

Read First!

Y7

Vocabulary Check

What are the most unfamiliar or difficult words in this text?

3,2,1

Identify three key points from the text, two key words to remember and one big idea about the text.

6 Word Summary Can you summarise the whole text in just one short, six-word sentence?

4 W's

What is the text about? Who is the text about? Where and when does the text refer to?

Why?

What is the purpose of this text? Who was it produced by? Who is it for?



Read First!

Y7 Art Unit 1: Introduction to Art



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“Teaching young people creative subjects stay with them forever. The ‘creative process’ can help them on so many levels. It can bring pride, joy and wisdom and help visualise their own goals throughout their lives”.

**Keith Brymer Jones
Potter and Ceramic Designer**

“Art makes the world a better place it encourages human beings to make an ‘original’ contribution to the world”.

Bob and Roberta Smith RA OBE



Read First!

Y7 Art Unit 2: Portraits



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PORTRAIT

A portrait is a representation of a particular person. A self-portrait is a portrait of the artist by the artist.

Portraiture is a very old art form going back at least to ancient Egypt, where it flourished from about 5,000 years ago. Before the invention of photography, a painted, sculpted, or drawn portrait was the only way to record the appearance of someone. But portraits have always been more than just a record. They have been used to show the power, importance, virtue, beauty, wealth, taste, learning or other qualities of the sitter. Portraits have almost always been flattering, and painters who refused to flatter, such as William Hogarth, tended to find their work rejected. A notable exception was Francisco Goya in his apparently bluntly truthful portraits of the Spanish royal family.

Among leading modern artists portrait painting on commission, that is to order, became increasingly rare. Instead artists painted their friends and lovers in whatever way they pleased. Most of Picasso's pictures of women, for example, however bizarre, can be identified as portraits of his lovers. At the same time, photography became the most important medium of traditional portraiture, bringing what was formerly an expensive luxury product affordable for almost everyone. Since the 1990s artists have also used video to create living portraits. But portrait painting continues to flourish.

Extract taken from the Tate website



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David Hockney Has Created His Largest Painting Ever—a 314-Foot Frieze Inspired by His Year in Lockdown

The frieze, recording a year in Normandy, was inspired by the region's historic Bayeux Tapestry.

David Hockney's biggest ever picture, *A Year In Normandy* at Salts Mill, Saltaire, West Yorkshire. The artwork joins to gather some of the 220 iPad works Hockney created throughout 2020.

For many, the lockdowns of 2020, however unwelcome, were a chance to contemplate their everyday surroundings and discover a newfound appreciation for nature.

David Hockney, who spent the year at his house in Normandy, took the opportunity to watch and record the changing seasons on his iPad.

He has now printed and stitched together all 220 pictures into one continuous frieze that, at 314 feet long, is his biggest work to date. *A Year in Normandie* is on view for the first time in the U.K., in the attic space of Salts Mill in Saltaire near Bradford, West Yorkshire.

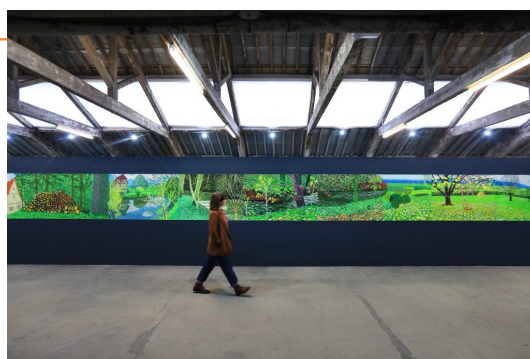
The work's form was inspired by a Chinese scroll painting that Hockney saw in 1983 at the Metropolitan Museum in New York. Recalling the occasion, he described how it was about 98 feet long "and was displayed for me in a private room. It was one of the most exciting days of my life."

The location of Normandy, where the artist has lived since 2019, also brought to mind the Bayeux Tapestry, with its dramatic scenes of the Norman Conquest. Hockney said that he hopes "the viewer... will walk past [his work] like the Bayeux Tapestry, and I hope they will experience in one picture the year in Normandy."

"A Year in Normandie" is on display until September 18, 2022. See images of the installation below.

Article written by Jo Lawson- Tancred, May 11, 2022

ArtNet.com





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TikTok: All under-16s' accounts made private

TikTok users aged under 16 will have their accounts automatically set to private, as the app introduces a series of measures to improve child safety.

Approved followers only can comment on videos from these accounts. Users will also be prevented from downloading any videos created by under-16s.

TikTok said it hoped the changes would encourage young users to “actively engage in their online privacy journey”.

“We hope to inspire them to take an active role and make informed decisions,” head of privacy Elaine Fox said.

Those aged between 13 and 15 will be able to approve "friends" for comments and choose whether to make videos public.

But those accounts will also not be "suggested" to other users on the app.

The accounts of 16- and 17-year-olds will prevent others downloading their videos - but the youngsters will have the ability to turn off this restriction.

In addition, TikTok is changing this age group's default settings to allow only their chosen friends to "duet" alongside them - the name given to a facility that allows a user to record themselves in a clip then played adjacent to an earlier recording, so they can be watched simultaneously.

Users will not be allowed to duet with clips made by under-16s.

The move comes after a [BBC News investigation revealed](#) the platform could be vulnerable to online grooming.

TikTok already has several settings in place to protect its younger users, including:

- restricting direct messaging and live streams to over-16s
- restricting the buying, selling and receiving of "virtual gifts" to adults
- enabling parents and caregivers to have greater control, with linked accounts allowing them ultimate power

The NSPCC charity welcomed the new “bold package of measures”, saying it would reduce opportunities for groomers to contact children.

Taken from; <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-55639920>

Read First!

Y7 Design and Technology
Term 1: Eames Elephant



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Charles and Ray Eames

Charles Eames, born 1907 in St. Louis, Missouri, studied architecture at Washington University in St. Louis and designed a number of houses and churches in collaboration with various partners. Ray Eames was born as Bernice Alexandra Kaiser in Sacramento, California, in 1912. She attended Bennett College in Millbrook, New York, and continued her studies in painting at the Hans Hofmann School of Fine Arts until 1937.

Charles and Ray Eames married in 1941 and moved to Los Angeles, where together they began experimenting with techniques for the three-dimensional moulding of plywood. The aim was to create comfortable chairs that were affordable. However, the war interrupted their work, and Charles and Ray turned instead to the design and development of leg splints made of plywood, which were manufactured in large quantities for the US Navy. In 1946, they exhibited their experimental furniture designs at MoMA. The Herman Miller Company in Zeeland, Michigan, subsequently began to produce Eames furniture. In addition to their work in furniture design and architecture, they also regularly turned their hand to graphic design, photography, film and exhibition design.

Eames Elephant

In the early 1940s, Charles and Ray Eames spent several years developing and refining a technique for moulding plywood into three-dimensional shapes, creating a series of furniture items and sculptures in the process. Among these initial designs, the two-part elephant proved to be the most technically challenging due to its tight compound curves, and the piece never went into serial production. One prototype, which was given to Charles's 14-year-old daughter Lucia Eames, was loaned to the Museum of Modern Art in New York for a 1946 exhibition. It is still in the possession of the Eames family today.



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"Jon's Pizza Shop" NFT Project by Jon Burgerman

NYC-based and UK-born veteran contemporary artist, Jon Burgerman, is teaming up with the Taiko NFT team to create the very first NFT collection that enables collectors to combine their pizza slices into whole pies in exchange for physical artworks and more

"Pizza is something that has been represented in a lot of my work over the years. The idea of pizza, a food we all know and love to share, provides the perfect use for the medium artistically and technically. I am thrilled to work with Taiko NFT to bring my love for Pizza to a broader community!" – Jon Burgerman

Jon Burgerman's instantly recognisable art has been exhibited all over the world from art fairs, galleries to museums to even the White House. His works are held in the permanent collections of institutions including the Victoria and Albert Museum, London and recently his digital work was acquired by the Upper Austrian Landes-Kultur museum in Linz. He creates work in a wide variety of media from paint, aerosols, digital and moving image. Online his gifs have been viewed over 9bn times and he has a dedicated following across social media.

He has collaborated with brands including Apple, Samsung, Pepsi, Lotte, Snapchat, Instagram and Nike. He's made vinyl collectable toys, picture books, apparel, fabric collections, inflatables, homeware, sportswear, underwear and many other things, including NFTs. Burgerman has had eight sell-out collections on Nifty Gateway since April 2020 and continues to be a rising star in the burgeoning scene.

Expressing creativity and having fun is key to Burgerman's practice. It's his belief that simple creative acts can allow people to change not only their world but the world around them.



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Charlie Chaplin – The Early Years

He was believed to have been born on April 16, 1889. There is some doubt whether April 16 is actually his birthday, and it is possible he was not born in 1889. There is also uncertainty about his birthplace: London or Fontainebleau, France. There is no doubt, however, as to his parentage: he was born to Charles Chaplin, Sr. and Hannah Harriette Hill (aka Lily Harley on stage), both Music Hall entertainers. His parents separated soon after his birth, leaving him in the care of his increasingly unstable mother.

In 1896, Chaplin's mother was unable to find work; Charlie and his older half-brother Sydney Chaplin had to be left in the workhouse at Lambeth, moving after several weeks to Hanwell School for Orphans and Destitute Children. His father died an alcoholic when Charlie was 12, and his mother suffered a mental breakdown, and was eventually admitted temporarily to the Cane Hill Asylum at Coulsdon (near Croydon). She died in 1928 in the United States, two years after coming to the States to live with Chaplin, by then a commercial success.

Charlie first took to the stage when, aged five, he performed in Music Hall in 1894, standing in for his mother. As a child, he was confined to a bed for weeks due to a serious illness, and, at night, his mother would sit at the window and act out what was going on outside. In 1900, aged 11, his brother helped get him the role of a comic cat in the pantomime Cinderella at the London Hippodrome. In 1903 he appeared in 'Jim, A Romance of Cockayne', followed by his first regular job, as the newspaper boy Billy in Sherlock Holmes, a part he played into 1906. This was followed by Casey's 'Court Circus' variety show, and, the following year, he became a clown in Fred Karno's 'Fun Factory' slapstick comedy company.

According to immigration records, he arrived in the United States with the Karno troupe on October 2, 1912. In the Karno Company was Arthur Stanley Jefferson, who would later become known as Stan Laurel. Chaplin and Laurel shared a room in a boarding house. Stan Laurel returned to England but Chaplin remained in the United States. Chaplin's act was seen by film producer Mack Sennett, who hired him for his studio, the Keystone Film Company.



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Charles Dickens' Father Goes to Prison

In 1824 the Dickens family reached bottom. Charles, the eldest son, had been withdrawn from school and was now set to manual work in a factory, and his father went to prison for debt. These shocks deeply affected Charles. Though hating this brief descent into the working class, he began to gain that sympathetic knowledge of its life and experiences that informed much of his future his writings. Also, the images of the prison and of the lost, oppressed, or down-trodden child feature in many novels. Much else in his character and books stemmed from this period, including, as the 20th-century novelist Angus Wilson has argued, his difficulty in understanding women: this may be traced to his bitter resentment against his mother, who had, he felt, failed disastrously at this time to appreciate his sufferings. She had wanted him to stay at work when his father's release from prison and an improvement in the family's fortunes made the boy's return to school possible. Happily, Dickens' father disagreed and Charles was sent back to school to his delight.

Dickens' Education

His schooling, interrupted and unimpressive, ended at 15. He became a clerk in a solicitor's office, then a shorthand reporter in the lawcourts (which led to him gaining a knowledge of the legal world often used in the novels), and finally, like other members of his family, a parliamentary and newspaper reporter. These years left him with a lasting affection for journalism and contempt both for the law and for Parliament.

Early Career

Much drawn to the theatre, Dickens nearly became a professional actor in 1832. In 1833 he began contributing stories and descriptive essays to magazines and newspapers. In the same year, he was invited to provide a comic story to accompany engravings by a well-known artist; seven weeks later the first installment of *The Pickwick Papers* appeared. Within a few months Pickwick was the rage and Dickens the most popular author of the day.



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President Obama on Geography Education

“The study of geography is about more than just memorizing places on a map. It’s about understanding the complexity of our world, appreciating the diversity of cultures that exists across continents. And in the end, it’s about using all that knowledge to help bridge divides and bring people together.”

Michael Palin: geography students hold the key to the world's problems

Geography is a living, breathing subject, constantly adapting itself to change. It is dynamic and relevant. For me geography is a great adventure with a purpose.

So many of the world's current issues – at a global scale and locally - boil down to geography, and need the geographers of the future to help us understand them. Global warming as it affects countries and regions, food and energy security, the degradation of land and soils from over-use and misuse, the spread of disease, the causes and consequences of migration, and the impacts of economic change on places and communities. These are just some of the challenges facing the next generation, which geographers must help solve.

It is a subject that helps young people into work. Many employers prize the knowledge and skills that studying geography can provide and geography in higher education is thriving. Geography students are among those gaining greatest satisfaction from their studies, and geography graduates have a relatively low level of unemployment. It's no wonder there is a growing demand to study the subject at university.

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History Year 7



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Though my shocked soul recoils, my tongue shall tell. There had been noticed for many days before a trembling of the earth, which did not alarm us much, but it was so particularly violent that night that it not only shook but actually overturned, as it would seem, everything about us. My mother rushed into my chamber, where she found me rising... the buildings all around us tottered, ... we therefore resolved to quit the town. A panic-stricken crowd followed us... The sea seemed to roll back upon itself, and to be driven from its banks by the convulsive motion of the earth... On the other side, a black and dreadful cloud, broken with rapid, zigzag flashes, revealed behind it variously shaped masses of flame: these last were like sheet-lightning, but much larger. Soon afterwards, the cloud began to descend, and cover the sea. It had already surrounded and concealed the island of Capr. My mother now besought, urged, even commanded me to make my escape at any rate, which, as I was young, I might easily do; as for herself, she said, her age rendered all attempts of that sort impossible... But I absolutely refused to leave her, and, taking her by the hand, compelled her to go with me. She complied with great reluctance... The ashes now began to fall upon us, though in no great quantity. I looked back; a dense dark mist seemed to be following us, spreading itself over the country like a cloud. "Let us turn out of the high-road," I said, "while we can still see, for fear that, should we fall in the road, we should be pressed to death in the dark, by the crowds that are following us." We had scarcely sat down when night came upon us, not such as we have when the sky is cloudy, or when there is no moon, but that of a room when it is shut up, and all the lights put out. You might hear the shrieks of women, the screams of children, and the shouts of men; some calling for their children, others for their parents, others for their husbands, and seeking to recognise each other by the voices that replied; one lamenting his own fate, another that of his family; some wishing to die, from the very fear of dying; some lifting their hands to the gods; but the greater part convinced that there were now no gods at all, and that the final endless night of which we have heard had come upon the world. It grew rather lighter, which we imagined to be rather the forerunner of an approaching burst of flames than the return of day: however, the fire fell at a distance from us: then again we were immersed in thick darkness, and a heavy shower of ashes rained upon us, which we were obliged every now and then to stand up to shake off, otherwise we should have been crushed and buried in the heap. I might boast that, during all this scene of horror, not a sigh, or expression of fear, escaped me, had not my support been grounded in that miserable consolation, that all mankind were involved in the same calamity, and that I was perishing with the world itself. At last this dreadful darkness was dissipated; the real day returned, and even the sun shone out. Every object that presented itself to our eyes (which were extremely weakened) seemed changed, being covered deep with ashes as if with snow.

PLINY THE YOUNGER



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Probability

In the summer of 2008, football fans could follow Euro 2008 without the stress of seeing any of the home nations knocked out on penalties (because they never managed to qualify in the first place). Take England. Out of the last eight major tournaments that they have qualified for, they have gone out on penalties five times (being knocked out by other means the other three times).

This raises an interesting question – as the opposition manager about to play England, should you play for penalties? In total, England have been involved in seven penalty shoot-outs in competition and have lost six of them – their only success coming against Spain in Euro '96. So is this 14% success rate statistically significant? How can England improve the odds of success in penalty competitions?

Penalties are supposed to be a hit and miss affair – but with a bit of practice and some mathematical analysis, England may well overcome their penalty-taking curse. Let's set up a simple scenario when taking a penalty.

- A striker can shoot either to his/her left or right, and similarly a goalkeeper can dive to his/her left or right.
- If the goalie dives to his/her left and the striker shoots to his/her left OR if the goalie dives right and the striker shoots right then a goal is scored (assuming the striker is accurate) because the goalie will be diving away from the ball.
- If the goalie dives to his/her left and the striker shoots to his/her right (or vice versa) then the goalie and the ball are reasonably close together and there is a 50% chance the goalie will save the ball.
- Let's assume that the striker is accurate when shooting left 70% of the time and 90% when shooting right.

Using mathematics we can estimate the best strategy for the striker to employ – it involves shooting to his/her left 56% of the time and to the right 44% of the time, irrespective of the goalkeeper's strategy. Overall this corresponds to scoring around 60% of the time.

Using the same mathematics we can also estimate the best strategy for the goalkeeper – it suggests diving to his/her left 69% and to the right 31% of the time. So if the striker shoots to the more accurate right side, the goalkeeper will dive more often to his/her left and increase the chances of saving the shot.



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La Francophonie

The French-speaking world

There are many French-speaking countries in the world. Together they are known as the Francophonie – the French-speaking world. Anyone who lives in a French-speaking country or speaks French as a first language can be considered part of the Francophonie.

The OIF is an official organisation comprising 57 official member states whose main language is French. The OIF is designed to bring French-speaking cultures together and share knowledge and culture.

French Canada

A large part of Canada is French-speaking. Quebec is a region of Canada whose official language is French and its culture has a strong French influence. It is the only part of Canada where French is the official language. Of the 8 million people who live in Quebec, about 80 per cent speak French. Tourist information will often be given in both French and English and many people will often speak English and French. However, there are laws in place to restrict the amount of English that can be used in shops. Quebec is keen to protect its French language and culture.

Africa

Over 100 million people speak French across 31 different African countries such as Tunisia, Morocco, Algeria, Ivory Coast and Senegal. Algeria has been influenced by many cultures and it was under French rule from 1830-1962. Arabic, Berber and French are the languages spoken today. It covers 2.4 million sq km making it the largest country on the African continent and the 10th largest country in the world.

French is also spoken in the Northern African countries of Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia which have all had French influences.

USA

France had colonies in the USA, especially in the south in Louisiana and New Orleans. French is still spoken in Louisiana today.

South America

In French Guiana the official languages are French and Creole. It is the only French-speaking territory in South America.

The Caribbean

The official languages of **Guadeloupe** are French and Creole. The capital city is Basse-Terre. It has been a region of France since the 1980s.

In **Martinique** they also speak French and Creole. Fort-de-France is the capital city and the country produces bananas, petrol and rum. It has been occupied by France since 1635 although it has been occupied by Britain at different times since then.

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4 Things to Know Before Visiting Spain

Many assume they know what Spain is all about - siestas, paella and sangria right? However the country is so diverse and complex, this is far from the truth. To help you get to know the real Spain and sort the fact from the fiction, here are 10 things you should know before visiting.

People eat very late

Spaniards across the country eat very late – lunch is around 2pm and dinner is eaten at around 9pm or 10pm even. You'll have to adjust your meal times when you visit as most restaurants don't open or start serving meals until at least 8pm or later in the evenings. Don't worry though, tapas is usually available throughout the day, so you won't go hungry.

Most people don't actually sleep during siesta time

The siesta has always been the part of Spanish culture that the rest of the world envies, but it's not really what people think. Yes most shops and businesses close between 2pm and 4pm, but that doesn't mean people actually sleep. Most of the time they just go home to eat lunch and spend time with their family. You might only sleep if you're a toddler or an elderly person. When the shops re-open, Spanish are back at work until 8pm or 9pm.

Spanish isn't the only official language in Spain

The Spanish speak many different languages and will greatly appreciate you learning a few words of the local language before you go. In Catalonia, Catalan is spoken, you'll see it on all the signs and most of the menus too. In Valencia and the Balearic Islands, various dialects of Catalan are also considered official languages. In the Basque Country, in northern Spain, Basque is spoken, while in Galicia, you'll hear Galician, which shares many similarities with Portuguese.

Paella and Sangria are not available everywhere

Paella is from Spain's Valencia region, and while you can find it widely across Andalusia and many of the touristy restaurants in Barcelona, it's not a typical dish that's eaten everywhere. In the Basque Country and Galicia for example, you're more likely to find *pintxos*, cod or octopus on the menus, rather than paella. Sangria is really only a drink for tourists too (sorry) – you won't see many locals drinking it. If you want something more typical, try a *tinto de verano* (summer wine)

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Form and Structure

When a composer is writing a piece of music, they must plan their work every bit as carefully as an architect designing a building. In each case, the finished work must have continuity, balance and shape – or form. But whereas architecture is concerned with a balance in space, music is a balance in time. In music, we use the form to describe the way in which a composer achieves this balance by arranging and setting in order their musical ideas – the way in which they design and build up the music. We can think of the form of a piece of music as being the overall structure of the piece. But the composer must add to their basic structure with interesting detail and to do this, they use a variety of musical materials. Even in a fairly short piece of music, a composer rarely finds that one musical idea is enough. But too many ideas, following each other in a haphazard fashion, would make the music appear disorganised and without purpose – to lack form and structure. So, they must aim at a careful balance between the two basic ingredients of all musical forms and structures: repetition and contrast.

Repetition and Contrast Some repetition and contrast of musical ideas is necessary in order to bind the music together – to bring unity to the piece. Some melodies may be heard twice, or even more, during a piece. Think of these as 'musical landmarks' to help you find your way around the music. It is also very important, however, for the composer to introduce new and contrasting ideas, so that the music has variety and interest and doesn't become boring! Composers can do this in several ways. The most likely is that they will bring in a new tune or melody. But there are other ways of making musical contrasts including a change of key (major to minor or minor to major), rhythm, tempo, dynamics, mood, texture, timbre/sonority and duration. A composer may only use one of these at a time, or they may use several, depending upon how striking a contrast they wish it to be.



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Where and when does the text refer to?

Why?

What is the purpose of this text? Who was it produced by?
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Rhythm and Pulse

The importance of pulse

Pulse is important – a central element in almost all music from the simplest song to the most complicated piece for orchestra. We may not always be aware of it, but without it, we would find it very hard to make any sense of music at all. Just as music contains pulse patterns, so does much poetry and verse and when some poetry is read aloud, you can hear a pattern of accents within the words – a regular pulse. Rapping is another style of music where pulse is important. Here, the performer speaks or recites the words to a very rhythmical accompaniment although here, much more freedom is allowed in the way in which the words fit with the accents.

The word **rhythm** is used to describe the various ways in which a composer groups together musical sounds, mainly with regard to **duration** (the lengths of different sounds, long or short, in relation to each other) and also *stress* or **accent**. An accent gives particular emphasis to a certain musical beat which is performed more noticeably than unaccented beats. Accents are an **articulation** marking and the musical symbol for an accent is >.

Usually, going along in the background (either heard, or merely felt) there will be a pattern of regular **beats** – the steady 'pulse' or 'heart-beat' of the music, against which the ear measure rhythm. By 'beating time' (also known as **conducting**) as we listen to music – even 'tapping out feet to the beat' – we are making the number of beats to a bar.

Some beats carry a stronger accent than others. And so we sense that the beats are grouped into equal units – called **bars** – forming a repeating pattern made up of either twos, threes or fours. This gives us the **time** or **metre** of the music. The first beat of a bar usually carries the strongest accent.



Vocabulary Check

What are the most unfamiliar or difficult words in this text?

3,2,1

Identify three key points from the text, two key words to remember and one big idea about the text.

6 Word Summary

Can you summarise the whole text in just one short, six-word sentence?

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The Importance of PE

Physical Education (PE) develops students' competence and confidence to take part in a range of physical activities that become a central part of their lives, both in and out of school.

A high-quality PE curriculum enables all students to enjoy and succeed in many kinds of physical activity. They develop a wide range of skills and the ability to use tactics, strategies and compositional ideas to perform successfully. When they are performing, they think about what they are doing, they analyse the situation and make decisions. They also reflect on their own and others' performances and find ways to improve upon them. As a result, they develop the confidence to take part in different physical activities and learn about the value of healthy, active lifestyles.

Discovering what they like to do, what their aptitudes are at school, and how and where to get involved in physical activity helps them make informed choices about lifelong physical activity. PE helps students develop personally and socially. They work as individuals, in groups and in teams, developing concepts of fairness and of personal and social responsibility. They take on different roles and responsibilities, including leadership, coaching and officiating.

Through the range of experiences that PE offers, they learn how to be effective in competitive, creative and challenging situations.

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WHY GAVIN PEACOCK IS GOING FOR GREATER GLORY

Former football player and TV pundit Gavin Peacock has released an autobiography of his progression from pitch to pulpit.



When former football star Gavin Peacock hung up his football boots no-one ever expected him to transition from the pitch to the pulpit to pursue a greater glory. Following a glittering career playing in an FA Cup final, being captain for Newcastle, Chelsea and QPR he then worked as a BBC Match of the Day pundit.

But in 2008 Gavin walked away from his high-profile life and moved with his wife and two children to Canada where he became the associate minister of Calvary Grace Church of Calgary.

Gavin's journey towards full-time Christian ministry began for him as an 18-year-old looking for meaning in his life. "My father, Keith, was a professional for Charlton and all I ever wanted to do was follow in his footsteps," remembers Gavin now aged 53.

"I finally achieved my goal when I signed for Queen's Park Rangers who were in the top flight then. Being a professional footballer gave me happiness, satisfaction and identity. I had a great career, good money and fame and adulation. But it didn't really satisfy as I thought it would, because football was my god. Then one Sunday evening I went along to Barnehurst Methodist Church with my mother, just across the road from our house in Kent."

TURNING POINT

After the service the church minister invited Gavin back to his house for a youth meeting, which proved to be the turning point in his life.

"When I walked into the room that night, everyone had such joy when they spoke about Jesus Christ that I didn't have. Over the next couple of weeks the minister unpacked the gospel for me. I realised that my greatest need wasn't the approval of the crowd on a Saturday but being in right relationship with the living God. I believed the gospel and was saved."

And Gavin didn't shy away from telling his fellow players about his new-found faith. "I was very honest with the guys straight away. When you live with a bunch of players for ten months of the year they find out what you do at the weekend. So, I just started telling them that I'd become a Christian. They watched me to see if my walk matched my talk. I also found a new freedom in my life knowing that my identity no longer depended on my performances on the field. Before, football was my god and every sense of wellbeing, identity and purpose was tied up in that. Now it was tied up in Jesus Christ. I was free to work to the best of my ability to compete hard which actually made me the best footballer I could be. "Football is great, but Jesus is greater. Football is temporary but Jesus is eternal."

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How do forensic scientists use DNA?

Every human has unique DNA (except for identical twins who share the same DNA, as they both came from the same initial cell). Forensic scientists use the unique nature of DNA to help catch criminals.

They collect human cells left at a crime scene, perhaps from blood, saliva or hair. The forensic scientists then extract DNA from the cells, analyse it and make a DNA profile.

The DNA profile is then checked against a database of other profiles. If there is a match, it could be used as evidence.

Genetic profiling can be controversial. The advantages are that DNA profiles can be used to place suspects at a crime scene. This evidence is incredibly reliable because it is very unlikely that two people would share the same DNA profile (except for identical twins).

Unfortunately, there are some disadvantages of using this technique. The storage of a person's DNA profile can be seen as an invasion of privacy. Also, there is a real threat of theft of the DNA profiles from the database they are stored in. It is also possible to plant DNA at a crime scene giving false evidence, or an innocent person's DNA might be at the scene even though they had nothing to do with the crime.



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Custom Leg Brace Gives Adorable Giraffe Calf A New Lease On Life

A four-month-old giraffe calf at the San Diego Zoo Safari Park in Escondido, California, is finally standing tall thanks to a custom brace. Msituni, which means "in the forest" in Swahili, was born on Feb. 1, 2022, with her front legs bending improperly. The abnormality put a lot of pressure on the calf's joints and bones, making it hard for Msituni to nurse or walk around her enclosed habitat. Zoo officials worried that the calf would probably die if the condition was left untreated.

The experts initially tried to resolve the issue by fitting the baby giraffe with off-the-shelf medical-grade braces. However, after they proved ineffective, the experts reached out to Dr. Ara Mirzaian at San Diego's Hanger Clinic. The experienced clinician has been creating custom braces for humans for over three decades. But he had never worked with a giraffe before.

"It was pretty surreal when I first heard about it," Mirzaian told *The Associated Press*. "Of course, all I did was go online and study giraffes for like 24/7 until we got out here."

Mirzaian knew that the braces would need to have a wide range of motion and be durable. He reached out to a company that specializes in making braces for horses. It took the company just eight days to create a custom brace for Msituni using carbon graphite. The lightweight material is five times stronger than steel and can withstand a lot of pressure from patient use.

The braces helped correct Msituni's condition, and, within two months, she was able to walk on her own. The calf now spends her days prancing around the park's 60-acre East Africa savanna habitat with the rest of the giraffes.

Msituni is not the first animal that owes its life to the experts at the Hanger Clinic. They also created the prosthetic tail for Winter, the world's most beloved bottlenose dolphin. The feat was the focus of the 2011 super hit movie "Dolphin Tale," with Winter in the starring role.