

11 Born to create

Colour idioms

a golden opportunity	This internship is a golden opportunity for me; I get the chance to see what my dream job is like!	eine einmalige Gelegenheit
a green belt	A long strip of untouched land forms a green belt that stretches almost across the entire city.	Grünanlage
a white lie	When Meghan asked Yannick if he liked her music, he told a white lie rather than hurt her feelings.	eine Notlüge
black and white	Some situations aren't black and white and easy to understand; they are more complicated and nuanced than they appear.	schwarz-weiß
once in a blue moon	Once in a blue moon, Brandon's grandmother would take him and his brother to go bowling, but it was not a frequent occurrence.	alle heiligen Zeiten einmal
out of the blue	She was walking down the street when suddenly, out of the blue, a bird flew down and landed on her shoulder.	aus heiterem Himmel, aus dem Nichts
to be green with envy	After Anna saw how many more blueberries Darla had picked, she was green with envy the whole way home.	grün vor Neid sein
to be in the red	After a tough year of business, Jeanette's hair salon was in the red.	im Minus, in den roten Zahlen
to have green fingers (BE) / to have a green thumb (AE)	Betty has green fingers/a green thumb; she can make any plant grow!	einen grünen Daumen haben
to see red	As she watched her rival receive a gold medal after cheating in the race, Eliana saw red, she was so angry.	rot sehen, wütend werden

Describing a painting

describing lines		
blurred	My painting got rained on and all of the lines are blurred!	unscharf, verschwommen, verwischt
broken	Raven put a straw in a glass of water and looked at the broken line it made when she looked at it through the side of the glass.	unterbrochen, durchbrochen
curved	She drew ocean waves with a lot of curved lines.	gebogen, gewölbt, gekrümmt, geschwungen
diagonal	Felix drew a diagonal line through two opposite corners of the square on his drawing pad.	diagonal
freehand	A freehand line is not going to be as straight as one drawn with a ruler.	freihändig, Freihand-

horizontal	The artist drew the fence with a series of long horizontal lines that stretch from left to right.	horizontal
straight	Anyone using a ruler can draw a straight line.	gerade
thick / thin	I have a pen that draws both very thick and very thin lines, depending on the angle you hold it at.	dick / dünn
vertical	The sides of the building were made up of vertical boards nailed on in an upright position.	vertikal
describing shape		
angular	A lot of modern art is very angular and has a lot of straight lines and clearly defined shapes.	eckig, kantig
curvaceous	Many old paintings depict women as being curvaceous.	kurvig, üppig, kurvenreich
distorted	My feet looked distorted under the water, almost as if they had been flattened out!	verzerrt, verfälscht, deformiert
elongated	The pond looked like an elongated circle or the silhouette of a pear.	länglich, langgestreckt
free-form	Free-form drawings can often look a bit out-of-proportion because the lines are done completely by hand.	frei geformt, in freier Form
geometric	Michaela's shirt had a geometric pattern with lots of colourful triangles and squares.	geometrisch
organic	The clay vase, with its many soft lines and vaguely round form, had a nice organic shape and was pleasing to the eye.	organisch (an natürlichen Formen orientiert)
describing colour		
bright	The paint in our upstairs bathroom is a very bright yellow; it practically glows in the dark.	hell, leuchtend
calm	This blue shade is a very calm ocean blue.	ruhig
clear	Many painters apply clear varnish to a finished painting to make the colours appear richer and prettier.	transparent
colourful	The only thing more colourful than this picture would be a real-life rainbow!	bunt, farbenprächtig
complementary	One artist only painted in complementary colours.	komplementär
contrasting	Many contrasting colours look good together, even though they're from opposite sides of the colour wheel.	gegensätzlich, kontrastierend
cool	Light purple and dark blue are examples of cool colours.	kühl
dark	I prefer wearing dark colours because I think it makes me look mysterious.	dunkel

pale	The foggy scene made all parts of the painting appear pale.	blass
saturated	The colour of the rainforest was a deeply saturated emerald green.	gesättigt
vibrant	Every single colour was so vibrant; I couldn't take my eyes off the photograph.	lebhaft, kräftig, lebendig
warm	I loved the warm colours in the watercolour painting of the sunset.	warm
describing space		
in the middle ground / background / foreground	In the middle ground / background / foreground you can see a fence and a small fox disappearing into his burrow.	in der Mitte / im Hintergrund / im Vordergrund
in the upper / lower left / right corner / in the middle	In the middle, there is a large meadow with tons of wildflowers.	in der oberen / unteren / linken / rechten Ecke / in der Mitte
on the left / right	On the left, you'll see the room where we put our coats.	auf der linken / rechten Seite
diagonally across from	The dog is sitting diagonally across from a person who is holding a leash.	schräg gegenüber von
to the right / left of	There's a beautiful sunflower painted to the left of the front window of the house, just to the right of the detailed door handle.	rechts / links von
beside	Cindy could just barely see the tiny black and white bird the artist had painted beside the lake.	neben
Graffiti art		
to commit a crime	The artist admitted having committed a crime when he was younger, but all he did was paint an owl on the wall of a train station.	ein Verbrechen / eine Straftat begehen
to be an illegal act of vandalism	Officially, painting a wall that belongs to the public is an illegal act of vandalism.	ein illegaler Vandalismus-Akt sein
to be a form of an artistic expression	Graffiti and mural art are also a form of artistic expression.	eine Form des künstlerischen Ausdrucks sein
to transform a blank and decaying wall into art	It's amazing to watch someone transform a blank and decaying wall into art.	eine leere und verfallende Wand in Kunst verwandeln
to create a piece of artwork on a building	Many artists are commissioned to create a piece of artwork on a building.	ein Kunstwerk an einem Gebäude schaffen
to incorporate existing graffiti in one's artwork	Bernie tries to incorporate any existing graffiti in his artwork; he sees his work as a collaboration.	ein vorhandenes Graffiti in einem Kunstwerk einbauen / integrieren
to have graffiti removed by professional cleaners	Sometimes the city governments will have graffiti removed by professional cleaners.	Graffiti von professionellen Reinigungskräften entfernen lassen
to be an act of rebellion and revolution	Spraying a piece of art on a wall is often an act of rebellion and revolution.	ein Akt der Rebellion und Revolution sein
to make a political statement	Some artists aim to make a specific political statement with their pieces.	eine politische Aussage / ein politisches Statement machen

to be afraid of getting caught by the police	Phil was always afraid of getting caught by the police when he sprayed in areas closer to the centre of town.	Angst haben, von der Polizei erwischt zu werden
to (not) cause deliberate damage or defacement of an object / structure	As long as artists don't cause deliberate damage or defacement of an object or structure, many policemen will look the other way.	eine/keine absichtliche Beschädigung oder Verunstaltung eines Objekts / eines Bauwerks verursachen
to be a controversial subject	This rather-rebellious art form is still a controversial subject for many.	ein umstrittenes Thema sein
to be a response to society	Famous works by established artists are often a response to society.	eine Reaktion auf die Gesellschaft sein

What art really is

to stroll through an art exhibit	Karlo strolls through an art exhibit and only stops at pieces that provoke an emotion from him.	durch eine Kunstausstellung schlendern
to catch one's eye	She caught my eye because she was carrying paintbrushes.	die Aufmerksamkeit auf sich ziehen, jemandem ins Auge springen
to settle the debate on art	Many people have tried to settle the debate on art, and no one has managed to do it yet.	die Debatte über Kunst beenden
to affect one's interpretation of an artwork	Elijah's individual experiences affect his interpretation of an artwork.	die Interpretation eines Kunstwerks beeinflussen
to toss around a question	The question of how to measure the quality of an artwork has been tossed around by art historians for centuries.	eine Frage wälzen / diskutieren
to lose all meaning	The artist said that without the belief that she had managed to put real emotion on canvas, her artwork would lose all meaning.	jegliche Bedeutung verlieren
to advocate for a middle ground	Wherever there is conflict, it can be helpful to advocate for a middle ground.	für einen Mittelweg plädieren
to reject an art theory	Orien rejects most art theories that connect art with psychology.	eine Kunsttheorie ablehnen
to engage someone in a conversation	The artist was in the gallery after the opening, and I really wanted to engage her in a conversation about her artistic inspiration.	jemanden in ein Gespräch verwickeln
to dictate someone's understanding and ultimately their response	Society dictates a person's understanding of an artwork and ultimately their response to it.	das eigene Verständnis und letztlich die Reaktion darauf diktieren

A career as an artist

to be a difficult industry to get into	Gracie knows that the art and theatre branch is a difficult industry to get into.	eine schwierige Branche sein, um sich zu etablieren
to be able to create anything you want from your ideas and work processes	Artists are able to create anything they want from their ideas and work processes.	in der Lage sein, aus den eigenen Ideen und Arbeitsprozessen alles zu machen, was man will
to be assertive	Maisie is assertive when she asks for feedback on her work, and I think people respect her for that.	durchsetzungsfähig / bestimmt sein

to be brave	Laszlo was so brave when he stood up to a fellow member of the youth parliament who was making rude comments.	mutig sein
to be detail-oriented	Most artists are very detail-oriented, because the small details are often what turns an average painting into an incredible one.	detailorientiert sein, detailgenau arbeiten
to be genuine	Leonardo is a very genuine person and always comes across as authentic.	aufrichtig / echt sein
to be hard-working	It's crucial to be hard-working if you want to earn a living in a creative field.	(sehr) fleißig sein, hart arbeiten
to be independent	Violet is fiercely independent and always wants to do everything by herself.	unabhängig sein
to be innovative	Darius has always been innovative with his ways of painting.	innovativ sein
to be lonely work	Both writing and doing creative things can be lonely work at times.	einsame Arbeit sein
to be misunderstood and misinterpreted	Creative people and their work are often misunderstood and misinterpreted.	missverstanden und fehlinterpretiert / falsch verstanden werden
to be one's own boss	Tori felt that it was very empowering to be her own boss.	sein eigener Chef/seine eigene Chefin sein
to be rewarding	Being surrounded by so much inspiration and creativity is rewarding.	bereichernd sein
to be willing to stand up for one's creativity and ideas	It takes courage to be willing to stand up for your creativity and ideas.	bereit sein, für die eigene Kreativität und die eigenen Ideen einzustehen
to get rejected	Flora got rejected from her top art school at the time but ended up as an artist-in-residence at a university in Scotland.	abgelehnt / abgewiesen werden
to have a good work ethic	Laurie has a good work ethic and feels optimistic about her chances in the creative world.	eine gute Arbeitsmoral haben
to have no regular income	Victor has no regular income, so there are some downsides to being an artist as well.	kein regelmäßiges Einkommen haben
to have to deal with lots of criticism	Julia has to deal with lots of criticism because she never really learned how to paint realistic-looking portraits.	mit viel Kritik umgehen müssen
to make one's own decisions	Mika makes his own decisions about what he creates and sells.	eigene Entscheidungen treffen
to not have regular working hours	Artists generally do not have regular working hours.	keine geregelten Arbeitszeiten haben
Art censorship		
to omit a writer from the <i>Booker Prize</i> shortlist	Authorities omitted a writer from the <i>Booker Prize</i> shortlist.	einen Autor/eine Autorin nicht in die engere Auswahlliste des <i>Booker Preises</i> aufnehmen

to offend feminist viewpoints	Certain art projects offended feminist viewpoints and had to be removed from the public exhibit.	feministische Standpunkte verletzen
to defend the right of authors and artists to be offensive and straightforward	Margaret defends the right of authors and artists to be offensive and straightforward because she sees art as a “rule-free” field.	das Recht von Autoren/Autorinnen und Künstlern/Künstlerinnen verteidigen, anzuecken und sich kein Blatt vor den Mund zu nehmen
to exert one’s influence to keep certain topics out of print	A few years ago there was a rumour that certain gallery owners had exerted their influence to keep certain topics out of print.	den persönlichen Einfluss geltend machen, bestimmte Themen aus der Presse rauszuhalten
to address hot issues	Art often addresses hot issues that can strike a nerve with some people.	heiß umstrittene Themen ansprechen / thematisieren
to tone down a script’s language	To make it more accessible, film directors will sometimes tone down a script’s language.	die Sprache eines Drehbuchs abmildern / abschwächen
to confront the truth	Zee decided to confront the truth and investigate the corruption that had occurred at the museum where she worked.	der Wahrheit ins Auge sehen
to emotionalise a debate	People who have a lot to lose from a decision can emotionalise a debate very quickly.	eine Debatte emotionalisieren
to narrow the focus	Glenn narrowed his focus in later years and concentrated primarily on portraits.	das Hauptaugenmerk eingrenzen
to emphasise the importance of collaborating and communicating face-to-face	Artists from all over the world emphasise the importance of collaborating and communicating face-to-face, as it leads to more creativity.	die Wichtigkeit der Zusammenarbeit und der Kommunikation von Angesicht zu Angesicht betonen
to enable democracy	When you allow artists to have contradicting opinions in the same space, you enable democracy.	Demokratie ermöglichen
to have the right to one’s own thoughts	Chris is of the opinion that everyone has the right to their own thoughts, even if those aren’t politically correct or nice.	das Recht auf eigene Gedanken haben
to provide room for public discussion	The best exhibits provide room for public discussion of the art form.	Raum für öffentliche Diskussion bieten
to be manipulative	Gallery organisers can be manipulative and sometimes leave young artists second-guessing the value of their own art.	manipulativ sein
to be shocking	Although the photographs taken in war zones around the world were shocking, they also showed humans being willing to help each other, which was beautiful.	schockierend sein
to offend people’s viewpoints	Even something very small can offend people’s viewpoints if they are sensitive.	Menschen in ihren Sichtweisen/ Meinungen kränken / zu nahe treten
to be provocative	Some of the best art and theatre productions are provocative.	angriffig / provokant sein
to be a human right	Self-expression is a human right.	ein Menschenrecht sein
to help with decision-making	Taking a moment to think objectively helps with decision-making.	bei der Entscheidungsfindung helfen