

# The Mona Lisa

**1** Are these statements true or false? Check your answers by reading the text.

1. The Mona Lisa was painted by Leonardo da Vinci.
2. The Mona Lisa was painted in the fifteenth century.
3. The painting was bought by the King of France.
4. The painting was stolen in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.
5. Around a million people visit the Mona Lisa every year.

## The Mona Lisa

**It's the most famous smile in the world.**

**But how much do you know about the Mona Lisa?**

### The Subject

For many years, historians couldn't agree on the identity of the woman in the painting. However, we now know that the subject is Lisa del Giocondo, who came from a wealthy family in Florence.

### The Artist

The Mona Lisa was painted by Leonardo Da Vinci from around 1503 to 1506. He is one of the most famous Italian Renaissance painters, and he worked both in Italy and in France.

### The History of the Painting

The Mona Lisa was bought by the King of France. It stayed with the royal family until the French Revolution. It was later displayed in the Louvre.

The painting was stolen in 1911. Luckily, it was found, and returned to the Louvre in 1913.



The Mona Lisa was damaged twice in the twentieth century. It was covered with acid in 1956, and later that year, it was hit by a rock.

### The Mona Lisa Today

Around seven million people view the Mona Lisa each year. It can be very stressful for the museum staff who have to control the crowds. However, with the popularity of books such as 'The Da Vinci Code', the Mona Lisa will continue to be the world's most famous painting.

**2 Writing Fill in the spaces using a word from the box in the correct form.**

<b>steal</b>	<b>display</b>	<b>paint</b>	<b>buy</b>	<b>damage</b>
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1. The Mona Lisa ..... in the 16<sup>th</sup> century.
2. The painting ..... by the King of France.
3. It ..... in 1911.
4. The Mona Lisa ..... twice in 1956.
5. Today, the painting ..... in the Louvre.

**3 Writing Write questions for the sentences in exercise two.**

1. When was \_\_\_\_\_
2. Who was \_\_\_\_\_
3. When \_\_\_\_\_
4. In 1956, how many times \_\_\_\_\_
5. Today, where \_\_\_\_\_

**4 Speaking Work with a partner.**

Ask your partner the questions from exercise three. Swap roles when finished.

**5 Discussion Ask your partner(s) these questions. Ask follow-up questions too.**

1. Do you think the Mona Lisa is the best painting in the world?
2. Why do you think the Mona Lisa is so famous?
3. Who is the most famous artist in your country? What do you think of his/her paintings?
4. Do you like art? Which artists / paintings do you like?
5. Your ideas!

# The Mona Lisa: Teaching Notes

<b>Target Structure:</b>	Past Simple Passive
<b>Vocabulary:</b>	General
<b>Level:</b>	Elementary to Pre-Intermediate
<b>Time:</b>	45 minutes, depending on discussion
<b>Preparation:</b>	None

## Suggested Teaching Method

**This worksheet covers vocabulary, reading and discussion practice. It also gives your students the chance to practice the formation of basic passive forms.**

- 1 Give one worksheet to each student. Direct your students' attention to the title, and to the picture. As a warm-up, find out if anyone has seen the Mona Lisa, or knows someone who has.

Students should then read through the five True / False questions. Answer any vocabulary questions. Do the first question (purposefully very easy) with the group. Encourage students to guess when they don't know if an answer is true or false.

Students can read through the text to check their answers. Go through the answers with the group, and find out which student had the highest score in the quiz.

- 2 If necessary, give a brief presentation on the formation of the past (and present) simple passive.

Students can work alone, and check in pairs. Go through the answers with the class. Note that the final answer is in the present simple passive.

- 3 Do the first question as an example, so that the students can see that the answers to the questions are the sentences in exercise two.

Students can work alone, and check in pairs. Go through the answers with the class.

- 4 Assign new pairs, and each pair as 'A' and 'B'. Student 'A' should turn the worksheet over. Student 'B' then asks the questions in exercise three. Student 'A' should answer.

When finished, students can switch roles.

- 5 Leave plenty of time for class discussion. If you think these questions are too difficult, or not challenging enough, adjust them to suit the level of your class.

To maximize student talking time, it's best to put students in pairs, or small groups. Students should read all the questions first, before beginning the discussion.

Encourage eye contact and follow up questions. Some discussion phrases might also come in useful. On the board, write "I know what you mean." , "Yeah, but on the other hand.." and other such useful phrases, if you think it would be of benefit to your students.

While the students are speaking, monitor the conversations, but try not to interrupt. When the discussion comes to a close, ask a few of the questions yourself, and go through any points of English you made a note of while monitoring.

**The answer key can be found on the next page.**

**Answer Key (Other answers may be possible.)**

- 1**
1. The Mona Lisa was painted by Leonardo da Vinci. **True**
  2. The Mona Lisa was painted in the fifteenth century. **False**
  3. The painting was bought by the King of France. **True**
  4. The painting was stolen in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. **True**
  5. Around a million people visit the Mona Lisa every year. **False**
- 2**
1. The Mona Lisa was painted in the 16<sup>th</sup> century.
  2. The painting was bought by the King of France.
  3. It was stolen in 1911.
  4. The Mona Lisa was damaged twice in 1956.
  5. Today, the painting is displayed in the Louvre.
- 3**
1. When was the Mona Lisa painted?
  2. Who was the painting bought by?
  3. When was the Mona Lisa stolen?
  4. In 1956, how many times was the Mona Lisa damaged?
  5. Today, where is the Mona Lisa displayed?

**How are we doing?**

We'd be pleased to hear some feedback on our worksheets. Send your comments to [editor@handoutsonline.com](mailto:editor@handoutsonline.com)

If you would like the latest information on our worksheets, please subscribe to our newsletter.

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