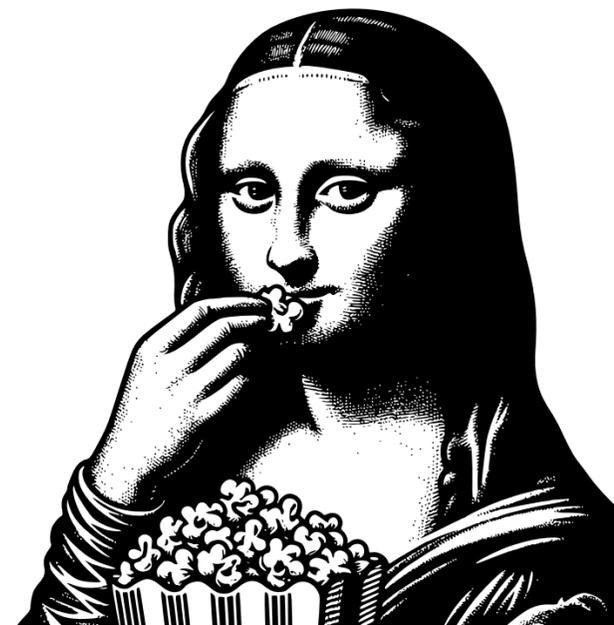
1. The Mona Lisa was considered revolutionary when it was first painted.
2. The painting was part of royal and museum collections for centuries.
3. The theft of the Mona Lisa attracted international media attention.
4. People visited the Louvre mainly to see the painting during the theft.
5. The empty space in the museum increased public interest.
6. The painting was missing for less than a year.
7. Media coverage helped create the Mona Lisa's modern reputation.

Retell the story



Let's talk!

- Is fame a reliable measure of artistic value?
- Can crime or controversy increase popularity in other fields (music, film, influencers)?
- Should museums focus more on education or on protecting famous works?
- Do you think the Mona Lisa would be as famous today without the theft?





If time...

Think about the words from today's lesson. Describe one, and the other person will guess.
Then swap!

Example words:

- transformation
- vulnerability
- recovered
- reputation
- stand out



Answer key

Vocabulary 1 – Matching

1.A

2.B

3.C

4.D

5.E

6.F

7.G

8.H

Reading

1.B 2.A 3. E 4. E 5.C 5.D

Comprehension (True / False)

1.F

2.T

3.T

4.F

5.T

6.F

7.T



Thank you!

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