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# 10 Mosaic Art

Before You Read

## Pre-reading Warm-up

Read the following introduction to mosaics and then answer the questions with a partner.

According to *Merriam-Webster's Dictionary*, a mosaic is "a surface decoration made by inlaying small pieces of variously colored material to form pictures or patterns."

Study the two photos to the right and discuss the following questions with a partner:

- 1 How are these mosaics alike?  
How are they different?
- 2 What materials do you think the artists used to create the mosaics?



sculptor



## Vocabulary Tool Kit

pebbles



geometric pattern



mosaic architecture





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# A Friendly Email About a Mosaic Art Tour

**From:** Kathleen <Kathy@email.com>  
**To:** Carla <Carla@email.com>  
**Subject:** Re: Destination—Sicily!  
**Mailed by:** email.com



Dear Carla,

Today, at an **ancient**<sup>1</sup> Roman villa near Piazza Armerina, I saw the most beautiful mosaic art I've ever seen. Mosaics cover almost every single one of its floors. Some just have simple **geometric**<sup>2</sup> patterns, but the most impressive ones have **complex**<sup>3</sup> scenes of people and animals. My favorite is one that shows girls exercising in bikinis. How very modern!

Peter, my guide, explained that **craftsmen**<sup>4</sup> from Tunisia (part of the Roman empire at that time) created the mosaics at the villa around 300 A.D. He also told me that **historians**<sup>5</sup> don't know exactly which culture was the first to create mosaics, but there's **evidence**<sup>6</sup> of them in ancient Mesopotamia dating back as far as 2000 B.C.

Eventually, mosaic work became a **genuine**<sup>7</sup> art form when the ancient Greeks developed new styles and techniques and stopped working only with pebbles. Additionally, they started using colorful "cut" stone, marble, and glass. Since the Romans learned this art from the Greeks, they were able to spread it throughout the empire.

Peter is actually a **sculptor**<sup>8</sup> and says he adds color to his pieces by covering them in mosaics. Cool, huh? He says it's just as **time-consuming**<sup>9</sup> as it was in antiquity but totally worth it. Apparently, the materials and techniques haven't changed much since ancient times, but the tools are better now! **LOL**<sup>10</sup>! I guess mosaic artists today are proving that this art form isn't just for decorating floors and walls . . . Hmm. Suddenly, I feel **motivated**<sup>11</sup> to learn how to make mosaics!

Best regards,

Kathleen

1 from the past  
(Roman empire  
and earlier)

2 straight lines,  
simple shapes

3 made up of  
many parts

4 people who  
skillfully create  
things by hand

5 People who  
study history

6 proof

7 real, true

8 artist who  
creates 3-D art

9 needing a lot  
of time

10 short for "laugh  
out loud"



Lesson  
**24**

# Mom vs. Technology

## Reading Passage

Read the following messages on a message board and then answer the questions.



## Mom vs. Technology



by **Numberonemom**

9:22 15-06-2019

My son told me I would never be able to break into his cell phone because it has facial recognition technology. Is he just trying to **deter**<sup>1</sup> me from snooping into his private life? Or is this technology really being used on phones?



**Techguy98**

9:31 15-06-2019

Sorry Numberonemom, your son isn't trying to **pull a fast one**<sup>2</sup> on you. This technology is indeed real. I'm not exactly sure how it works, but I have it on my phone too.



**Faith2001**

10:21 15-06-2019

If he's old enough to have a phone, he's old enough to deserve some privacy!



**Numberonemom**

13:54 15-06-2019

Well, he's only nine years old, so I feel that some monitoring is necessary. How does this technology work anyway?



Techwizard2003

17:04 15-06-2019

LOL! Numberonemom, you have a smart little man on your hands! Facial recognition technology can be done in a few different ways. The way I am familiar with is this: Facial recognition **algorithms**<sup>3</sup> identify the size, shape, and position of facial features (i.e., how big your nose is, how far apart your eyes are, etc.). The data is then compared to photos (in this case, your son's photos) to find a match.



Faith2001

20:17 15-06-2019

If he's only nine, he probably doesn't have much of a private life to monitor, Numberonemom! Relax!



Numberonemom

6:47 16-06-2019

Well, I guess it is good that he's tech-savvy at such a young age. He knows more than I do!

Where else is this facial recognition technology being used?



Techwizard2003

1:05 17-06-2019

It's being used in some airports around the world to help confirm the identities of travelers with e-passports (regular looking passports with a **microchip**<sup>4</sup> inside holding **biometric**<sup>5</sup> information). It's also been used to help arrest people who have been captured on **surveillance**<sup>6</sup> cameras (with the help of driver's licenses).



Numberonemom

18:15 17-06-2019

I'm going to take some time to learn more about this type of technology. It's fascinating!

1 discourage, prevent

2 trick, fool

3 set of rules, formulas

4 a very small piece of technology that stores data

5 relating to biology

6 observation

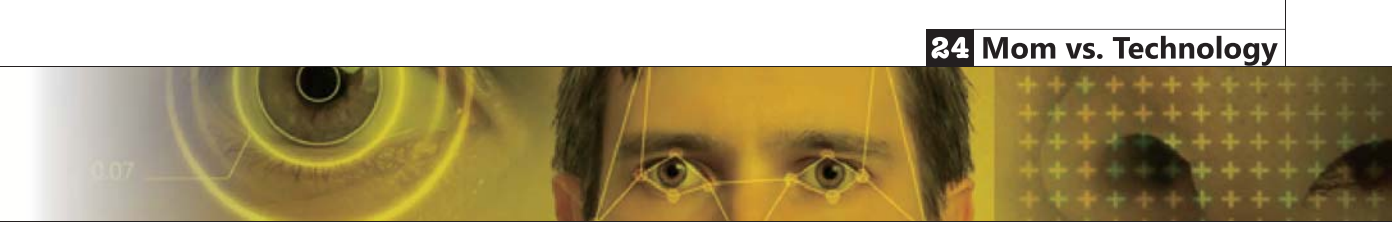
**A Exercise: Reading Comprehension**

Choose the best answer for each question.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. What effect does the conversation on the message board have on Numberonemom?
- a. She is going to take her son's phone away.
  - b. She is going to learn more about facial recognition technology.
  - c. She is going to monitor her son's phone use more closely.
  - d. She is going to get a phone with facial recognition technology.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. According to Techwizard2003, what happens before facial recognition technology compares someone's face to photos?
- a. A person must give permission for their photos to be used.
  - b. It combines with other biometrics for accuracy.
  - c. It uses photos from a driver's license or passport.
  - d. An algorithm is used to identify a person's unique facial features.





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- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. What conclusion can we draw about Faith2001's opinion on children with cell phones?
- a. He or she thinks parents should closely monitor their children's use of technology.
  - b. He or she doesn't think young children should have cell phones.
  - c. He or she feels that young people should be allowed to have some privacy.
  - d. He or she believes that children know more about cell phones than parents do.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Which of the following statements based on the reading is an opinion?
- a. If a person is old enough to have a phone, he or she is old enough to deserve privacy.
  - b. Algorithms are used to determine the shape, size, and placement of facial features.
  - c. Some airports are using facial recognition technology.
  - d. E-passports have microchips inside containing biometric information.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. What can we infer about Techwizard2003?
- a. He or she isn't very familiar with new technology.
  - b. He or she knows more about technology than Numberonemom.
  - c. He or she believes that all children should have cell phones.
  - d. He or she thinks that facial recognition technology is the way of the future.

**A Reading Skill: Discerning Facts and Opinions**

Statements that can be proven **true** are considered to be **facts**. Resources such as newspapers, school textbooks, and encyclopedia contain information that is factual, and people reading these materials can safely assume that the content of the text is generally accepted to be true.

However, a lot of the text we read contains **opinions**. Opinions are **judgements** a person or group of people have about certain topics. While reading, it is important to recognize when information is truthful (fact) or a belief (opinion).

**Opinion**

*Butterflies are the most beautiful insects in the world.*

**Fact**

*Caterpillars turn into butterflies.*

**1 Identify the following statements based on the article as "F" for Fact or "O" for Opinion.**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. AR Inc. uses the most up-to-date augmented reality technology.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. You don't have to change clothes to see how an item will look on you if you have an AR Mirror.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Customers who purchase the AR Mirror can use it at home.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Everyone who learns about the AR Mirror will want one in their home.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. The AR Guide is the best way for travelers to experience city and museum tours.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. AR glasses have a built-in audio system for wearers to hear information.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Every student's dream has come true with the invention of AR Education.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Students can use AR Education to view 3D models, play games, and access additional information.

- 2 Find 2 or 3 advertisements for products online or in a magazine. See if you can find **facts** and **opinions** within the advertisements. Then, share what you have found with a partner.

### B Word Study: The "Verbing" of Nouns

Taking a noun and using it as a verb has come to be known as "**verbing**" (the word "verbing" is actually an example of verbing!). Take the word "sandwich" for example. As a noun, it is known as meat, cheese, vegetables, or other filling held between two slices of bread. As a verb, "sandwich" means to be stuck between two things tightly. Verbing can help us to express ourselves in a clear, direct manner, and can also make our expressive language more interesting. **Using nouns as verbs** is common in the field of technology, especially when it comes to the Internet (i.e., *email*, *social media*, *blogs*). Some **proper nouns** can also be used as verbs.

#### Example

"text" as a <b>noun</b>	"text" as a <b>verb</b>
I sent my mom a <b>text</b> to tell her I would be late.	Can you please <b>text</b> me your address?
"Google" as a <b>proper noun</b>	"google" as a <b>verb</b>
I typically use <b>Google</b> to search for information.	I <b>googled</b> a few new recipes to try out.

- 1 Fill in the blanks using the words below. You may need to change some endings and capitalization.

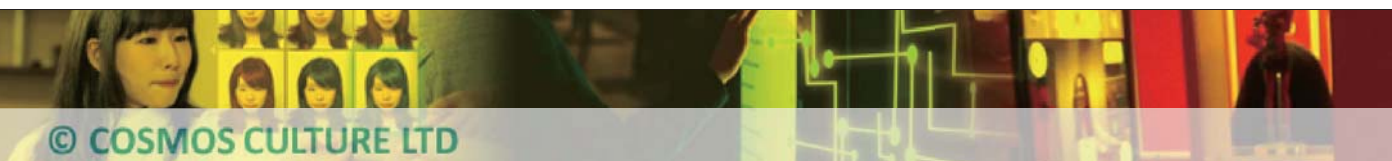
**Skype** **friend** **bookmark** **email** **blog** **YouTube**

- I sent the new student a friend request on Facebook, but she hasn't \_\_\_\_\_ me yet.
- The student \_\_\_\_\_ her teacher to request an extension on the assignment.
- My friend and I like to see each other when we chat, so we typically \_\_\_\_\_.
- He didn't sleep much because he was up \_\_\_\_\_ music videos all night.
- The famous chef likes to write and regularly \_\_\_\_\_ about his best recipes.
- Don't forget to \_\_\_\_\_ any good websites you come across while you are researching.

- 2** Look back at the reading passage. There are two nouns being used as verbs in the last sentence of the first paragraph. See if you can find them. Discuss their meanings as nouns and verbs with a partner.
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**C Exercise****1 Reading Comprehension**

- \_\_\_\_\_ **1.** Which of the following are necessary for AR Education to work?
- a.** Participation and motivation.
  - b.** 3D models and interactive games.
  - c.** A teacher and a classroom.
  - d.** AR textbooks and smart devices.
- \_\_\_\_\_ **2.** In the first paragraph of the text, “cutting edge” is closest in meaning to \_\_\_\_\_.
- a.** advanced     **b.** difficult     **c.** experienced     **d.** necessary
- \_\_\_\_\_ **3.** Readers can infer that the author’s opinion of tour guides is that they \_\_\_\_\_.
- a.** can be replaced by technology
  - b.** should be wearing AR glasses
  - c.** don’t work hard enough
  - d.** are just as good as the AR Guide
- \_\_\_\_\_ **4.** Who is the advertisement’s target audience?
- a.** Business owners.                      **b.** Young people.
  - c.** Technologists.                         **d.** Educators.
- \_\_\_\_\_ **5.** The advertisement suggests the \_\_\_\_\_ could be used for both business and personal use.
- a.** AR Guide     **b.** AR Educator     **c.** AR Glasses     **d.** AR Mirror





## 2 Target Vocabulary

Create sentences by using one word/phrase from each column. Draw lines to connect the three parts of the sentence.

Column A	Column B	Column C
Maria's mother felt her	achieve	lessons to her students' needs.
Do not leave anything	tailors	in your car.
If you work hard, you can	participation,	the class will be boring.
The teacher always	motivation	to succeed was low.
If we don't have more	valuable	all of your goals.

*Note: Dotted lines in the original image connect 'Maria's mother felt her' to 'motivation' and 'motivation' to 'to succeed was low'.*

## 3 Critical Thinking

- Which of the technologies mentioned in the reading passage do you think will make the biggest impact on society? Why?
- In what ways can augmented reality technology make life easier for people? Provide examples.
- Do you think augmented reality technology can improve learning in the classroom? Why or why not?

