

Audioscript

For items 1–10 listen to a part of an audio guide in a museum of modern arts. Decide whether the statements 1–10 are True (A), or False (B) according to the text you hear. You will hear the text twice.

Now you have 30 seconds to look through the items.

(pause 30 seconds)

Now we begin.

NARRATOR: These are all sculptures by the artist Constantin Brancusi. We're going to look at the one that has three parts: a top, a bottom and a middle. For the bottom, Brancusi carved a big piece of oak into circles and half circles. For the middle, he chipped away a piece of hard limestone into a square. And the cute shiny metal piece on top, made of bronze, looks a bit like a fat teardrop.

Hold your hands up so that you see each of the three pieces, one at a time. Which do you like better, one at a time, or all three together? Brancusi liked to show opposites together - rough and shiny, or circles and squares, something hard next to something soft. He thought each one made the other one look more interesting.

Did you see the name of the sculpture? If not, find the label and take a look. Then press PLAY.

NARRATOR: I bet you wouldn't have guessed *Young Bird*. How is that shiny teardrop a bird? Well, Brancusi made lots of bird sculptures, and the first ones *did* look a lot more like real birds opening their mouths to sing. But he kept making them simpler and simpler until what was left was the *feeling* of a bird. But this one is just a *baby* bird that hasn't even learned to fly. *Its* mouth is open, see the flat section on one side? - but instead of singing, it's probably waiting for someone to drop in a big fat worm for dinner!

NARRATOR: Paintings like this one, by artist Piet Mondrian, have been puzzling people for a long time.

NARRATOR: [wryly] Why am I not surprised? Here we go again.

RULES VOICE: *A painting should be like a magical window that opens onto another world of beauty!*

NARRATOR: Well, if this painting is supposed to be a *window* -

NARRATOR: - then Mondrian has closed the shutters tight! He wanted you to look at his painting and not have to make believe you're looking at a faraway mountain, or a bowl of fruit. His lines and colors aren't pretending to be anything else. They're just lines and colors. At first, it seems too simple to be interesting. But take some time to just look. First, pick one of the bright colors. There are just a few: Red, blue, or yellow. Now, let your eyes jump from one section of your color to the next. Where do you jump?

Now, pick a line - any one will do. Follow that line with your eyes, until it hits another line. Where does it take you next? Notice all the different sizes of rectangles the lines make. The big fat ones in the middle, and the tall, skinny ones along the edges.

Mondrian never used a ruler - he painted all those perfectly straight lines with his own hand. Get up a little closer, and you can see where his brush carefully moved across the canvas. You can also see his signature along the bottom edge. *It's* simple, too: Just the capital letters - P and M.

Mondrian liked to listen to music while he painted - the hippest music of his day! He liked it so much, it made him dance around his studio all by himself. If you want to hear what it was, just press the green PLAY button.

Now you have 20 seconds to check your answers.

(pause 20 seconds)

Now listen to the text again.

Text repeated.

Now you have 20 seconds to complete the task.

(pause 20 seconds)

This is the end of the Listening task.