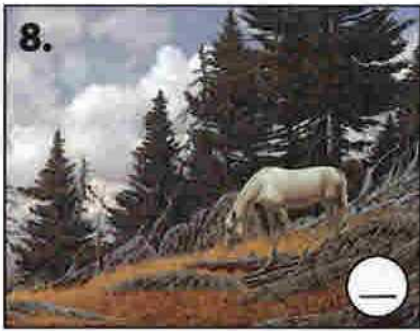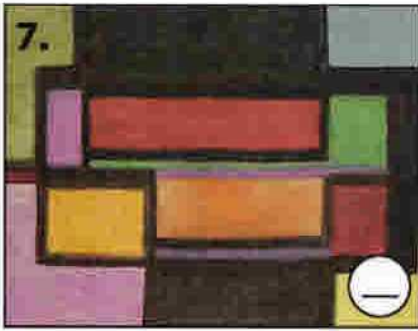## CONVERSATION STARTERS

OPINIONS ABOUT ART

Track 16

1 **FIRST LISTENING.** Listen. Which pieces of art are they talking about?
Tracks 17-21 Write the numbers. There are three extra pictures.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

2 **SECOND LISTENING.** Listen again. Do they like or dislike the art?
Fill in the table.

Visitors	1. Blaire	2. TJ	3. Ken	4. Carlos	5. Emma
Item #					
Like / Dislike					

BONUS: Discuss with a partner.

1. What kind of art do you like?
2. Which piece do you like best?

Check the script and try the
LANGUAGE AWARENESS
activity on page 83.

EXPRESSING CRITICISM

1 EXPRESSIONS. Which phrases are "soft" criticisms? Which are "strong" criticisms?

Soft = ____ ____ ____ ____   Strong = ____ ____ ____ ____

What do you think of the gallery's new painting?

1. It's <u>really</u> boring.
2. Hmm…it's <u>a little</u> strange.
3. Umm…actually, I think it's <u>a bit</u> ugly.
4. It's <u>so</u> dull.

5. It's strange.
6. Hmm, no offense, but it's <u>kind of</u> boring.
7. It's <u>very</u> ugly.
8. I guess it's <u>sort of</u> dull.

2 VOCABULARY. Which of these adjectives are POSITIVE? Which are NEGATIVE?

Positive = ____ ____ ____ ____

Negative = ____ ____ ____ ____

a. boring
b. strange
c. unique
d. dull
e. amazing

f. beautiful
g. cool
h. ugly
i. awful
j. moving

HOW THE GRAMMAR WORKS:

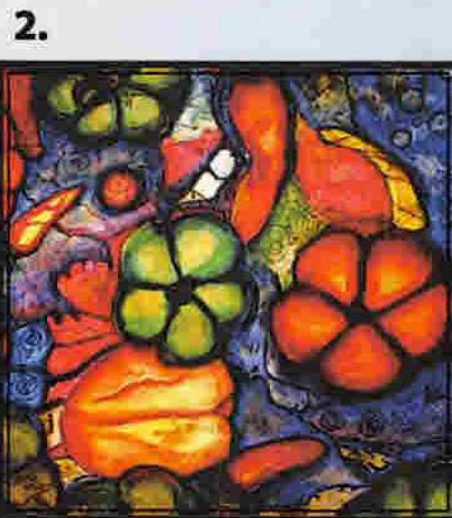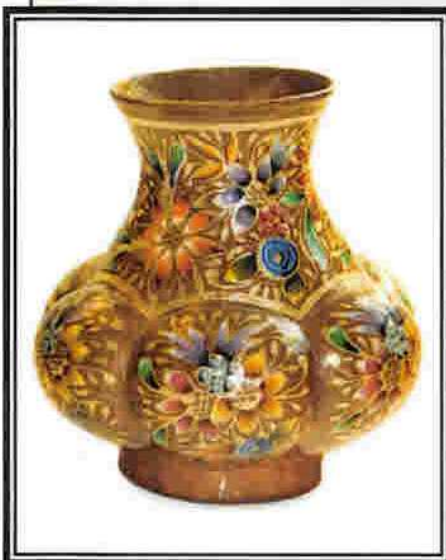Use ADVERB OF DEGREE + ADJECTIVE
(the adverb goes before the adjective)

Adverbs of degree:	Adjectives:
really	boring
so	strange
kind of	

Some adverbs can only be used with "negative" opinions:
a bit ugly   ~~a bit beautiful~~

3 LET'S PRACTICE. Describe these pictures to your partner. Use the expressions and vocabulary in steps 1 and 2 above.

1.

Example: *This one is amazing! I love it.*

2.

3.

4.

1 Track 22 **SITUATION.** Listen to the conversation.

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THIS PAINTING??

HMMM. I'M NOT SO FOND OF IT. DO YOU LIKE IT? (1)

I'M NOT SURE. I DON'T REALLY UNDERSTAND IT.

WELL, I THINK IT'S A BIT BORING. (2)

2 **SUBSTITUTION.** Connect the sentences and phrases in the columns.

(1)	(2)
It's not bad.	absolutely awful
I hate it.	really cool
I really love it.	kind of interesting

HOW THE PRONUNCIATION WORKS:

Change your voice tone:

flat (negative): boring, awful

high (positive): cool, interesting

3 **PRACTICE.** Work with a partner. Practice the conversation. Use the substitutions. Then use your own ideas.

1 **GET READY.** You work at an art gallery. You must choose 3 new items. Rate the pieces of art below from 1 – 8 (1 = your favorite, 8 = the worst). Think of your reasons.

Your rating ___
Group choice: Yes / No

Your rating ___
Group choice: Yes / No

Your rating ___
Group choice: Yes / No

Your rating ___
Group choice: Yes / No

Your rating ___
Group choice: Yes / No

Your rating ___
Group choice: Yes / No

Your rating ___
Group choice: Yes / No

Your rating ___
Group choice: Yes / No

2 **LET'S TALK.** Work in a group of 3 or 4. Compare your ratings. Do you agree or disagree? Choose the 3 pieces of art for the gallery.
Example:
A: *I love it! It's so unique.*
B: *Well, I'm not very fond of it. I think it's a bit strange.*
C: *Well, I hate it! I think it's really awful!*

3 **FOLLOW UP.** Compare your group's decision with other groups.

BONUS: Speaking Activity

1. Are you good at art? What kind of art are you good at?

2. Do you often go to art galleries or museums? Why or why not?

3. Do you have a favorite piece of art? What is it?

AMY'S VOCABULARY TIP
Learn Synonyms.

Want to learn more vocabulary? Try learning synonyms— words with similar meanings. Use a thesaurus — a special dictionary that lists the synonyms of words. Learning these synonyms is a great way to improve your vocabulary. Try looking up the adjectives on page 18 to find similar meaning words.