

PROVA SCRITTA DI LINGUE STRANIERE

INGLESE

Traccia 1 • Questionario

Read the text, then answer the questions.

Graffiti: art or vandalism?

Banksy is a British graffiti artist. No one knows who he is, because graffiti is a crime, so he keeps his real name and identity a secret. Banksy's art often includes pictures of rats, children, policemen and old people. He's famous for expressing his opinions on social and political issues through his work, usually against war and violence. For example, after a United Nations Conference about Climate Change he painted a mural on the wall, which included the words 'I don't believe in global warming' with the words under water. But his work isn't always serious: for example, he wrote 'We're bored of fish' on the wall of the penguin enclosure at London Zoo!

Today, many people are interested in graffiti and street art thanks to the 'Banksy effect' and his art is worth a lot of money. In a recent survey, people voted his image, *Girl with Balloon*, Britain's best-loved work of art. It's an image of a sad little girl who watches her heart-shaped red balloon blow away in the wind. Banksy first put this image on a wall in London in 2002. Now you can find it everywhere, on posters, cards and T-shirts.

In 2018, a signed print of *Girl with Balloon* was sold for more than £1 million. But several years earlier, Banksy had secretly built a shredder* into the picture frame and someone activated it moments after the painting was sold. The shredder cut the painting into small pieces. Everyone was really shocked! Banksy posted an image on Instagram of the shredded painting hanging from the bottom of the frame with the words 'Going, going, gone...'. Some art experts said that the painting was worth even more money after this stunt because it got so much media attention that it was now part of art history.

But not everyone is a Banksy fan. Many people think graffiti is a form of vandalism and that it should be removed. Westminster City Council in London, for example, removed a metre-high Banksy graffiti because they said that keeping it would mean they agreed with graffiti. Other people love Banksy, like the children at the Farm Primary School in Bristol. He did a special surprise painting on the side of their school to thank the school for naming one of its classrooms after him! Banksy also said that if they didn't like his painting, they could add their own graffiti to it.

* **shredder**: tritadocumenti

1. Why is Banksy's real name and identity a secret?

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2. What kind of things does he often paint in his work?

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3. What do British people generally think of his painting 'Girl with Balloon'?

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4. When and where did Banksy first paint 'Girl with Balloon'?

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5. What happened to the print of 'Girl with Balloon' that Banksy sold for £1 million?

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6. What did Westminster City Council do to a work by Banksy?

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7. Why did Banksy paint a special graffiti on the side of a primary school in Bristol?

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8. Do you think that graffiti is art or vandalism? Why?

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Traccia 2 • Email personale

Write an email to a friend. Tell him/her about your last holiday.

Include this information:

- where you went and who you were with;
- how you travelled and where you stayed;
- a description of the place and the people;
- what activities you did there;
- your opinion of the holiday.

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