

UNIT 2 CULTURE VULTURE

IN THIS UNIT YOU

- learn language for expressing opinions and talking about cultural activities
- listen to people giving their opinions about books
- write about a famous cultural icon
- read a film review
- talk about cultural activities that you enjoy
- learn to challenge cultural stereotypes
- ▶ watch a video about a cultural festival

LISTENING

identifying speakers' opinions

What kinds of key words can help you identify people's opinions when you listen?

WRITING

linking sentences

What words are there in your language to indicate reasons and results? Do you know some of these words in English?


LIFE SKILLS

SELF & SOCIETY

challenging cultural stereotypes

Do you travel to different countries? Do you have friends from different cultures? Are there differences in customs and behaviour?



A  Work in pairs. Do the culture quiz and test your cultural knowledge!



Name the pop star



Name the film



Name the composer




Name the play



Name the artist

HOW TO SAY IT
Identifying people 

- The name of that ... is ...
- That's ... He's/She's/It's ...
- I can't remember the name of this person/play/city.
- They made a film of this book/play.
- He/She lives/lived in ...

B  Share your answers with your classmates. What else do you know about the things and people in the pictures?

- A:** That's Beyoncé. I think she's American.
- B:** Yes, that's right. She's from Texas, and she lives in ...

VOCABULARY: adjectives for expressing opinions

A Look at the adjectives and write (+) for positive and (-) for negative. Then match each adjective to its synonym.

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------|
| 1 very good — | a) incredible |
| 2 strange — | b) ridiculous |
| 3 boring — | c) hilarious |
| 4 amazing — | d) brilliant |
| 5 very interesting — | e) rubbish |
| 6 very silly — | f) fascinating |
| 7 very bad — | g) weird |
| 8 very funny — | h) dull |

B Choose the correct adjective to complete the sentences.

- Dali's paintings are very **weird** / **dull**. They have all kinds of strange objects and shapes.
- In my opinion, horror films are so **fascinating** / **ridiculous**. They're very unrealistic, so they aren't scary.
- To me, opera is **dull** / **brilliant**. I just don't think it's an interesting art form.
- That was such a **hilarious** / **rubbish** film. I couldn't stop laughing.
- Shakespeare's plays are **brilliant** / **weird**. The stories are great!
- Abstract art is **incredible** / **rubbish** to me. I don't understand it, but I really like it!

C  Work in pairs. Give your opinions about the following art forms. Give reasons.

reality TV shows classical music hip-hop dancing modern sculpture

- A:** In my opinion, reality TV shows are really interesting because I like to watch real people.
B: Really? I think they're boring. The people don't do anything interesting.

GRAMMAR: comparatives with *as ... as* / *not as ... as*

A  **05 LANGUAGE IN CONTEXT** Listen to a conversation between two friends at a photography exhibition. Which picture do both women like?

- Sarah:** So, which picture is your favourite?
Kate: Well, I love the picture of the flowers. You know, the black and white one.
Sarah: Yeah, I like that one, too, but it isn't as nice as the picture of the elephant. That's amazing!
Kate: I don't know. I thought it was silly.
Sarah: Did you see that picture of the chair? Now, that was silly!
Kate: Yeah, but I thought the picture of the elephant was just as silly as the picture of the chair. They were both weird. I didn't understand them at all.
Sarah: Maybe we're just not as clever as everyone else.
Kate: You're probably right!



B ANALYSE Read the conversation in Exercise A again.

Form Complete the table with examples from Exercise A.

Affirmative

be + as + adjective + as

The picture of the elephant was just (1) _____

_____ the picture of the chair.

They were both weird.

Negative

be not + as + adjective + as

It (2) _____

_____ the picture of the elephant. That's amazing!

NOTICE!

Underline the sentences in the conversation with *as ... as*. What word comes between the first and second *as*?

Function Read the examples below. Then match the halves of the sentences to complete the rules.

This painting is as expensive as that one. = Both paintings are the same price.
This painting isn't as expensive as that one. = This painting is less expensive than that one.
 = That painting is more expensive than this one.

- 1 We use *as ... as* to say that a) one thing is more or less than another thing.
 2 We use *not as ... as* to say that b) two things are equal in some way.

C PRACTISE Complete the opinions with *be + (not) as ... as* and the adjective in brackets.

- 1 To me, modern dance _____ (good) ballet. I like them both equally.
 2 I like hip-hop dancing because it _____ (weird) other types of modern dance. It's better.
 3 Classical music _____ (boring) jazz. Jazz is much more boring.
 4 I think the special effects in the old *Star Wars* films _____ (amazing) modern special effects. They were brilliant!
 5 Do you think these photos _____ (interesting) those ones? I can't decide.
 6 In my opinion, plays can be _____ (realistic) films if the actors are good.



D **NOW YOU DO IT** Work in groups. Use *be + (not) as ... as* to talk about things from the categories below. Use adjectives from Exercise A and any other adjectives that you want to use.

WHAT'S RIGHT?

- Modern dance is as difficult as ballet.
 Modern dance is as difficult than ballet.

- | | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| two genres or periods of art | two types of music | two TV programmes | two bands or musicians |
| two museums in your town | two concerts | two types of dance | two genres of films |

- A: *Modern art isn't as good as traditional art. I prefer realistic paintings.*
 B: *I agree. The artists definitely aren't as talented.*
 C: *I don't agree. I think modern art is better than traditional art. It's more interesting.*

PRONUNCIATION: *as ... as / not as ... as*

A **06** Listen to these sentences. Which word is stressed, the adjective or *as ... as*?

- 1 I think Spain is as beautiful as Italy.
 2 In my opinion, museums aren't as dull as art galleries.

B Now listen again and repeat the sentences. Use the correct stress.

C **07** Work in pairs. Practise saying these sentences. Remember to stress the correct words. Listen and check.

- 1 Latin music is as good as rock music.
 2 I don't think painting is as interesting as taking photos.
 3 London isn't as big as São Paulo.
 4 Many people think that trains are not as comfortable as cars.

LISTENING: identifying speakers' opinions

⚙️ Listen for words and phrases that tell you a person's opinion. They can be adjectives such as *amazing* or *boring*, or verbs such as *like*, *don't like* and *enjoy*. A person's tone of voice can also indicate what his or her opinion is.

A **🔊 08** Listen to two women talking about a book. Choose the words each woman uses to talk about it.

Meg:

brilliant fascinating dull strange great interesting

Lauren:

brilliant fascinating dull strange great interesting



B Listen again and choose the correct answers. How do you know?

- 1 Meg **liked** / **didn't like** the book.
- 2 Lauren **liked** / **didn't like** the book.

C **🔊 09** Now listen to five other people talking about books. Choose the correct option to complete the sentences.

- 1 Speaker 1 says he ...
 - a) liked a different book more.
 - b) thought the book was amazing.
- 2 Speaker 2 thought the book was ...
 - a) interesting.
 - b) boring.
- 3 Speaker 3 says he ...
 - a) didn't like the book.
 - b) liked the book.
- 4 Speaker 4 preferred ...
 - a) the writer's first book.
 - b) the writer's second book.
- 5 Speaker 5 says he ...
 - a) prefers non-fiction.
 - b) prefers fiction.

VOCABULARY: cultural activities

A Complete the table with words from the box. Then add two ideas of your own to each column.

a museum architecture a language course an exhibition the theatre
a music society a photography course a comedy show a book club sculpture

learn about	do	go to see	join	go to

B **🗣️** Work in pairs. Say which of the activities in Exercise A you would like to do and which you would not like to do. Give reasons.

A: I'd like to join a book club. I love reading books and talking about them.

B: I wouldn't like to join a book club. I think reading is boring. I want to do another language course. I'd like to learn Russian.

SPEAKING: talking about cultural activities

A Read the questionnaire and add one or two more activities to the list. Then complete the questionnaire.

Are you a Culture Vulture?

Last year, I ...

- went to see a new band.
- joined a music group.
- went to the theatre.
- went to see a comedy show.
- went to the ballet.
- went to an art gallery.
- joined a book club.
- did a language class.
- went to a museum.
- went to see a foreign film.




Score one point for each box you ticked.

Score 0–3: Cultural activities are definitely not for you!

Score 4–7: Why not try some different cultural activities?


Score 8+: You're a real Culture Vulture!

B  Work in groups. Compare your answers to the questionnaire. Discuss any other cultural activities that you do regularly.

A: *So, did you go to the theatre last year?*

B: *Yes, I did. I often go. What about you?*

C: *No, I don't often go to the theatre, but I often go to the cinema!*

C  Tell the class about the activities that people do. Say which are popular.

In our group, a lot of people go to the theatre. But the theatre isn't as popular as the cinema.

GRAMMAR: superlatives

A LANGUAGE IN CONTEXT Read the blog. Did the writer like the film?



I'm in a film club, and we watch films from different periods and different genres. We watch good and bad films, and we vote on the best one and the worst one from each decade and each genre. This month we're watching horror films from the 1980s. Some of the horror films we saw were really scary, but we all thought the scariest film we saw was *The Shining* (1980) with Jack Nicholson. It was scarier than all the others. In general, I think horror films are silly,

but *The Shining* was really interesting. In fact, I think it's the most interesting horror film I know because it's really a psychological drama. Jack Nicholson is great, of course. But the greatest actor in the film, in my opinion, is Danny Lloyd, who plays Jack Nicholson's son. He was just a little boy at the time, but he was already an incredible actor!

NOTICE!

Circle the adjectives in the text. Do all of the adjectives have the same form?

B ANALYSE Read the text in Exercise A again.

Function Choose the correct option to complete the sentence.

We use superlative adjectives to compare a characteristic of ...

- a) two things. b) more than two things.

Form Choose the correct option to complete the rule. Then complete the table with examples from Exercise A.

- (1) We *always* / *never* use *the* with superlative adjectives.
We *always* / *never* use *than*.

For most one-syllable adjectives, add *-est*:

old – the *oldest* dull – the *dullest* great – the (2) _____

One-syllable adjectives

For adjectives which end in consonant-vowel-consonant, double the final consonant and add *-est*:

thin – the *thinnest* fat – the *fattest* big – the *biggest*

Adjectives ending in consonant + -y

Change the *y* to *i* and add *-est*:

happy – the *happiest* easy – the *easiest* scary – the (3) _____

Adjectives with two or more syllables

Use *most* or *least*:

important – the *most important* interesting – the (4) _____

Irregular adjectives

good – the (5) _____ bad – the (6) _____

WHAT'S RIGHT?

- He's the thinnest man.
 He's the thinnest man.
 He's the most thin man.

C PRACTISE Complete these sentences with the superlative form of the adjective in brackets.

- I think Luciano Pavarotti was the _____ (*great*) singer in history.
- Taking a class is one of the _____ (*good*) ways to meet new people.
- The _____ (*interesting*) shows on TV are animal shows.
- The _____ (*funny*) film that I ever saw was *The Mask* with Jim Carrey.
- Marilyn Monroe was the _____ (*beautiful*) cultural icon of the 1950s.
- I think hip-hop is the _____ (*bad*) type of music. I hate it!
- Maroon 5's new album is the _____ (*hot*) CD of the year.
- In my opinion, that was the _____ (*boring*) film ever!

D  **NOW YOU DO IT** Choose one of these topics, or use your own idea. Tell a partner one or two details about it.

- the funniest TV show
 - the best group in concert
 - the most popular singer in your country
- A:** *The funniest TV show is 30 Rock. I really like all the actors.*
B: *Really? I think the funniest TV show is ...*

READING: a film review

A Read this film review. Did the writer enjoy *The Simpsons Movie*?

PLAY IT AGAIN, SAM

The website for the greatest films of all time

Check out this site to read reviews of films you missed when they were new, and to remember favourites that you want to see again (and again!). This week we're focusing on films from the recent past – the 2000s.

The Simpsons Movie has to be one of my favourite films of all time. I love it because it's as funny as the cartoons, but it's longer than the TV episodes, so there are lots more laughs! The story is that Homer causes a leak in the nuclear power plant where he works, and has to save the city and his family from disaster. As usual, he encounters lots of problems, and lots of funny things happen. The funniest part of the film for me is when Homer takes a pig home from a restaurant. He calls him *Spiderpig*, and he

loves him more than he loves his kids! This is one of the most entertaining films I know, but it has some serious elements, too. The main message of the film deals with some of the most important social and political issues of our time, like the effect of human beings on the environment and the dangers of pollution and nuclear disaster. If you missed this film in 2007, check it out now! I definitely recommend it!

Sean Green, Ontario, Canada –
The Simpsons Movie (2007)



B Choose T (true) or F (false) for each statement. Then read the film review again to check your answers.

- | | |
|---|-------|
| 1 This website has reviews of old and new films. | T / F |
| 2 The film in the review above is a comedy. | T / F |
| 3 The reviewer says the film isn't as good as the TV shows. | T / F |
| 4 The film has some serious subjects. | T / F |
| 5 The film is from the first decade of the new millennium. | T / F |


C  Think about two films that you saw recently: one good and one bad. Tell a partner about the best and worst parts of these films.

Recently, I saw ... The best part was when ...

The worst part of the film was when ...



WRITING: linking sentences

 We use the words *so* and *because* to link ideas. *Because* is used to introduce the reason for something and *so* is used to introduce the result of something.

A Read this description. Which famous cultural icon does it describe?

It was first invented in 1886 by Dr John Pemberton in a pharmacy in Atlanta, Georgia (1) *because* / *so* he wanted to make a 'health drink'. Pemberton said that it was good for people's health (2) *because* / *so* it was made from sparkling water. Pemberton sold the drink in his shop for the very cheap

price of five cents a glass, (3) *because* / *so* it very quickly became one of the most popular drinks with his customers. By 1887, the business was too big for Pemberton, (4) *because* / *so* he sold part of the company to a businessman called Asa Griggs Candler. Candler started the company as we know it today.


B Read the text in Exercise A again and choose the correct linking words.

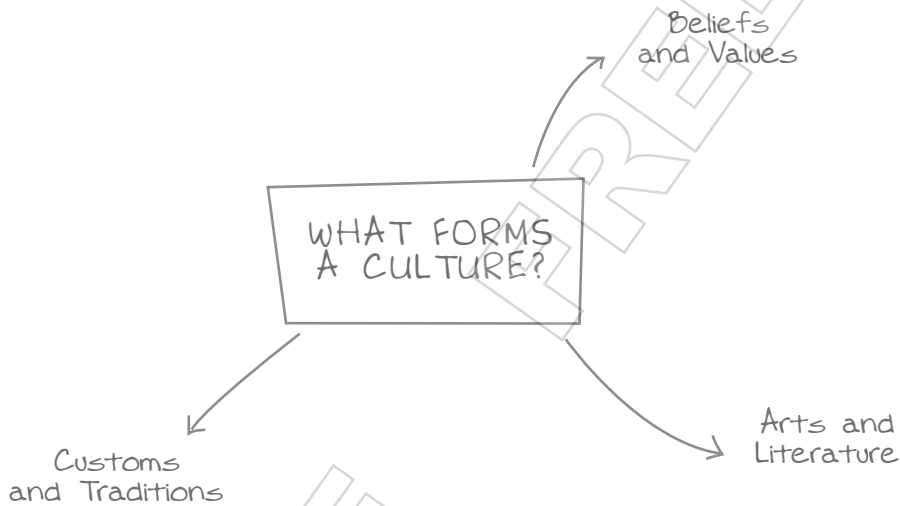
C Choose either *because* or *so* in each sentence. Then complete the sentences with your own ideas.


- 1 Crisps are one of the most popular snacks *because* / *so* _____.
- 2 I love sweet things, *because* / *so* _____.
- 3 I think _____ taste(s) horrible *because* / *so* _____.
- 4 I don't eat _____, *because* / *so* _____.

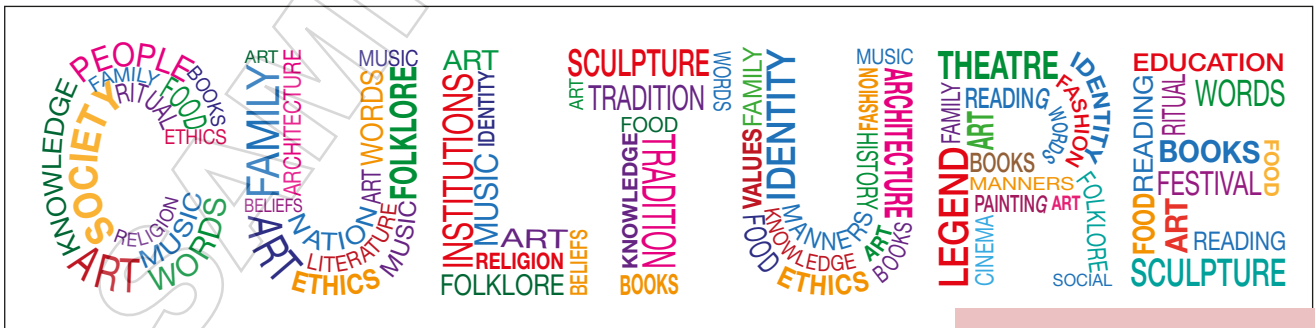
DEVELOPING CULTURAL AWARENESS


- Brainstorm ideas or aspects of life that form a country's culture.
- Identify areas in which a country's cultural characteristics are expressed.
- Reflect on your own culture to identify its specific characteristics.

A  Work in pairs. Look at the mind map and brainstorm more ideas for what forms a culture. Then brainstorm ideas for each category. Add them to the map.



B  Join with another pair and compare your mind maps. Do you have any ideas in common? Then look at the poster below. How many of the words on the poster did you include in your mind maps?



C  Work in pairs. Choose three ideas from Exercises A and B and discuss examples of these in your own culture.

- A:** Let's talk about food in our culture.
B: Yes, good idea. So, I suppose family lunches on Sundays are a big part of our culture.

HOW TO SAY IT

- What about ...?
- I suppose ...
- You know how we ...
- What else?
- ... is another ...

Self and Society

Work and Career Study and Learning



D Look at the pictures. Choose words from Exercises A and B to discuss which aspects of culture these images represent.



Scotland, UK




Peru



Kenya



Texas, USA

E  Work in pairs or small teams. You are going to develop a *culture collage* about your country or a different country that you are interested in and want to research. Your collage could include photos, drawings, newspaper clippings or even items that represent aspects of a culture. Present your *culture collage* to the class.



REFLECT ... How can having awareness of your own culture and other cultures be useful to you in **Work and Career** and **Study and Learning**?

Language wrap-up

1 VOCABULARY

A Complete the sentences with the words from the box. (6 points)

amazing dull fascinating hilarious rubbish weird

- 1 I think the way this artist uses colour is great! His paintings are _____!
- 2 That film was so _____ I almost fell asleep!
- 3 The main character in that film made me feel uncomfortable. He was really _____.
- 4 I don't like reality TV shows. I think they're _____.
- 5 What a _____ book! The ideas are really interesting and original.
- 6 I thought *The Simpsons Movie* was _____. I couldn't stop laughing.

B Choose the correct option to complete the conversation. (9 points)

- A:** I'm (1) **going to / going to see** the theatre tonight. Do you want to come? Or there's a comedy show on Saturday nights. My friends and I often (2) **go to / join** that.
- B:** No, thanks. I don't like comedy shows. I never find them that funny.
- A:** Oh, OK. Well, how about (3) **doing / going to see** a sculpture exhibition with me tomorrow?
- B:** I don't want to (4) **go to / learn about** sculpture. I don't like it.
- A:** Well, would you like to (5) **join / go to** a museum?
- B:** Yes, maybe. I would like to (6) **go to see / learn** more about history, actually.
- A:** So why don't you (7) **do / go to see** a history course at college? And you should (8) **join / do** a book club. You love reading!
- B:** That's a great idea. Then I can (9) **join / learn** about literature, too!

11 – 15 correct: I can use adjectives for expressing opinions and talk about cultural activities.

0 – 10 correct: Look again at the vocabulary on pages 22 and 24.

SCORE: /15

2 GRAMMAR

Complete the statements with **as ... as** or the superlative form of the adjective in brackets. (15 points)

- 1 I love *CSI: Miami*. It's _____ (good) TV show on at the moment. I also like *CSI: NY*, but it isn't _____ (good) *CSI: Miami*, so I don't watch every show.
- 2 Going to the theatre isn't _____ (cheap) going to the cinema, but it isn't _____ (expensive) going to a restaurant. That's very expensive.
- 3 Ronaldo is _____ (amazing) football player in the world. People say Pelé was the best player, but I don't think he was _____ (talented) Ronaldo.
- 4 To me, sculpture is _____ (fascinating) form of art. Painting isn't _____ (interesting) sculpture and Rodin's are _____ (beautiful).
- 5 A burger without cheese is _____ (good) a burger with cheese. They're the same. But a burger with no ketchup is _____ (bad) thing in the world!
- 6 I love comedy films, and I think *Groundhog Day* is _____ (hilarious) film of all. *Ghostbusters* was amazing, too, but it wasn't _____ (funny) *Groundhog Day*.
- 7 All of these paintings are quite weird, but this is _____ (weird) one of all! And the artist's photographs are _____ (strange) her paintings.

11 – 15 correct: I can use **as ... as / (not) as ... as** and superlatives.

0 – 10 correct: Look again at the grammar on pages 22 and 26.

SCORE: /15

A Read the conversation and answer the questions below.

John: What kinds of cultural activities do you like doing in your spare time, Rashid?

Rashid: Well, I went to a great photography exhibition yesterday.

John: Oh. Where?

Rashid: At the art museum. The Annie Leibovitz photos were brilliant!

John: Wow! I love photography. I'd like to join a photography club.

Rashid: Yes, joining a club is fun, and it's a really good way to meet people.

John: And joining a club isn't as expensive as taking classes.

Rashid: That's right. I want to join an art appreciation club so I can learn more about different kinds of art.

John: You're joking! I think that sounds really dull.

Rashid: Well, what are you interested in?

John: Cars! I go to car shows all the time.

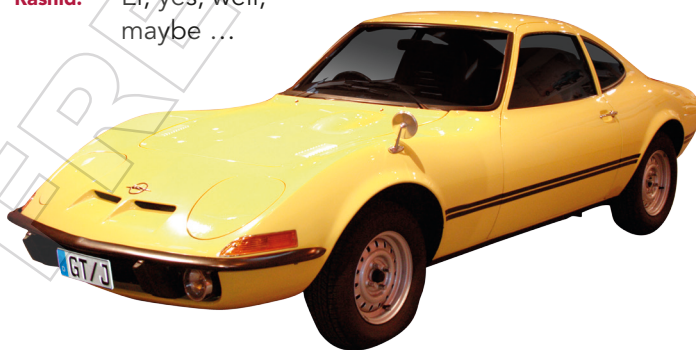
Rashid: Really? That's so boring!

John: It isn't as boring as looking at a lot of old paintings! And think about it – car design is an art form.

Rashid: Well, that's true, I suppose. The cars in the 1950s and '60s had amazing designs.

John: Hey, why don't you come with me to the next car show?

Rashid: Er, yes, well, maybe ...



- 1 What kind of club would John like to join?
- 2 Who thinks art is boring?
- 3 Who thinks cars are fascinating?

B Read the conversation again and find these things.

- 1 four positive adjectives
- 2 three negative adjectives
- 3 three expressions of agreement
- 4 three expressions of surprise

C Answer the questions for you.

- 1 What kind of clubs would you like to join?
- 2 What cultural activities do you like doing? Why?
- 3 What cultural activities do you not like doing? Why not?

D Work in small groups. Ask and answer questions about what cultural activities you enjoy doing in your spare time.

HOW ARE YOU DOING?

Think about your speaking and tick the statements that are true. I feel confident using ...

- positive and negative adjectives of opinion.
- phrases with as ... as.
- expressions of agreement.
- expressions of surprise.

How do you feel about your speaking generally?

- Very confident
- Not sure ...
- Need to practise

