

PERSPECTIVE

The two sides of a road are parallel: they never meet. But if you look along a straight road, its sides look like they are going to meet at the horizon. If you draw two lines on a piece of paper, and they meet in the middle and look like a road, the point where they meet is called the vanishing point.

You can draw a three-dimensional space on a flat piece of paper by following geometrical rules. The Italian architect Filippo Brunelleschi started to work these rules out in Florence in 1418. The Italian author and artist Leon Battista Alberti simplified and clarified them in 1435.

All the lines that go away from the observer are drawn so that they go through the vanishing point.

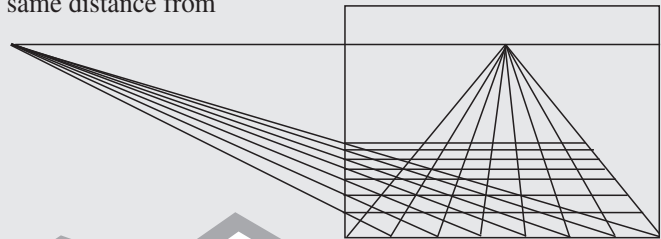
Perpendicular lines going across in front of the observer will be nearer to one another the nearer they are



to the vanishing point. You can work out where to draw them like this: draw another point outside the picture on the same horizontal line as the vanishing point. Draw points along the bottom (or the top) of the picture, all the same distance apart. Draw lines from each of these points to the point you have drawn outside the picture: the place where each of these lines crosses the edge of the picture shows you where to draw horizontal lines so that they will all appear to be the same distance from one another.



If you draw columns or windows that must all be the same size and shape, in your picture they will be the same shape, but not the same size. Lines connecting the same part of any two of them will go through the vanishing point, and a line connecting two parts of the same object will be parallel to a line connecting the same two parts of a similar object that is nearer or further away.



READING

Before you read

1 Look at *Effective reading*.

EFFECTIVE READING

Reading instructions

Don't read all texts the same way. Sometimes you can read quickly, looking for key words. When there is a lot of detail, make sure you understand each sentence before you read the next one.

While you read

2 Look at the pictures, and identify which lines the text is talking about.

After you read

3 Write *True or False*.

- 1 All roads go through a vanishing point.
- 2 In a drawing, parallel lines going away from the observer go through the vanishing point.
- 3 The rules of perspective were discovered in Italy.
- 4 Lines going across look equally spaced if they are nearer to one another at the bottom of the picture.
- 5 If you draw all the windows on a wall the same shape, they will look the same shape.

LISTENING

4 Listen about Claude Monet. Write True or False.

- 1 After 1850, artists started to study different effects of light and emotion.
- 2 They wanted to paint reality as it is, not as it appears.
- 3 In 1873, Claude Monet painted an industrial harbour at sunrise.
- 4 Everyone liked the new Impressionist paintings straight away.
- 5 Monet painted the same things many times.

WRITING

EFFECTIVE WRITING

Long sentences

In sentences, and in subordinate clauses in sentences, words come in this order:

1) subject and auxiliary verb 2) main verb 3) object.

5 Put each sentence in the right order.

- 1 built and decorated / In just fifteen years, carpenters, sculptors, metal workers, painters and other artists / the magnificent temple.
- 2 a temple to Athena, the goddess who protected the city. / He wanted to celebrate / the freedom of the city of Athens from the Persian invaders by building
- 3 a temple complex / In the 5th century BC, Pericles decided to build / on the sacred rock above the city of Athens.
- 4 carved a huge statue of Athena, which / Inside, Phidias / was completely covered in gold.
- 5 a perfectly proportioned building. / the help of architects called Ictinos and Callicrates, he designed / The master artist was called Phidias, and, with

6 Now put the sentences in the right order, and write your essay about the Parthenon.

SPEAKING

7 Complete the dialogue with the words in the box.

put in the co-ordinates really complicated
select it like this

- Holly** Can you show me what you're doing on the computer, Robert?
- Robert** Oh, I'm doing a project for my design class, actually.
- Holly** Is that a bridge you're drawing?
- Robert** Yes, it is.
- Holly** I love drawing, but that looks _____ (1). How do you do it?
- Robert** Well, it's quite simple really. Say I want to draw a circle. I choose the circle option, and then I _____ (2)
- Holly** You mean like on a graph?
- Robert** That's right. And I can tell the computer how big to make it, and exactly where to draw it and how.
- Holly** I see.
- Robert** But look: if I want to draw this bridge support differently, but I don't want to change the rest of the drawing, I can just (3) _____ and then, by choosing this command, I can change it to a mirror image.
- Holly** That's really clever. I wish I could do that with a real drawing!

Listen and check.

USEFUL PHRASES ▼▼▼

Say I want to I

By choosing this command...

Put in the co-ordinates...

Tell the computer...

8 Look at the words in grey. Write two more words or phrases for each one.

9 Write the dialogue for new people with your ideas.

Practise the dialogue in your class.

VOCABULARY BUILDER

I Find the words related to art and drawing and solve the code. Every number is always the same letter.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
11	X		2			18		16	X	X					10	X		3				X	X	X	

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CONSOLIDATION

I Complete the sentences with the correct alternative A, B or C.

- 1 Draw lines from each of these points to the point you have drawn _____ the picture.
A behind **B** outside **C** betWween
- 2 Phidias carved a huge statue of Athena, _____ completely covered in gold.
A which was **B** what has **C** that did
- 3 I can tell the computer _____ make it, and exactly where and how to draw it.
A that large **B** how big to **C** to bigger
- 4 A lot of people said that the Impressionists' paintings _____ real art.
A look like **B** don't seem **C** were not
- 5 Brunelleschi started _____ the rules of perspective in Florence in 1418.
A with put down **B** finding up **C** to work out

2 Write True or False.

- 1 Leon Battista Alberti clarified geometrical rules in 1435.
- 2 Perpendicular lines going across in front of the observer will be further away from each other when they are near to the vanishing point.
- 3 In 1876 Claude Monet painted an industrial harbour at sunrise.
- 4 People didn't like the new Impressionist paintings straight away.
- 5 The Parthenon was built in just fifteen years.

COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS

Work in pairs. Decide which of you is going to speak and which of you is going to draw a picture. The student who is going to speak needs a copy of the picture: the other student must not look at this picture, but needs a blank sheet of paper and a pencil.

- i) Sit back to back. The speaker chooses one of the paintings to describe in English. The other student is going to try to draw a copy of the painting from the description.
- ii) Start by giving an idea of the general layout of the painting. Use these words:
- In the foreground*
 - In the background*
 - In the centre*
 - In the top left-hand corner*
 - In the bottom right-hand corner*
 - To the left / right*
 - Above / below*
 - In perspective*
 - Large / small*
 - Wide / narrow*

- iii) Now describe the main figures in the painting in detail. Describe the whole figure, then describe its parts so that your partner can draw them.
- iv) Remember to describe which way round the figures are:
- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| <i>Facing the viewer</i> | <i>Full face</i> |
| <i>Side-on</i> | <i>In profile</i> |
| <i>You can see two sides</i> | <i>Three-quarter face</i> |
| <i>From above/below</i> | <i>From behind</i> |
- v) When you have finished the drawing, compare it with the original and discuss what was difficult. Find any language you needed but didn't know.
- vi) Then change roles (the speaker becomes the drawer and vice versa), choose another picture and try again. It should be easier, because this time the drawer will already have seen the picture!

Answer Key

Reading

3 1 false; 2 true; 3 true; 4 false – they should be nearer to one another as they approach the vanishing point; 5 true.

Listening

4 Photography was perfected before 1850, and Kodak started to sell its first camera to the public in 1888. Artists started to see the world differently, and did not want so much to represent reality exactly as it is in photographs. They started to study different effects of light and emotion, and to paint the world as it appears.

In 1873, Claude Monet painted an industrial harbour at sunrise. It was the beginning of the Impressionist movement. People didn't like these new paintings: they didn't show historical subjects, and they didn't teach people anything. A lot of people said that they were not real art. Monet painted the same subjects again and again, at different times of day: a cathedral, a railway station, his garden, the reflections in a pond. Now people think that these are some of the most beautiful paintings ever made.

1 true; 2 false – they wanted to paint the world as it appears; 3 true; 4 false – a lot of people said they were not real art; 5 true.

Writing

5 1 In just fifteen years, carpenters, sculptors, metal workers, painters and other artists built and decorated the magnificent temple.

2 He wanted to celebrate the freedom of the city of Athens from the Persian invaders by building a temple to Athena, the goddess who protected the city.

3 In the 5th century BC, Pericles decided to build a temple complex on the sacred rock above the city of Athens.

4 Inside, Phidias carved a huge statue of Athena, which was completely covered in gold.

5 The master artist was called Phidias, and, with the help of architects called Icthinus and Callicrates, he designed a perfectly proportioned building.

6 *The Parthenon*

In the 5th century BC, Pericles decided to build a temple complex on the sacred rock above the city of Athens. He wanted to celebrate the freedom of the city of Athens from the Persian invaders by building a temple to Athena, the goddess who protected the city. The master artist was called Phidias, and, with the help of architects called Icthinus and Callicrates, he designed a perfectly proportioned building. In just fifteen years, carpenters, sculptors, metal workers, painters and other artists built and decorated the magnificent temple. Inside, Phidias carved a huge statue of Athena, which was completely covered in gold.

Speaking

7 1 really complicated; 2 put in the co-ordinates; 3 select it like this.

Vocabulary

C 4; E 13; F 20; H 5; L 8; M 9; N 17; O 1; R 6; T 7; U 15; V 12; Z 14

vanishing point; perspective; horizon; three-dimensional; geometrical; Impressionist; perpendicular; foreground.

Consolidation

1 1 B; 2 A; 3 B; 4 C; 5 C

2 1 T; 2 F; 3 F; 4 T; 5 T

Collaborative Projects

- For this activity you will need to find and photocopy four colour paintings / works of art, which students will describe to each other in pairs. If these are famous paintings, this will help teach students about them.
- Give each pair two pictures each. Tell them not to show their pictures to each other.
- Pre-teach the vocabulary listed in ii) before beginning the task.
- Working in pairs, Student A takes a pencil and a piece of paper to draw. The students sit back to back and student B begins to describe their painting without showing the picture to his/her partner.
- The student who is describing should follow the instructions in English to help the student who is drawing to visualize the picture;
- When every pair in the class has drawn one picture, the students should compare the drawing to the original. At this point the teacher can intervene to provide or elicit the language that was needed to describe the painting more accurately.
- Students in each pair should then swap roles – this time the person drawing could be allowed to see the painting very briefly before beginning.