

Background Information Unit 3

Lessons 1, 2 & 3

Lesson 1: Work it out! Expressing time of actions

We use the Present Perfect tense to talk about unfinished actions that started in the past and are still true in the present.

*Examples: I've known John for three years.
Louise has lived in Chile since 2012.*

The Present Perfect is often used when we are talking about how much or how many.

*Examples: Neil has drunk five cups of coffee this morning.
The children have eaten three ice creams each!*

The Present Perfect can also be used to refer to an action that has been completed, without indicating when this happened.

*Examples: I've been to Italy, France and Spain.
She has seen that film several times.*

To make the affirmative form of the Present Perfect tense, use have / has + the Past Participle.

*Examples: We have studied a lot for the test.
It has rained very little this winter.*

To make the negative form of the Present Perfect tense, add not after have or has.

*Examples: The children haven't read that book yet.
Rick hasn't found a job yet.*

To make a question, place have or has in front of the subject.

*Examples: Have you finished your homework?
Has your mother ever traveled by plane?*

Lesson 2: Work it out! Connectors of sequence: first, later, after that, next, then, finally.

These words are called connectors because they help you link your ideas and clarify which action comes first.

They can be divided into:

- introduction of ideas: *first, first of all.*
- sequencing different actions: *later, then, next, after that*
- conclusion: *finally.*

These connectors usually go at the beginning of the sentence or paragraph and they are always followed by commas.

Example: How to make an English cup of tea

Introduction	First of all, you boil water in a kettle. of ideas
Sequencing	Then, you warm the teapot with boiling water. After that, put some tea into the teapot. Next, leave it for 2 - 4 minutes. Later, pour the tea into the cup.
Conclusion	Finally, you can put some milk into the cup, and your tea is ready! Enjoy!

Only the connectors of introduction and conclusion have a fixed position in the sequence, beginning and end. The others are interchangeable.

Lesson 3: Fashion and Design

John Angus Chamberlain (April 16, 1927 – December 21, 2011) was an American sculptor. Chamberlain is best known for creating sculptures from old automobiles (or parts of) that bring the Abstract Expressionist style of painting into three dimensions.

Stinkfish is a Colombian street artist who uses found photographs to recreate the images on street art murals. These walls are recreated with inventions of psychedelic themes and elements.

Stinkfish was born in Mexico but he spent his childhood in Colombia once his parents migrated there. He initially began making stencils around the years 2000-2001. In 2003, in Bogotá, he created a very intricate street art piece in remembrance of John F. Kennedy's murder.

Stinkfish's work is created, primarily, by portraying a variety of random faces artistically. He chooses intriguing photographs of strangers. Once these pictures are taken, he then selects the ones that will be used for wall art.

Andy Warhol (August 6, 1928 – February 22, 1987) was an American artist who was a leading figure in the visual art movement known as pop art. His works explore the relationship between artistic expression, celebrity culture, and advertisements that flourished by the 1960s. After a successful career as a commercial illustrator, Warhol became a renowned and sometimes controversial artist. The Andy Warhol Museum in his native city, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, holds an extensive permanent collection of art and archives. It is the largest museum in the United States dedicated to a single artist.

Warhol's art used many types of media, including hand drawing, painting, printmaking, photography, silk screening, sculpture, film, and music. He was also a pioneer in computer-generated art using computers that were introduced in 1985, two years before his death.

Pop art is an art movement that emerged in the mid-1950s in Britain and the late 1950s in the United States, drawing inspiration from sources in popular and commercial culture such as advertising, Hollywood movies and pop music. Key pop artists include Andy Warhol, Roy Lichtenstein, Richard Hamilton, Peter Blake and David Hockney.

Victor Vasarely (1906 - 1997) was a Hungarian-French artist credited with having created the Op Art movement. Vasarely's paintings and sculpture utilized geometrical shapes and colorful graphics to create illusions of spatial depth on two-dimensional surfaces. Vasarely first enrolled in the Hungarian branch of the Bauhaus in Budapest in the late 1920s. After settling in Paris in 1930, Vasarely worked as a graphic artist and developed his signature abstract aesthetic.

Op art, also known as optical art, is a style of visual art that uses optical illusions. Op art works are abstract, with many better known pieces created in black and white. Typically, they give the viewer the impression of movement, hidden images, flashing and vibrating patterns, or of swelling or warping.