

# Self-Portraits



## Getting Ready

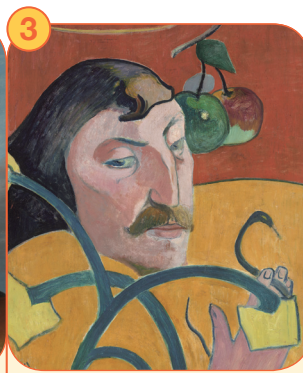
1. A self-portrait is when an artist draws or paints themselves. Here are some examples. Which do you like best?



1 Vincent van Gogh



2 Elisabeth le Brun



3 Paul Gauguin



4 Gustave Courbet

2. On a separate sheet of paper, draw a simple self-portrait.
3. Now read the following statements and circle *Yes* or *No*.

(A) I found it easy to create my self-portrait.  Yes /  No

(B) My self-portrait accurately shows how I look.  Yes /  No

(C) My self-portrait shows a specific emotion or feeling that I wanted to express.  Yes /  No

(D) I put special symbols or objects in my self-portrait that are important to me.  Yes /  No

(E) My self-portrait shows my unique artistic style.  Yes /  No

(F) I used colors in my self-portrait that reflect my personality or mood.  Yes /  No

4. Show your self-portrait to your partner and share some of your thoughts about it.



## Vocabulary Builder



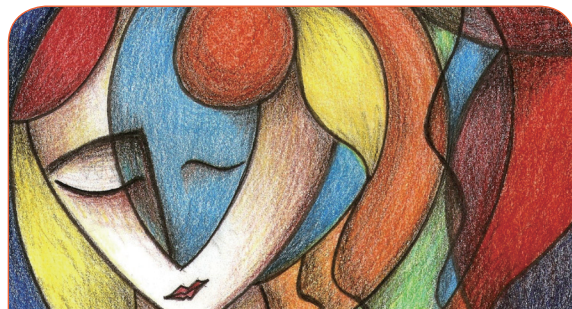
**realistic** [ˌrɪəˈlɪstɪk] (adj.) 寫實的；逼真的



**facial expression** [ˈfeɪʃəl ɪkˈspreʃən]  
(n.) 面部表情



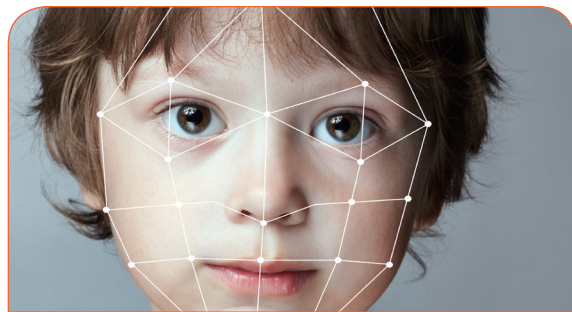
**geometric shapes** [dʒɪəˈmɛtrɪk ʃeɪps]  
(n.) 幾何形狀



**cubism** [ˈkjuːbɪzəm] (n.) 立體派  
**cubist** [ˈkjuːbɪst] (adj.) 立體派的



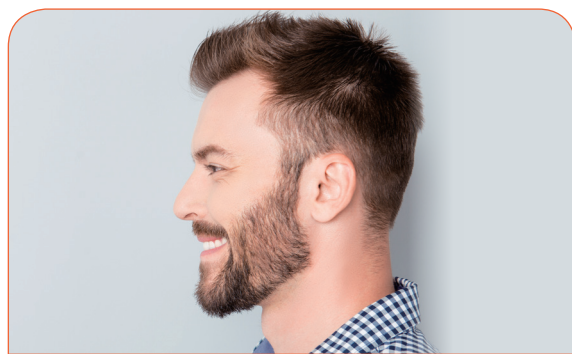
**symmetrical** [sɪˈmɛtrɪkəl] (adj.) 對稱的  
**asymmetrical** [ˌæsɪˈmɛtrɪkəl] (adj.) 不對稱的



**facial features** [ˈfeɪʃəl ˈfi:tʃəz]  
(n.) 臉部特徵



**outline** [ˈaʊtˌlaɪn] (n.) 輪廓



**profile** [ˈprɒfaɪl] (n.) 側面



## Vocabulary Checkup

Match the words to their definitions.

- |                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| [ ] 1. facial expression | (A) Squares, circles, triangles, and other regular shapes.                           |
| [ ] 2. cubism            | (B) The way your face shows an emotion or feeling.                                   |
| [ ] 3. facial features   | (C) Not the same on both sides.  |
| [ ] 4. profile           | (D) A style of art where objects are shown from different angles using basic shapes. |
| [ ] 5. geometric shapes  | (E) The shape of a person's face when viewed from one side.                          |
| [ ] 6. realistic         | (F) Specific parts of the face, such as the eyes, nose, mouth, etc.                  |
| [ ] 7. asymmetrical      | (G) The outer edge of a shape.   |
| [ ] 8. outline           | (H) Showing objects as they appear in real life.                                     |

► a waxwork of Pablo Picasso

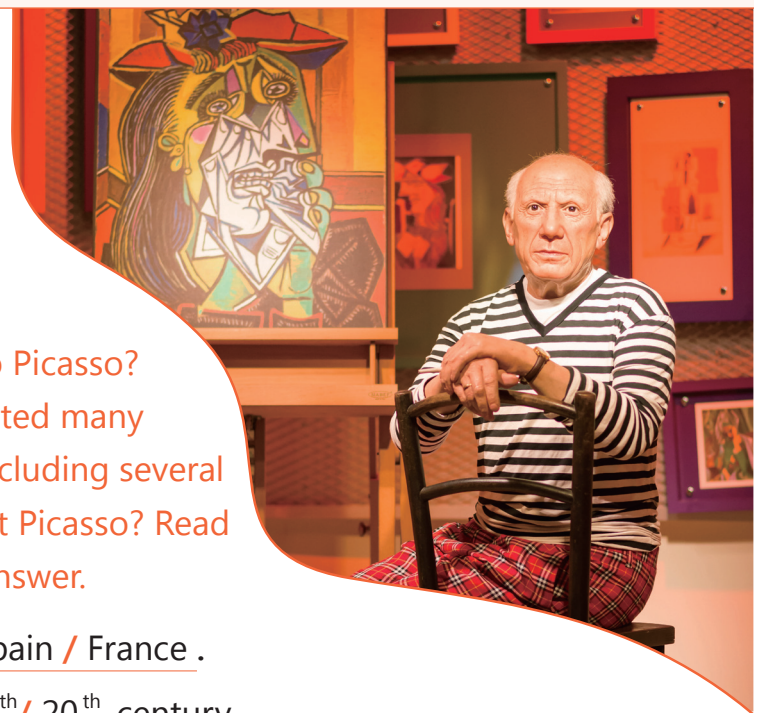


## Pre-reading Activity

Have you ever heard of the artist Pablo Picasso? Picasso was a famous painter who created many famous artworks throughout his life, including several self-portraits. What do you know about Picasso? Read the statements and circle the correct answer.

- Picasso was a famous artist from Spain / France .
- He was mostly active during the 19<sup>th</sup> / 20<sup>th</sup> century.
- As Picasso grew older, his style became more realistic / abstract .
- His career lasted around 40 / 70 years.
- He is most famous for the style of art known as cubism / pop art .

Check your answers with your partner.





## Time to Read

### Reading Skill: Predicting

Look at the title of the article and the pictures. Which of these facts about Picasso are you likely to read in the article?

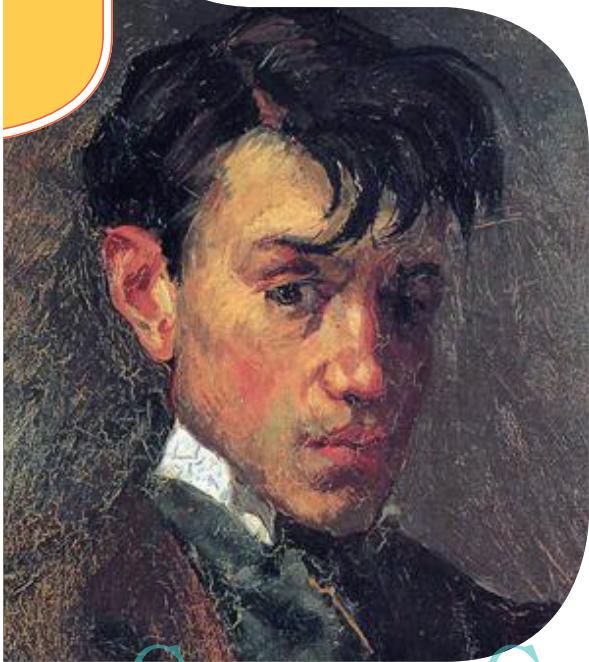
- [ ] ❶ In 1972, a year before his death, Picasso drew himself over and over as a huge, asymmetrical rock-like head with wide, scared eyes.
- [ ] ❷ Picasso's most famous work of art is probably *Guernica*, which shows the terrible bombing of the town of Guernica during the Spanish Civil War.
- [ ] ❸ Picasso painted *Dora Maar au Chat* in 1941. It shows Dora Maar, the artist's lover, sitting on a chair with a small cat perched on her shoulders.

Now read the article and see if you were right.

01

# Picasso Paints Picasso

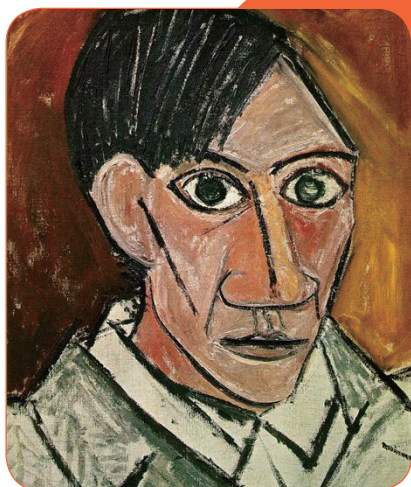
▼ Picasso's *Self-Portrait* (1896)



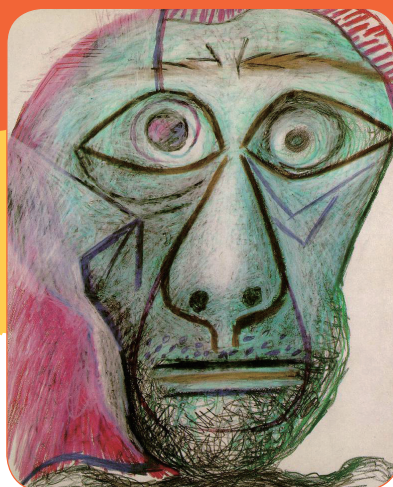
❶ One of the most iconic<sup>1</sup> artists of the 20th century, Pablo Picasso had a long, amazing career. Over the years, his style changed greatly, shifting from realistic<sup>1</sup> to abstract. Understanding Picasso and his art can be hard. Luckily, though, his works include several self-portraits<sup>2</sup>, which give us clues<sup>3</sup> about his changing views on life and art. 5

❷ Picasso's first portrait dates back to<sup>1</sup> 1896, when he was just 15. It shows a realistic-looking young man with a serious expression on his face. 10 One can see that he clearly has no shortage of<sup>2</sup> talent<sup>4</sup>, although his art is not yet very original<sup>5</sup>.

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▲ Picasso's *Self-Portrait* (1907)



▲ Picasso's *Self-Portrait Facing Death* (1972), which was completed less than a year before his death

3 A few years later, we start to see signs of his gift. By 1907, Picasso had been living in Paris for three years. At the time, African masks and sculptures<sup>6</sup> were all the rage<sup>3</sup> in Paris. His self-portrait from that year shows this influence clearly. His face is sharp and mask-like. The wide eyes and nose look almost like geometric shapes<sup>2</sup>. The seeds of cubism<sup>3</sup>, the art style that would make him famous a few years later, are plainly<sup>7</sup> there for all to see. 15

4 Picasso painted few self-portraits during his thirties and forties, but he returned to them more and more as he grew older. These later works are far more abstract than his earlier ones. They show his face in profile<sup>4</sup> but with all his features visible<sup>8</sup>, or show his body as a simple, strangely shaped outline<sup>9</sup>. In 1972, a year before his death, he drew himself over and over as a huge, asymmetrical<sup>5</sup> rock-like head with wide, scared eyes. Perhaps he thought it better showed us his true inner<sup>10</sup> self. 20 25

5 Of all his works, Picasso's self-portraits give us the best insight<sup>11</sup> into the great man's mind. If he hadn't painted so many, we wouldn't have gotten such an important visual<sup>12</sup> record of his artistic and personal evolution<sup>13</sup>.

### Discussion Questions

1. After reading the article, how do you think Picasso's self-portraits can help us understand his artistic journey?
2. Picasso's later self-portraits became more abstract. What do you think he was trying to express through this abstract style?



## Reading Comprehension Questions

\_\_\_\_\_ 1. What is the main idea of the article?

- (A) Pablo Picasso was one of the most famous artists of the 20th century.
- (B) Picasso's self-portraits are a great way to gain an insight into his growth as an artist and man.
- (C) Picasso created many works of art over his lifetime, but his art can be difficult to understand.
- (D) Picasso was influenced as a young artist by African masks and sculptures.

2. Look at these sentences from the article. Mark them **F** (fact) or **O** (opinion).

Sentence	F / O
① Understanding Picasso and his art can be hard.	
② Picasso's first portrait dates back to 1896, when he was just 15.	
③ By 1907, Picasso had been living in Paris for three years.	
④ They [Picasso's later works] show his face in profile but with all his features visible, or show his body as a simple, strangely shaped outline.	
⑤ Perhaps he [Picasso] thought it [a huge, asymmetrical rock-like head with wide, scared eyes] better showed us his true inner self.	

3. With a partner, ask and answer the following questions.

- (A) How do Picasso's later self-portraits compare with his earlier ones?
- (B) They are ① \_\_\_\_\_.
- (A) How do these later portraits typically show his face and body?
- (B) They typically show his face ② \_\_\_\_\_ and his body ③ \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_ 4. What does the word "**seeds**" in the third paragraph most likely mean?

- (A) Doubts. (B) Beginnings. (C) Locations. (D) Moments.



## Reading Skill **Sequence of Events**

In any article, a writer might refer to several events that are relevant to the topic. Sometimes, the writer will present these events in order, from earliest to latest, but not always. As a result, it is important to be able to recognize **the order** in which these events took place.

By recognizing the sequence of events, readers can better understand **how events unfold in chronological order**. Readers can also make connections between different parts of the passage. (However, note that the sequence of events does not indicate causation. We need to carefully consider whether or not the author suggests any cause-and-effect relationships between events.)

To identify the sequence of events, readers should pay attention to **specific words and phrases** that indicate **time**. These could be specific days, months, or years. Or they could be words such as **before, after, first, next, then, or later**. These words and phrases can give important clues about the order in which the events occurred. Consult the following table for some common words/phrases indicating time:

Words/Phrases	Examples
<b>before, after</b>	• I locked all the windows <b>before</b> I went to bed.
<b>first, next, then, later, finally</b>	• Sarah <b>first</b> sliced a piece of cake, <b>then</b> poured a cup of tea, and <b>finally</b> sat down to enjoy her teatime.
<b>previously</b>	• The building was <b>previously</b> used as a factory, but now it is a museum.
<b>eventually</b>	• After hours of searching, they <b>eventually</b> found the keys in the kitchen.
<b>as soon as</b>	• <b>As soon as</b> the rain stopped, we went outside for a walk.



### Exercise

Look at the following events from the article about Picasso. List them in order from earliest (1) to latest (5).

- [ ] ① Picasso drew himself in an abstract way.
- [ ] ② Picasso painted a realistic self-portrait.
- [ ] ③ Picasso pioneered cubism.
- [ ] ④ Picasso moved to Paris.
- [ ] ⑤ Picasso was influenced by African art.



## Vocabulary and Phrases 02

### Essential Vocabulary

- 1 realistic** [ˌrɪəˈlɪstɪk]  
(adj.) 寫實的；逼真的  
The **realistic** painting captures every wrinkle on the old man's face.
- 2 self-portrait** [self ˈportret]  
(n.)[C] 自畫像  
The artist painted over 1,500 **self-portraits** during his 40-year life.  
**3 portrait** [ˈportret] (n.)[C] 肖像  
The principal's office is decorated with **portraits** of past principals.
- 4 clue** [klu] (n.)[C] 線索  
The police found an important **clue** to the murder at the crime scene.
- 5 talent** [ˈtælənt] (n.)[C][U] 才能  
Jenny's **talent** for dancing was evident from her graceful and energetic moves.
- 6 original** [əˈrɪdʒənəl]  
(adj.) 有原創性的  
The storyline of the drama isn't really **original**, but the cast's chemistry still makes it an enjoyable watch.
- 7 sculpture** [ˈskʌlptʃə] (n.)[C][U] 雕塑  
The life-sized **sculpture** of an elephant stood in the center of the hall, capturing everyone's attention.
- 8 plainly** [ˈpleɪnli] (adv.) 明顯地  
From Mr. Smith's broad grin, we could tell that he was **plainly** delighted.
- 9 visible** [ˈvɪzəbəl] (adj.) 可以看見的  
In good weather conditions, the high tower is clearly **visible** from here.
- 10 outline** [ˈaʊtˌlaɪn] (n.) 輪廓  
Lisa quickly traced the **outline** of the beautiful flower in her sketchbook.
- 11 inner** [ˈɪnə] (adj.) 內心的  
An **inner** voice told Jason that he should seize this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.
- 12 insight** [ˈɪnˌsaɪt] (n.)[C][U] 洞見；見解  
The study provides us with new **insights** into how we perceive the world around us.
- 13 visual** [ˈvɪʒuəl] (adj.) 視覺的  
My history teacher uses a lot of **visual** aids like maps and videos in her classes.
- 14 evolution** [ˌɛvəˈluʃən]  
(n.)[U] 演變；發展  
With advancements in technology, our society is undergoing rapid **evolution**.