

Open C1 English · Unit 05

Art, Literature & Creativity

Grammar: Relative clauses (defining, non-defining, reduced)

Pronunciation: Intonation patterns in statements and questions

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How to use this study pack

- Study the grammar and vocabulary before attempting the output tasks.
- Use the public site for audio playback; this PDF is the printable study companion.
- Mark answers directly on paper, then return to the online lesson for media-rich practice.
- Keep a separate C1 notebook for rewritten answers, useful collocations and pronunciation notes.

Unit workflow

Input: reading, listening and media exposure.

Language focus: grammar, vocabulary, idioms and Use of English.

Output: writing, speaking, mediation and realistic everyday communication.

¿De qué va esta unidad?

En esta quinta unidad, nos sumergiremos en el mundo de la expresión humana: el arte, la literatura y la creatividad. Para un estudiante de nivel C1, este no es solo un tema de interés cultural, sino un campo de batalla lingüístico. El lenguaje utilizado para describir obras de arte, analizar tramas literarias o debatir sobre la naturaleza de la inspiración requiere un registro sofisticado, matices precisos y una capacidad de abstracción que va más allá de la comunicación cotidiana.

El principal reto de esta unidad radica en la complejidad sintáctica. Para expresar ideas complejas sobre temas abstractos, necesitaremos dominar las relative clauses (cláusulas de relativo), permitiéndonos unir ideas de forma fluida y elegante. Además, trabajaremos la entonación para asegurar que tus opiniones, ya sean afirmaciones contundentes o preguntas retóricas sobre estética, suenen naturales y transmitan la intención correcta. Este es el nivel donde dejas de "hablar inglés" para empezar a "usar el inglés" como una herramienta de pensamiento avanzado.

Objetivos de aprendizaje

- Grammar Mastery: Utilizar con precisión defining, non-defining y reduced relative clauses para añadir información compleja sin fragmentar el discurso.
- Vocabulary Expansion: Adquirir léxico avanzado relacionado con las artes visuales, géneros literarios y procesos creativos para evitar términos genéricos.
- Reading Comprehension: Desarrollar la capacidad de comprender textos académicos y críticos de alta complejidad sobre temas culturales.
- Listening Proficiency: Identificar matices de significado y actitud mediante el análisis de patrones de entonación en debates y conferencias.
- Writing Excellence: Redactar ensayos de opinión y reseñas críticas utilizando estructuras gramaticales avanzadas y un registro formal adecuado.
- Speaking & Interaction: Participar en debates abstractos y especulativos, manteniendo la fluidez y la cohesión necesarias para el examen Speaking Part 3 & 4.

Lo que vas a encontrar

- Introduction: Una breve inmersión temática para activar tus conocimientos previos sobre cultura y creatividad.
- Grammar Focus: Un análisis profundo de las relative clauses (defining, non-defining y reduced) para estructurar frases complejas.
- Vocabulary Builder: Un banco de palabras y colocaciones avanzadas para hablar de arte, literatura y el proceso creativo.
- Idiomatic Expressions: Expresiones idiomáticas y frases hechas para sonar como un hablante nativo cuando hables de ideas o talento.
- Reading Workshop: Lectura de textos críticos para practicar la comprensión de ideas abstractas y el vocabulario contextual.

- Listening Lab: Ejercicios de comprensión auditiva enfocados en diferentes acentos y en la identificación de la entonación.
- Use of English Challenge: Práctica intensiva de transformaciones de frases y completar huecos, enfocada en el uso de cláusulas de relativo.
- Writing Masterclass: Guía paso a paso para redactar reseñas (reviews) y ensayos argumentativos de nivel C1.
- Speaking Studio: Práctica de interacción oral para debatir sobre estética y creatividad con fluidez y precisión.
- Mediation Task: Ejercicios para sintetizar información de diferentes fuentes (por ejemplo, un texto y un audio) para comunicarla a un tercero.

Tiempo estimado

Total estimado: 8 horas

- Introduction: 15 min
- Grammar Focus: 60 min
- Vocabulary Builder: 45 min
- Idiomatic Expressions: 30 min
- Reading Workshop: 50 min
- Listening Lab: 45 min
- Use of English Challenge: 45 min
- Writing Masterclass: 75 min
- Speaking Studio: 60 min
- Mediation Task: 35 min

Lesson 2: Grammar Focus

Explicación (en español)

En esta unidad, estudiaremos las relative clauses (oraciones de relativo), que se utilizan para unir dos ideas y proporcionar información adicional sobre un sustantivo sin necesidad de empezar una frase nueva. En el contexto de la literatura y el arte, estas estructuras son esenciales para describir obras, autores o movimientos artísticos con fluidez y sofisticación, algo fundamental para alcanzar el nivel C1.

Existen dos tipos principales. Las defining relative clauses son esenciales para identificar de quién o de qué estamos hablando; si las eliminamos, la frase pierde su sentido principal. Por ejemplo, "The artist who painted this mural is famous". Por el contrario, las non-defining relative clauses

añaden información extra que no es vital para identificar al sujeto. Estas siempre van separadas por comas y, muy importante, nunca se puede usar "that" en este tipo de cláusulas.

Un error muy común entre los hispanohablantes es la omisión del pronombre relativo cuando el sujeto de la cláusula es el objeto de la misma. En inglés, si el pronombre (who, which, that) actúa como objeto, podemos omitirlo: "The book (that) I read was brilliant". Sin embargo, si el pronombre es el sujeto de la cláusula, no se puede omitir. Otro error típico es usar "that" en oraciones no definitorias (con comas), lo cual es gramaticalmente incorrecto en exámenes de Cambridge.

Finalmente, aprenderemos las reduced relative clauses. Estas permiten simplificar la frase eliminando el pronombre relativo y el verbo to be. Por ejemplo, en lugar de decir "The painting which was exhibited in Paris...", podemos decir "The painting exhibited in Paris...". Esto se logra mediante el uso de participios (presente para acciones activas, pasado para acciones pasivas), lo que aporta un tono mucho más académico y profesional a tu escritura.

Form – estructura

Type |
Function |
Punctuation |
Can use 'that'? |
Can omit pronoun? |
Defining |
Identifies the person/thing. |
No commas. |
Yes |
Yes (if it's the object) |
Non-defining |
Adds extra information. |
Uses commas. |
No |
No |
Reduced |
Simplifies the sentence. |
Depends on context. |
N/A |
N/A |

Examples

- The novelist whose works were banned remains a cult figure. (La novelista cuyas obras fueron prohibidas sigue siendo una figura de culto.)
- Picasso, who was a Spanish painter, co-founded the Cubist movement. (Picasso, quien fue un pintor español, cofundó el movimiento cubista.)
- The sculpture that I saw in the gallery was breathtaking. (La escultura que vi en la galería era impresionante.)
- My sister, who is a talented illustrator, just published her first book. (Mi hermana, que es una ilustradora talentosa, acaba de publicar su primer libro.)

- The poem, which was written in 1840, explores themes of mortality. (El poema, el cual fue escrito en 1840, explora temas de mortalidad.)
- The actors playing the lead roles were highly praised by critics. (Los actores que interpretan los papeles principales fueron muy elogiados por la crítica.)
- I finally found the poem I had been looking for. (Finalmente encontré el poema que había estado buscando.)
- The museum, located in the heart of Florence, houses many masterpieces. (El museo, situado en el corazón de Florencia, alberga muchas obras maestras.)

Contrast

-

□ The man which lives next door is an artist. / □ The man who lives next door is an artist.
(Error: 'Which' se usa para objetos/animales, 'who' para personas).

-

□ My teacher, that is an expert in art history, gave a lecture. / □ My teacher, who is an expert in art history, gave a lecture.
(Error: No se puede usar 'that' en non-defining clauses con comas).

-

□ The book I read it was fascinating. / □ The book I read was fascinating.
(Error: No se debe duplicar el objeto con 'it' si ya usamos el relativo implícito).

-

□ The house where he lives in is beautiful. / □ The house where he lives is beautiful. (OR: The house which he lives in is beautiful.)
(Error: 'Where' sustituye a 'in which'; no se debe usar la preposición 'in' al final si se usa 'where').

Mini-quiz — 10 preguntas

Part 1: Multiple Choice

-

The writer _ novel became a bestseller is coming to our city.

- who
- whose
- that

-

Shakespeare, _ was an English playwright, wrote many sonnets.

- who
- that
- whom

-

The masterpiece _ by Leonardo da Vinci is kept in the Louvre.

- painting
- painted
- which painted

Part 2: Fill in the blanks (Use a pronoun or leave blank if omission is possible)

- The gallery __ we visited yesterday was magnificent.

- The students __ were studying the Renaissance period were very engaged.
- The lyrics __ she wrote for the song are deeply moving.

Part 3: Sentence Transformation (Rewrite the sentence using the instruction in brackets)

- The film was very long. We watched it last night. (Combine using a defining relative clause)
- My friend is a professional photographer. She took these portraits. (Combine using a non-defining relative clause)
- The man was standing by the window. He was looking at the sunset. (Combine using a reduced relative clause)
- The house was built in the 19th century. It is now a museum. (Combine using a non-defining relative clause)

Respuestas:

1. b | 2. a | 3. b | 4. (blank/that/which) | 5. (blank/who) | 6. (blank/that/which) | 7. The film (that) we watched last night was very long. | 8. My friend, who is a professional photographer, took these portraits. | 9. The man standing by the window was looking at the sunset. | 10. The house, which was built in the 19th century, is now a museum.

Lesson 3: Vocabulary Lab

Vocabulario C1 – Art, Literature & Creativity

30 palabras con definición, traducción, ejemplo y audio.

aesthetic //

/ɛs'θɛtɪk/adj

Definition: Concerned with beauty or the appreciation of beauty.

Traducción: estético

Example: The gallery's new minimalist aesthetic has attracted a much younger demographic this year.

Collocation: aesthetic appeal

- ### nuance //

/nju:ɑ:ns/n

Definition: A subtle difference in or shade of meaning, expression, or sound.

Traducción: matiz

Example: To truly appreciate post-modern literature, one must understand the subtle nuance of the author's prose.

Collocation: subtle nuance

- ### paradigm //

/ˈpærədɑ:m/n

Definition: A typical example or pattern of something; a model.

Traducción:paradigma

Example:The shift towards digital art represents a major paradigm shift in the creative industries.

Collocation:paradigm shift

- ### ambiguity //

/ˌæmbɪˈɡjuːəti/n

Definition:The quality of being open to more than one interpretation; inexactness.

Traducción:ambigüedad

Example:The ambiguity of the ending leaves the reader questioning the protagonist's true motives.

Collocation:inherent ambiguity

- ### manifest //

/ˈmæɪnfɛst/v

Definition:To display or show a quality or feeling by one's acts or appearance.

Traducción:manifestar

Example:The artist's political views manifest themselves through recurring symbols in her paintings.

Collocation:manifest itself

- ### evocative //

/ɪˈvɒkətɪv/adj

Definition:Bringing strong images, memories, or feelings to mind.

Traducción:evocador

Example:The novel is highly evocative of the Victorian era, capturing the atmosphere perfectly.

Collocation:evocative imagery

- ### intrinsically //

/ɪnˈtrɪnzɪkli/adv

Definition:In an essential way; naturally.

Traducción:intrínsecamente

Example:Art is intrinsically linked to the cultural identity of a nation.

Collocation:intrinsically linked

- ### profound //

/prəˈfaʊnd/adj

Definition:Very great or intense; showing great knowledge or insight.

Traducción:profundo

Example:The exhibition had a profound impact on the way we perceive digital reality.

Collocation:profound impact

- ### critique //

/krɪˈtɪk/n

Definition:A detailed analysis and assessment of something, especially a literary or artistic work.

Traducción:crítica (análisis)

Example:The professor provided a rigorous critique of the student's latest sculptural work.

Collocation:critical critique

- ### sublime //

/sə'blaɪm/adj

Definition:Of such excellence, grandeur, or beauty as to inspire great admiration.

Traducción:sublime

Example:The landscape paintings capture the sublime beauty of the untouched wilderness.

Collocation:sublime beauty

- ### curate //

/kjʊə'reɪt/v

Definition:To select, organise, and look after the items in a collection or exhibition.

Traducción:curar / organizar una exposición

Example:She was invited to curate the upcoming retrospective of 20th-century photography.

Collocation:carefully curated

- ### collaborate //

/kə'læbəreɪt/v

Definition:To work jointly on an activity or project.

Traducción:colaborar

Example:The brand plans to collaborate with several underground artists to launch the new collection.

Collocation:collaborate closely

- ### innovative //

/ɪnə'veɪtɪv/adj

Definition:Featuring new methods; advanced and original.

Traducción:innovador

Example:The studio is known for its innovative use of augmented reality in immersive installations.

Collocation:innovative approach

- ### commission //

/kə'mɪʃn/n/v

Definition:An instruction, command, or request to produce a particular piece of work.

Traducción:encargo / comisionar

Example:The city council decided to commission a local sculptor to create a public monument.

Collocation:commission a work

- ### visionary //

/vɪʒənəri/adj

Definition:Thinking about or planning the future with imagination or wisdom.

Traducción:visionario

Example:Her visionary designs changed the course of modern architecture.

Collocation:visionary leader

- ### comprehensive //

/ˌkɒmprɪ'hensɪv/adj

Definition:Complete; including all or everything.

Traducción:exhaustivo / integral

Example:The museum offers a comprehensive overview of the history of Renaissance art.

Collocation:comprehensive study

- ### discourse //

/ˈdɪskɔːs/n

Definition:Written or spoken communication or debate.

Traducción:discurso / debate

Example:The academic discourse surrounding AI-generated art is becoming increasingly complex.

Collocation:intellectual discourse

- ### conceptualise //

/kənˈseptʃəlaɪz/v

Definition:To form a concept or idea of something.

Traducción:conceptualizar

Example:Artists must learn how to conceptualise their ideas before starting the physical process.

Collocation:fully conceptualise

- ### manifesto //

/ˌmænɪˈfɛstəʊ/n

Definition:A public declaration of policy and aims.

Traducción:manifiesto

Example:The group published a manifesto outlining their new artistic principles.

Collocation:political manifesto

- ### aestheticism //

/esˈθetɪsɪzəm/n

Definition:The approach to art that emphasises beauty over social or political messages.

Traducción:esteticismo

Example:The movement was a reaction against the heavy moralism of Victorian literature.

Collocation:adherence to aestheticism

- ### cutting-edge //

/ˌkʌtɪŋ ˈɛdʒ/adj

Definition:At the latest or most advanced stage of development.

Traducción:vanguardista / de última generación

Example:The gallery features cutting-edge digital installations that use haptic feedback.

Collocation:cutting-edge technology

- ### vibe //

/vaɪb/n

Definition:A person's emotional state or the atmosphere of a place (informal).

Traducción:vibra / ambiente

Example:The pop-up art space has such a cool, industrial vibe.

Collocation:catch a vibe

- ### aesthetic-driven //

/esˈθetɪk ˈdrɪvən/adj

Definition:Motivated or guided primarily by visual beauty.

Traducción:guiado por la estética

Example:Social media influencers often follow an aesthetic-driven lifestyle.

Collocation:aesthetic-driven design

- ### clout //

/klaʊt/n

Definition:Influence or power, especially in social media or industry circles.

Traducción:influencia / peso

Example:Having social media clout can significantly boost ticket sales for an exhibition.

Collocation:social media clout

- ### niche //

/niːʃ/n/adj

Definition:A specialized segment of the market or interest.

Traducción:nicho

Example:He found his niche in creating miniature sculptures for film sets.

Collocation:niche market

- ### immersive //

/ɪˈmɜːrsɪv/adj

Definition:Providing a sense of being completely surrounded by something.

Traducción:inmersivo

Example:The new VR exhibit offers an immersive journey through the artist's mind.

Collocation:immersive experience

- ### hype //

/haɪp/n

Definition:Extravagant publicity or exaggerated claims.

Traducción:bombo publicitario / hype

Example:Despite all the hype, the digital art auction was surprisingly quiet.

Collocation:media hype

- ### quirky //

/ˈkwɜːki/adj

Definition:Characterised by peculiar or unexpected traits.

Traducción:peculiar / excéntrico

Example:Her quirky style makes her work instantly recognisable in any gallery.

Collocation:quirky sense of humour

- ### curated //

/kjʊəˈreɪtɪd/adj

Definition:Selected, organized, and presented with care.

Traducción:seleccionado / curado

Example:The influencer shared a highly curated feed of minimalist photography.

Collocation:curated content

- ### vibrant //

/ˈvaɪbrənt/adj

Definition:Full of energy and enthusiasm; bright and striking.

Traducción:vibrante

Example:The mural brought a vibrant energy to the previously grey urban landscape.

Collocation:vibrant colours

-

Idioms & expressions — Art, Literature & Creativity

To paint a rosy picture · neutral

neutral

Meaning: To describe something in a way that makes it seem much better than it actually is.

Significado: Presentar una situación de forma excesivamente optimista o idealizada.

Example: The CEO tried to paint a rosy picture of the merger, but the employees knew the budget cuts were coming.

- ### To read between the lines · neutral

neutral

Meaning: To understand the hidden meaning in something someone says or writes.

Significado: Leer entre líneas / entender el significado implícito.

Example: If you read between the lines of her latest novel, you can see she is actually critiquing modern politics.

- ### A blank canvas · neutral

neutral

Meaning: A person or situation that offers many possibilities for something new to begin.

Significado: Un lienzo en blanco / una oportunidad de empezar de cero.

Example: Moving to a new city felt like a blank canvas, allowing her to reinvent her professional identity.

- ### To write one's own script · neutral

neutral

Meaning: To take control of one's own life or destiny instead of following social expectations.

Significado: Escribir su propio guion / ser el dueño de su propio destino.

Example: She decided to quit the corporate ladder to write her own script and focus on freelance photography.

- ### To be lost in thought · neutral

neutral

Meaning: To be so focused on one's own thoughts that one is unaware of surroundings.

Significado: Estar absorto en sus pensamientos.

Example: He was so lost in thought while sketching that he didn't hear the gallery doors open.

- ### To capture the zeitgeist · formal

formal

Meaning: To perfectly represent the spirit or mood of a particular period in history.

Significado: Capturar el espíritu de la época.

Example: The artist's latest installation perfectly captures the zeitgeist of digital isolation.

- ### To be algorithmically driven · formal

formal

Meaning: To be motivated or directed by computer algorithms rather than human intuition or creativity.

Significado: Estar dirigido por algoritmos (falta de autenticidad creativa).

Example: Critics argue that much of modern pop music has become too algorithmically driven, losing its soul.

- ### To deepfake reality · informal

formal

Meaning: To manipulate or distort the truth through digital or social deception (contemporary slang/tech-metaphor).

Significado: Distorsionar la realidad (usando manipulación digital o social).

Example: In an era of misinformation, it feels like social media is constantly trying to deepfake reality.

- ### To curate one's persona · neutral

neutral

Meaning: To carefully select and present only specific aspects of one's life to the public (digital culture).

Significado: Curar/gestionar meticulosamente la propia imagen pública.

Example: Influencers spend hours every day trying to curate their persona to look perfectly authentic.

- ### To live in a fever dream · informal

formal

Meaning: To experience a situation that feels surreal, chaotic, or nonsensical.

Significado: Vivir en un sueño febril / una situación surrealista y caótica.

Example: The political landscape this year has felt like living in a constant fever dream.

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Lesson 5: Reading Practice

Unit 5: Art, Literature & Creativity

Reading text

The Ghost in the Machine: Is AI Reclaiming the Creative Soul?

The year 2025 has brought us to a peculiar crossroads in the history of human expression. For centuries, the act of creation was considered the final bastion of human exceptionalism—a realm where intuition, emotion, and lived experience coalesced to produce something uniquely soulful. However, as generative AI models become increasingly indistinguishable from human output, we are forced to confront a disquieting question: is creativity a divine spark, or merely a sophisticated pattern-recognition exercise?

The debate has shifted from the technicalities of how these models work to the philosophical implications of their existence. In the literary world, the recent surge of 'algorithmically-assisted' novels has sparked outrage among traditionalists. Critics argue that while an AI can mimic the prose style of Virginia Woolf or Ian McEwan, it lacks the 'intentionality' that defines great literature. A machine does not feel the sting of heartbreak or the weight of mortality; it merely predicts the next most probable word based on a colossal dataset. Consequently, the resulting text often feels technically flawless yet emotionally hollow.

In the visual arts, the tension is even more palpable. Digital canvases are now being populated by works that blend styles from disparate eras with seamless ease. This has led to a legal and ethical quagmire regarding intellectual property. If an AI is trained on the life's work of thousands of living artists without their explicit consent, is the output a new creation or a high-tech form of plagiarism? The consensus among many legal experts is that we are entering uncharted waters, where current copyright laws are woefully inadequate to protect human creators.

Yet, some argue that this technological shift is nothing more than a new tool, akin to the invention of the camera. When photography emerged in the 19th century, painters feared it would signal the death of art. Instead, it liberated painting from the necessity of realism, paving the way for Impressionism and Modernism. Proponents of AI-driven art suggest that we are witnessing a similar metamorphosis. They argue that the human role is shifting from 'maker' to 'curator' or 'prompt engineer,' where the creative impulse lies in the conceptualisation rather than the execution.

As we move deeper into this decade, the definition of an 'artist' is being stretched to its breaking point. If a machine can produce a symphony that moves a listener to tears, does the lack of a conscious composer diminish the aesthetic value of the experience? The intersection of technology and creativity is no longer a futuristic concept; it is our current reality. We must decide whether we will view these tools as an existential threat to human ingenuity or as a catalyst for a new era of hybrid expression.

Comprehension – multiple choice

1. What is the writer's main purpose in the first paragraph?
 - A. To celebrate the technological advancements of 2025.
 - B. To suggest that human creativity might be more mechanical than previously thought.
 - C. To argue that AI will eventually replace all human artists.
 - D. To highlight the superiority of human intuition over machine learning.
2. In the second paragraph, the writer suggests that AI-generated literature is flawed because...
 - A. it is unable to follow complex grammatical structures.
 - B. it lacks the genuine emotional depth derived from human experience.
 - C. it relies too heavily on outdated literary styles.
 - D. it is too predictable for modern readers to enjoy.
3. What does the term 'uncharted waters' in the third paragraph imply?
 - A. The legal system is being prepared for new challenges.
 - B. Artists are finding new ways to navigate the digital world.
 - C. We are facing a situation with no established rules or precedents.
 - D. Intellectual property laws are being rewritten globally.
4. How does the writer use the example of photography to support their argument?
 - A. To show that technological shifts often cause initial fear but lead to new movements.
 - B. To prove that visual art is more susceptible to AI than literature.
 - C. To argue that the definition of art has always been unstable.
 - D. To suggest that the camera was more disruptive than AI.
- A) What is the central tension described in the text?
 - A. The struggle between wealthy collectors and starving artists.
 - B. The conflict between traditional human expression and algorithmic generation.
 - C. The battle between legal experts and software developers.
 - D. The debate over whether digital art is 'real' art.
6. What is the writer's tone in the final paragraph?
 - A. Dismissive of the potential of AI.
 - B. Optimistic about the future of hybrid art.
 - C. Reflective and questioning.

D. Highly critical of the loss of human agency.

Gapped text – missing sentences

Instructions: Read the text again and decide which sentence (A-E) fits into the gaps. Note: There is one extra sentence you do not need.

- A. This shift in perspective could redefine our understanding of authorship entirely.
- B. This tension between the human and the synthetic is at the heart of the modern creative crisis.
- C. However, this does not mean that the human element will become entirely obsolete.
- D. Such a development would require a complete overhaul of our current educational systems.
- E. Despite these fears, the history of art is defined by its ability to adapt to new mediums.

Glossary

- Bastion (n) – baluarte / defensa
- Coalesce (v) – unirse / fusionarse
- Disquieting (adj) – inquietante
- Palpable (adj) – palpable / evidente
- Quagmire (n) – atolladero / dilema complejo
- Metamorphosis (n) – metamorfosis / transformación
- Inevitably (adv) – inevitablemente
- Catalyst (n) – catalizador

Answers

Comprehension

1. B
2. B
3. C
4. A
5. B
6. C

Gapped Text (Logical placement based on context)

(Note: In a real exam, gaps are marked in the text. Based on the flow of the provided text, the logical placement would be:)

- Gap 1 (End of Para 1): B
- Gap 2 (End of Para 3): C
- Gap 3 (End of Para 4): E
- Gap 4 (End of Para 5): A
- (Distractor: D)

Art, Genius, and the Digital Age

Esta actividad de comprensión auditiva se divide en tres partes: preguntas de opción múltiple, completar frases con palabras del audio y preguntas de análisis sobre el debate final. Escucha atentamente cada segmento para identificar matices, opiniones y detalles específicos necesarios para completar los ejercicios.

Part 1 – Conversation (questions 1–6)

|

Question |

Options |

1 |

What is Julian's primary criticism of the new art installation? |

It lacked the technical skill required for such a large display. / It prioritised visual impact over meaningful content. / It was too traditional to be considered contemporary. / It was far too expensive for the gallery to maintain. |

2 |

How does the first speaker defend the digital installation? |

By arguing that art should always have a coherent narrative. / By suggesting that art's purpose is to provoke immediate reactions. / By claiming that digital art is more permanent than classical art. / By stating that all modern art must be overwhelming to be valid. |

3 |

What does Julian mean when he describes the work as 'ephemeral'? |

The work felt deeply emotional and lasting. / The work was too complex to understand. / The work felt short-lived and fleeting. / The work was physically fragile and poorly made. |

4 |

Why does Julian prefer classical techniques like oil painting? |

He believes they are more modern than digital art. / He values the tangible craftsmanship involved in the work. / He finds them easier to understand than contemporary art. / He thinks they are more expensive and thus more valuable. |

5 |

What concern does Julian express regarding software-mediated art? |

The cost of the technology involved. / The lack of variety in digital palettes. / The potential loss of the work's soul. / The difficulty of displaying digital works. |

6 |

What is the common ground reached by both speakers at the end of the conversation? |

They agree that technology will eventually replace all artists. / They agree that the value of art depends on the audience's perspective. / They agree that traditional art is superior to digital art. / They agree that the conversation should have been about literature. |

Part 2 – Monologue: sentence completion (questions 7–12)

Complete each sentence with 1–3 words from the recording.

1. The speaker felt the installation was a case of _____ over substance.
2. The speaker suggests that art can be a _____ spark of creativity.
3. Julian describes himself as being a _____ at heart.
4. The speaker argues that digital art offers a new _____ of possibilities.
5. The debate involves the question of human touch versus _____ perfection.

6. The speaker notes that the soul of the work might get lost in _____.

Part 3 – Panel discussion (questions 13–18)

13. What is the 'genius myth' according to the narrator?

- The idea that geniuses are actually quite ordinary people.
- The belief that creativity comes from a single, sudden moment of brilliance.
- The theory that genius is purely a result of luck and social connections.
- The misconception that all geniuses are destined to be famous.

14. How does the narrator describe the reality of 'genius'?

- It is a rare gift that cannot be taught or practiced.
- It is a purely individualistic pursuit of perfection.
- It is the result of practice, iteration, and sometimes luck.
- It is an innate ability that bypasses the need for discipline.

15. What negative effect can the 'genius myth' have on aspiring creators?

- It makes them too competitive with their peers.
- It leads to a paralyzing fear of failure.
- It encourages them to ignore the importance of education.
- It makes them focus too much on the final product.

16. What does the narrator suggest we should focus on instead of the 'myth of the individual'?

- The importance of individual legacy.
- The ecology of creativity.
- The mastery of classical techniques.
- The speed of the creative process.

17. What is Speaker 2's main fear regarding AI in literature?

- That AI will become too expensive for publishers to use.
- That the human voice and emotional nuance will be lost.
- That AI will write books that are too long for readers.
- That authors will lose their jobs to machines immediately.

18. How does Speaker 3 view the role of AI in the creative process?

- As a threat that will eventually replace human authors.
- As a tool that can assist but not replace the human element.
- As a way to eliminate the need for human emotion in stories.
- As a method to make writing more efficient and less messy.

Vocabulario clave

- Thought-provoking — que hace pensar / estimulante - Prowess — destreza / proeza - Ephemeral — efímero - Culmination — culminación - Detrimental — perjudicial - Stepping stone — trampolín / peldaño - Daunting — intimidante / desalentador - Hyperbolic — hiperbólico / exagerado ### Respuestas

Part 1: 1. D · 2. B · 3. D · 4. A · 5. A · 6. A

Part 2: 1. style · 2. momentary · 3. traditionalist · 4. palette · 5. technological · 6. translation

Part 3: 13. B · 14. A · 15. A · 16. C · 17. A · 18. A

Transcript

Ver transcript completo

SEGMENT 1 — CONVERSATION

Speaker 1: I must say, Julian, I was quite taken with that new immersive installation at the Tate yesterday. It was certainly... thought-provoking, to say the least.

Speaker 2: Oh, you mean the digital light show? I found it a bit overwhelming, actually. I mean, I appreciate the technical prowess, but I couldn't quite grasp the underlying message. It felt a bit like style over substance, if you follow my drift.

Speaker 1: I see your point, but isn't that the whole essence of contemporary art, though? To challenge our traditional perceptions of what constitutes a masterpiece? It's not necessarily about a coherent narrative; it's more about the visceral reaction it elicits.

Speaker 2: I suppose so, but there's a fine line between being evocative and just being loud for the sake of it. I tend to prefer works that have a certain... I don't know, emotional depth that lingers long after you've left the gallery. This felt a bit fleeting, almost ephemeral.

Speaker 1: Well, perhaps that's the point. In an age where everything is so transient, maybe art should reflect that fleeting nature. It's not meant to be a permanent fixture in your mind, but rather a momentary spark of creativity that disrupts your daily routine.

Speaker 2: That's a rather philosophical way of looking at it! I suppose I'm just a bit of a traditionalist at heart. I find myself gravitating towards more classical techniques—oil paintings, sculpture, things that require a tangible level of craftsmanship.

Speaker 1: And there's nothing wrong with that! But don't you think that by sticking solely to traditional mediums, we risk missing out on the sheer breadth of what creativity can encompass? The digital realm offers a whole new palette of possibilities.

Speaker 2: I wouldn't go so far as to say we're missing out, but I do worry that the soul of the work gets lost in translation when it's entirely mediated by software. There's something about the imperfect stroke of a brush that a computer just can't replicate, wouldn't you agree?

Speaker 1: You've hit on a fascinating debate there. It's the age-old question of human touch versus technological perfection. I suppose it all boils down to what we, as an audience, value most in an artistic encounter.

Speaker 2: Precisely. And I think that's where the tension lies. But anyway, enough about my old-fashioned views. Have you started that new novel everyone's talking about?

SEGMENT 2 — MONOLOGUE

Narrator: Welcome back to 'The Creative Mindset'. Today, we are delving into a topic that has sparked heated debates in academic circles for decades: the concept of 'the genius myth' and its impact on modern creativity. For far too long, our cultural narrative has been dominated by the idea of the solitary, inspired genius—the individual who, in a sudden flash of brilliance, produces something transcendent. While this makes for a compelling story, it often does a great disservice to our understanding of how creativity actually works.

Narrator: In reality, much of what we label as 'genius' is the culmination of years of rigorous prac-

tice, iterative processes, and, quite frankly, a fair amount of luck. By romanticising the sudden epiphany, we inadvertently devalue the importance of discipline and the iterative nature of the creative process. We tend to overlook the fact that creativity is often a collaborative, social endeavor, rather than a purely individualistic pursuit. It is built upon the foundations laid by those who came before, through a constant process of synthesis and reinterpretation.

Narrator: Furthermore, this myth can be incredibly detrimental to aspiring artists and writers. It creates an unrealistic expectation of perfection and an overwhelming pressure to produce something groundbreaking at all times. This can lead to a paralyzing fear of failure, which is, as we know, the ultimate enemy of creativity. When we view creativity as a rare, magical gift, we become afraid to experiment, to fail, and to engage in the messy, often frustrating process of trial and error that is essential to true innovation.

Narrator: Instead, we should be fostering an environment that celebrates the process as much as the product. We need to shift our focus from the 'myth of the individual' to the 'ecology of creativity'. This means recognising the role of environment, education, and even the intersection of different disciplines in nurturing creative thought. We should encourage a mindset where experimentation is seen as a virtue and where failure is understood to be a vital stepping stone toward mastery.

Narrator: So, as we move forward in this increasingly complex world, let us question these long-held assumptions. Let us move away from the pedestal of the lone genius and towards a more nuanced, realistic understanding of human ingenuity. By doing so, we can empower ourselves and others to embrace the messy, beautiful, and deeply human process of creation without the weight of impossible expectations.

SEGMENT 3 — PANEL DISCUSSION

Speaker 1: To wrap up our discussion today, I'd like to bring us back to the intersection of literature and technology. We've touched upon it briefly, but I think it's crucial to explore how AI-generated content might reshape the landscape of authorship.

Speaker 2: It's a daunting prospect, certainly. There's a real fear that the unique, human voice—the subtle nuances of style and emotion—might be diluted by algorithms that can mimic but never truly feel.

Speaker 3: I hear what you're saying, but isn't it a bit hyperbolic to suggest that AI will replace authors? I see it more as a sophisticated tool, much like the word processor or the spell-checker. It can assist in the brainstorming process or help structure a narrative, but the core of the story still requires a human soul.

Speaker 1: That's a valid point, Speaker 3, but where do we draw the line? If an AI can produce a coherent, engaging short story that moves a reader to tears, does it matter if there wasn't a human behind the keyboard?

Speaker 2: I would argue it matters immensely! The value of literature lies in the connection between two human minds—the writer and the reader. It's an act of empathy, an exchange of lived experience. An algorithm, no matter how advanced, has no lived experience. It has no mortality, no suffering, no joy. It's just processing data.

Speaker 3: But isn't all literature, in a sense, a form of data processing? We read to find patterns, to recognise ourselves in the lives of others. If an AI can master those patterns, it's effectively engaging in the same process. It's just doing it through a different medium.

Speaker 1: It seems we're caught between the traditional view of literature as a purely human endeavour and a more functionalist view. Perhaps the real impact won't be the replacement of authors, but a fundamental shift in how we define 'authorship' and 'originality'.

Speaker 2: Precisely. And that's what worries me. If the definition becomes too broad, do we risk devaluing the very concept of the author? If everything is 'creative' because it's novel, does the word lose its meaning?

Speaker 3: Or perhaps it expands the definition to include new forms of hybrid creativity. We've seen this before with photography and painting. People thought photography would be the death

of art, but instead, it pushed painters to explore new, more abstract realms.

Speaker 1: An excellent analogy. It's possible that AI will act as a catalyst, forcing human creators to push the boundaries of what is possible, leading to entirely new genres of literature we can't even imagine yet.

Speaker 2: I suppose I can concede that point. It's a brave new world, as they say. But I'll remain a sceptic for now, guarding the sanctity of the human voice.

Speaker 3: And I'll be looking forward to seeing how these new tools can expand the horizons of our imagination. Thank you both for such a stimulating debate.

Lesson 7: Use of English

Part 1 – Word formation

Instructions: Read the text below. Use the word in CAPITALS at the end of some of the lines to form a word that fits in the gap in the same line. For C1 level, focus on complex suffixes and prefixes.

The local gallery has recently undergone a massive renovation, making it an _ (1) destination for art lovers. The exhibition, which showcases the _ (2) works of a young sculptor, has been met with widespread _ (3) from critics. While some argue that the use of digital media is a _ (4) of traditional techniques, others believe it adds a new layer of _ (5) to the creative process. The curator noted that the artist's ability to evoke such _ (6) emotions is truly unique. Despite the initial _ (7) regarding the cost of the installation, the public response has been overwhelmingly _ (8) positive.

- MUST
- VISION
- ADMIRE
- DEVALUATE
- COMPLEX
- POWER
- CONTROVERSY
- REMARK

Part 2 – Key word transformations

Instructions: Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. Do not change the word given. You must use between three and six words, including the word given.

1. The novelist, who won the Booker Prize last year, is releasing a new book. | WHOSE
 The novelist, ____, is releasing a new book.
2. I didn't realise how much the painting was worth until I saw the auction results. | REALISING
 Not ___ how much the painting was worth until I saw the auction results.
3. The sculpture was placed in the centre of the hall, which attracted many visitors. | WHICH
 The sculpture, ___ in the centre of the hall, attracted many visitors.
4. It was a very moving play that we saw last night. | THAT

- The play __ last night was very moving.
5. The museum was closed because it was being renovated. | BEING
- The museum, __, was closed to the public.
6. The poet wrote these verses during her travels in Italy. | WRITTEN
- These verses, _____ during her travels in Italy, are quite famous.

Answer key

- unmistakable
- visionary
- admiration
- devaluation
- complexity
- powerful
- controversy
- remarkably
- whose Booker Prize was won
- realising did I realise
- placed
- that we saw
- being renovated
- written

Lesson 8: Writing Workshop

Unit 5: Art, Literature & Creativity

Writing: The Review

Task (Cambridge C1 Advanced, Part 2)

Question:

You have seen the following advertisement on an international culture magazine website:

Writers Wanted!

Are you a fan of contemporary literature? We are looking for reviews of recent books or plays to feature in our upcoming issue: "The Impact of Modern Storytelling."

Write a review of a book or a play you have recently experienced. You should describe the work,

explain why it is relevant to modern audiences, and state whether you would recommend it to others.

Instructions:

Write your review in 220–260 words in an appropriate style.

Tips (en español)

- Structure: Divide tu reseña en cuatro párrafos claros: 1. Introducción (contexto), 2. Resumen de la trama/obra (sin spoilers), 3. Análisis crítico (estilo, temas, actuación), 4. Conclusión y recomendación.
- Register: Mantén un tono semi-formal o formal. Aunque es una reseña, evita el lenguaje excesivamente coloquial (slang), pero usa adjetivos sofisticados para demostrar nivel C1.
- Linking: No uses solo firstly/secondly. Utiliza conectores de contraste y de énfasis (not only... but also, despite this, nevertheless) para que el texto fluya de forma natural.
- Hedging (Cautela): En lugar de decir "The book is bad", usa técnicas de hedging como "The plot felt somewhat inconsistent" o "It could have been more engaging". Esto demuestra madurez lingüística.
- Evaluación de ideas: No te limites a decir si te gustó o no. Evalúa la técnica del autor, el desarrollo de los personajes o la atmósfera. La clave del C1 es el porqué.
- Time management: Dedica 5 minutos a planificar la estructura y el vocabulario antes de escribir. No escribas más de 270 palabras; si te pasas, podrías perder tiempo en la revisión final.

Useful language

|

Expression |

Español |

Audio |

1 |

What immediately stands out is... |

Lo que destaca enseguida es... |

|

2 |

At first glance, the scene appears to... |

A primera vista, la escena parece... |

|

3 |

Whereas the first image suggests..., the second one points to... |

Mientras que la primera imagen sugiere..., la segunda apunta a... |

|

4 |

There is a striking contrast between... and... |

Hay un contraste marcado entre... y... |

|

5 |

The people seem to be dealing with... |
Las personas parecen estar lidiando con... |

|
6 |
It is highly likely that... |
Es muy probable que... |

|
7 |
One could infer that... |
Se podría inferir que... |

|
8 |
This might reflect a broader issue: ... |
Esto podría reflejar un problema más amplio: ... |

|
9 |
Although the setting is different, both images convey... |
Aunque el contexto es distinto, ambas imágenes transmiten... |

|
10 |
The overall impression is one of... |
La impresión general es de... |

|
11 |
This would be a useful example of... |
Esto sería un ejemplo útil de... |

|
12 |
I would argue that the second image feels more... |
Diría que la segunda imagen resulta más... |

|

Model answer

Review: The Silent Echo – A Haunting Masterpiece

Set in the desolate landscapes of post-industrial Northern England, *The Silent Echo* is a gripping novel that explores the fragility of human connection in an increasingly digital age. Written by Elena Vance, the story revolves around a reclusive novelist who discovers a series of letters that challenge her perception of reality.

The narrative is masterfully constructed, weaving together multiple timelines with seamless precision. Vance's prose is nothing short of lyrical; she possesses a rare ability to evoke profound emotion through minimalist descriptions. What struck me most was the psychological depth of the characters; they are not merely archetypes but complex, flawed individuals with whom the reader can deeply empathise.

While some might find the pacing somewhat deliberate, I would argue that this slow-burn approach is essential to building the novel's pervasive sense of melancholy. Although the secondary characters occasionally feel slightly underdeveloped, this does not detract from the central emotional arc. The exploration of themes such as isolation and memory is handled with remarkable nuance, making the work feel incredibly relevant to contemporary society.

All in all, *The Silent Echo* is a thought-provoking masterpiece that lingers in the mind long after

the final page is turned. It is a profound meditation on loss and the search for meaning. I would highly recommend this book to anyone seeking a sophisticated and emotionally resonant reading experience. It is, without a doubt, one of the most compelling novels of the year.

Marking checklist

- Content: ¿Has respondido a todas las partes de la pregunta (descripción, relevancia y recomendación)? El lector debe quedar totalmente informado.
- Communicative Achievement: ¿El tono es adecuado para una revista cultural? Se evalúa si el estilo es persuasivo y si el lenguaje es apropiado para el género de la reseña.
- Organisation: ¿El texto está bien estructurado con párrafos lógicos? Se evalúa el uso de conectores y la cohesión entre ideas.
- Language: ¿Has usado vocabulario avanzado y estructuras gramaticales complejas (pasivas, inversiones, condicionales)? Se evalúa la precisión y la variedad léxica.

Vocabulario para Writing & Speaking

Expression |

Español |

Useful C1 example |

creative expression |

expresión creativa |

Creative expression can challenge social norms. |

artistic merit |

mérito artístico |

A work may have artistic merit despite being controversial. |

to convey a message |

transmitir un mensaje |

The novel conveys a powerful message. |

cultural heritage |

patrimonio cultural |

Museums protect cultural heritage. |

a thought-provoking piece |

una obra que invita a reflexionar |

It is a thought-provoking piece of theatre. |

to interpret symbolism |

interpretar simbolismo |

Readers interpret symbolism in different ways. |

originality |

originalidad |

Originality is highly valued in creative fields. |

to challenge conventions |

cuestionar convenciones |

Modern artists often challenge conventions. |

Speaking — describe & compare

Compara las dos imágenes (el proceso creativo frente al estudio de la literatura) y responde a la pregunta: ¿Qué aspectos de estas actividades crees que resultan más estimulantes para la mente?



speaking

Useful phrases

- It appears to me that... — Me parece que... - One could argue that... — Se podría argumentar que... - In stark contrast to the first scene... — En marcado contraste con la primera escena... - While the former depicts..., the latter suggests... — Mientras que lo primero representa..., lo segundo sugiere... - There is a sense of... — Hay una sensación de... - It is highly likely that... — Es muy probable que... - They both share a common theme of... — Ambos comparten un tema común de... - One might surmise that... — Uno podría conjeturar que... - The atmosphere is somewhat... — El ambiente es algo... - Judging by the visual cues... — A juzgar por las pistas visuales... - It's hard to tell for certain, but... — Es difícil saberlo con certeza, pero... - The two scenes are fundamentally different yet... — Las dos escenas son fundamentalmente diferentes pero... ### Pronunciación

Para alcanzar el nivel C1, evita la entonación plana. En las oraciones declarativas, utiliza una caída de tono al final para sonar seguro. En las preguntas de especulación, utiliza una entonación

ascendente para mostrar curiosidad o duda, lo cual ayuda a enfatizar el matiz de la hipótesis.

Model answer

In both images, we are looking at different facets of the creative process. The first scene depicts a vibrant artist's studio, where the focus is clearly on visual expression through thick, colourful oil paints. In stark contrast, the second part of the scene shows a desk overflowing with literature, suggesting a more cerebral and quiet form of creativity. While the former is visually explosive, the latter seems to represent a more introspective and structured kind of work.

Regarding the question of what is more stimulating, I would argue that both offer unique mental challenges. The artist's environment suggests a sensory-driven stimulation, where one might surmise that the tactile nature of painting provides an immediate emotional release. On the other hand, the literary setting implies a deep, intellectual engagement that requires intense concentration and solitude. Ultimately, I believe the most stimulating aspect is the ability to translate abstract thoughts into something tangible, whether that be through a brushstroke or a written sentence. Both environments facilitate this escape from reality, providing a sense of purpose that is essential for mental well-being.

Lesson 10: Mediation Task

Mediation

Escribe un correo electrónico informal a tus amigos para informarles sobre los nuevos talleres del museo. Debes resumir los detalles clave, incluyendo los tipos de cursos, el objetivo de los talleres y la oferta de descuento, animándoles a participar.

Texto original (español)

¡Atención amantes del arte! El Museo de Arte Contemporáneo ha anunciado una nueva serie de talleres creativos para este verano. Los cursos incluyen 'Escultura Moderna', 'Técnicas de Acuarela' y 'Narrativa Visual'. Los talleres son prácticos y están dirigidos a personas que quieran mejorar sus habilidades o simplemente experimentar con nuevos materiales. Las plazas son limitadas y se requiere inscripción previa a través de la web del museo. El coste es de 50 euros por sesión, pero si te inscribes en dos o más, recibes un 20% de descuento. ¡No pierdas la oportunidad de conectar con tu lado creativo!

Imagen de apoyo



mediation

Estrategias clave

- Identificar la información relevante (tipos de talleres, objetivos y descuentos).
- Adaptar el registro de un anuncio formal a un correo electrónico informal.
- Sintetizar la información sin copiar frases literales del texto original.
- Utilizar conectores de transición para dar fluidez al mensaje.
- Mantener el propósito comunicativo (informar y persuadir).
- Organizar el texto de forma lógica (introducción, cuerpo y cierre).

Audiencia de destino

your friends who are interested in art and creative hobbies

Respuesta modelo (English)

Hi everyone,

I hope you're all doing well! I just spotted something really exciting that I thought you'd love. The Contemporary Art Museum has just launched a new series of creative workshops for the summer. They're offering a variety of practical sessions, such as modern sculpture, watercolour techniques, and visual storytelling. It sounds like a fantastic way to either sharpen our skills or just have some fun experimenting with different materials. Since it's quite hands-on, it'll be a great break from our usual routine.

One thing to keep in mind is that spaces are limited, so we'd need to book in advance via their website. Also, there's a bit of a deal: if we sign up for two or more sessions, we get a 20% discount! I thought it would be brilliant if we could go together. What do you think? Let me know if you're interested so we can look into booking our spots before they're all gone!

Best,

[Your Name]

Lesson 11: Podcast Guide

Podcast Guide – Art, Literature & Creativity

Escuchar podcasts auténticos es fundamental en el nivel C1 para acostumbrarse a la velocidad natural, los modismos y los diversos acentos que no encontrarás en un libro de texto. En esta guía, seleccionamos contenidos de alta calidad que desafiarán tu comprensión auditiva y ampliarán tu léxico especializado en el ámbito cultural.

Recommended podcasts (3 total)

1. BBC In Our Time

- Level & accent: British (Received Pronunciation/Academic), C1 appropriate: Yes.
- Recommended episode: "The Renaissance" or "The History of the Novel".
- Why it's useful for C1: Este podcast utiliza un lenguaje académico y sofisticado, ideal para aprender a estructurar argumentos complejos. Te permitirá familiarizarte con debates intelectuales de alto nivel sobre historia y arte.
- 5 key phrases to listen for:

To spark a debate (Desencadenar un debate)

- A seminal work (Una obra trascendental/fundamental)
- To be steeped in (Estar impregnado de/empapado de)
- To challenge the status quo (Desafiar el orden establecido)
- A nuanced understanding (Una comprensión matizada/detallada)

2. TED Talks (Audio version)

- Level & accent: Mixed (Global English), C1 appropriate: Yes.
- Recommended episode: "How to stay creative" or "The power of storytelling".

- Why it's useful for C1: Los ponentes de TED suelen hablar con claridad pero con una velocidad y entonación muy naturales. Es perfecto para aprender cómo presentar ideas abstractas de forma persuasiva.
- 5 key phrases to listen for:

To push the boundaries (Desafiar los límites/fronteras)

- To tap into (Aprovechar / conectar con algo)
- An epiphany (Una epifanía/revelación)
- To resonate with someone (Resonar/conectar emocionalmente con alguien)
- To break new ground (Abrir nuevos caminos/innovar)

3. Desert Island Discs (BBC Radio 4)

- Level & accent: British (Varied), C1 appropriate: Yes.
- Recommended episode: Any episode featuring an author or artist (e.g., Kazuo Ishiguro or David Hockney).
- Why it's useful para C1: Este programa es excelente para entender la narrativa personal y el uso de lenguaje descriptivo y emocional. Te ayudará a captar matices de personalidad y anécdotas complejas.
- 5 key phrases to listen for:

To be profoundly influenced by (Estar profundamente influenciado por)

- A turning point (Un punto de inflexión)
- To evoke memories (Evocar recuerdos)
- To capture the essence of (Capturar la esencia de)
- To leave a lasting legacy (Dejar un legado duradero)

Active listening strategies (C1)

- Listening for gist vs. detail: No intentes entender cada palabra. Primero, identifica el tema general (gist) y luego vuelve a escuchar para buscar detalles específicos (dates, names, arguments).
- Note-taking with keywords: No escribas frases completas. Utiliza palabras clave, verbos de acción y conectores para reconstruir el argumento en tu mente.

mal

- Shadowing technique: Si escuchas una frase que te parece especialmente elegante o bien estructurada, pausa el audio e intenta repetirla imitando exactamente la entonación y el ritmo del hablante.
- Identify signposting language: Presta especial atención a los conectores (e.g., however, furthermore, conversely). Estos te indican hacia dónde se dirige el argumento del hablante.
- Contextual guessing: Cuando encuentres una palabra desconocida, no detengas el audio. Intenta deducir su significado basándote en el contexto de la frase y el tono del interlocutor.
- Transcribing challenging segments: Si un pasaje es muy rápido, vuelve a escucharlo y trata de escribirlo palabra por palabra. Esto entrena tu oído para las "connected speech" (uniones de sonidos) típicas del C1.

Follow-up task

Task: The Critical Review

- Vocabulary Extraction: While listening, write down 5 new words or collocations. After the episode, look up their definitions and write one original sentence for each, related to your own interests.
- Summary Synthesis: Write a 150-word summary of the episode. Do not just list facts; try to explain the argument or the perspective presented by the speaker.
- Oral Argumentation: Record a 2-minute voice note on your phone expressing your opinion on the topic discussed. Use at least three of the "key phrases" you learned in this guide. Listen to your recording and check your pronunciation and fluency.

Lesson 12: Media Guide

Cine & Series – Art, Literature & Creativity

Utilizar producciones cinematográficas de alta calidad es esencial para familiarizarse con el registro culto y la complejidad sintáctica necesaria en el nivel C1. Este tipo de contenido te permitirá absorber estructuras gramaticales avanzadas de forma natural, algo fundamental para dominar las 'relative clauses' y el vocabulario abstracto.

Recommended title

- Title: The Crown (Season 1-2 / Film-length quality), 2016–present, Netflix
- Accent/dialect: Received Pronunciation (RP) / High British English
- Why it's perfect for C1: The series uses an incredibly sophisticated register, perfect for learners aiming for professional or academic mastery. The dialogue is dense with nuanced vocabulary, formal etiquette, and complex sentence structures that mirror the requirements of the C1 Advanced exam.
- Episodes to start with: Season 1, Episodes 1–4

Language focus

1. "The crown must be worn, even if the weight of it feels unbearable."

- Vocabulary note: Unbearable /ʌn'beərəbl/ (insoportable/insustentable).
- Grammar spotlight: This is a non-defining relative clause (though the 'which' is implied in the emotional weight). If we rewrite it: "The crown, which must be worn, feels unbearable." Note how the extra information is set off by commas.

2. "It is a duty that one does not simply choose, but one accepts."

- Vocabulary note: To accept /ək'sept/ (aceptar/asumir una responsabilidad).
- Grammar spotlight: This is a defining relative clause. The clause "that one does not simply choose" is essential to define which specific type of duty is being discussed.

3. "The decisions made in these silent halls shape the fate of nations."

- Vocabulary note: To shape /ʃeɪp/ (dar forma/moldear).
- Grammar spotlight: This is a reduced relative clause. The full version would be: "The decisions [which are] made in these silent halls..." In C1 English, removing the relative pronoun and the verb 'to be' is a common way to sound more concise and sophisticated.

Viewing task (active watching)

- Vocabulary Log: Note down at least 10 words or idioms per episode that relate to duty, tradition, or emotion.
- Register Analysis: Identify moments where characters switch from highly formal "court language" to private, informal conversations. Note how their word choice changes.
- Grammar Hunt: Every time you hear a character describe a person or an object, check if they are using a relative clause. Try to identify if it is defining (essential info) or non-defining (extra info).
- Oral Summary: After the episode, record yourself on your phone giving a 3-sentence summary of the main conflict using at least one reduced relative clause.

Similar titles

- Downton Abbey (Period Drama): Excellent for practicing highly formal British etiquette and complex social vocabulary.
- Sherlock (Crime/Intellectual): Perfect for fast-paced, modern British English and high-density vocabulary related to deduction and logic.

The Quiet Inspiration



everyday_scene

En esta escena, vemos a una artista en medio de su proceso creativo en un entorno doméstico. La imagen captura ese momento de reflexión necesario para transformar una idea en una obra tangible, un tema central de nuestra unidad sobre la creatividad.

Preguntas para hablar (Speaking practice)

- Describe what is happening in this scene and the atmosphere it conveys.
- What kind of personality might this person have, based on her surroundings?
- How important is it to have a dedicated creative space in one's life?
- Do you think people today are more or less creative than in the past?
- Compare your own approach to hobbies or creativity with the person in the photo.

Unit review – Art, Literature & Creativity

Al finalizar esta unidad, deberías ser capaz de utilizar estructuras gramaticales complejas, como las cláusulas de relativo (tanto definidas como no definidas y sus formas reducidas), para añadir información detallada y fluida a tus descripciones. También deberías haber ampliado tu léxico especializado para hablar de temas abstractos como la estética, el proceso creativo y el impacto de la literatura.

A nivel de examen C1, deberías sentirte cómodo integrando vocabulario avanzado de forma natural y manejando estructuras sintácticas variadas para evitar la repetición. Este test está diseñado para medir si puedes pasar de un uso funcional del inglés a un uso sofisticado y preciso, esencial para alcanzar los niveles más altos en el Cambridge Advanced.

Grammar consolidation

Rewrite or complete the sentences following the instructions in brackets to practice relative clauses.

- The artist painted this mural in 1920. He is now considered a national icon. (Combine using a non-defining relative clause)
- The novel was written by a former spy. It became a global bestseller. (Combine using a defining relative clause with 'which')
- The museum is hosting a new exhibition. It is located in the city centre. (Combine using a reduced relative clause)
- The person is responsible for the curation of the gallery. I met him yesterday. (Combine using a defining relative clause)
- The sculpture, which was made of recycled glass, was incredibly fragile. (Rewrite using a reduced relative clause to maintain the same meaning)
- The reasons for the sudden change in artistic style are unknown. (Rewrite the sentence starting with: The reasons why...)
- The book was so moving that I couldn't stop crying. (Rewrite using a relative clause to describe the book: It was a book...)
- The director of the film is a genius. We are going to see her work tonight. (Combine using a non-defining relative clause)
- The student won the scholarship. She had spent years perfecting her technique. (Combine using a non-defining relative clause)
- The cafe where we met is now closed. (Rewrite using 'which' to replace the relative adverb)

Vocabulary activation

A. Word Formation: Complete the sentences using the correct form of the word in capitals.

- The sheer ____ of the landscape inspired the painter. (MAJESTY)
- Her poetry is known for its profound _____. (EXPRESSIVE)
- The museum's new collection is truly _____. (REVOLUTION)
- The critic's ____ review ruined the play's reputation. (DEVASTATE)

B. Collocations: Choose the correct word to complete the C1-level collocations.

- The author has a ____ reputation for writing historical fiction. (wide / broad / vast)
- The exhibition was designed to ____ public interest in modernism. (spark / kindle / ignite)
- The novel provides a ____ insight into the lives of ordinary people. (deep / profound / heavy)
- He was heavily ____ by the works of Dante. (influenced / inspired / moved)

C. Register & Context: Match the word to its appropriate context (Formal/Literary vs. Informal).

- "A masterpiece" vs "A great job" -> Which one is more suitable for a formal art critique? ____
- "To evoke" vs "To bring up" -> Which one is more literary? ____
- "A cutting-edge technique" vs "A new way" -> Which one sounds more sophisticated? ____
- "To capture the essence" vs "To show the truth" -> Which one is more idiomatic in an essay?

Integrated skills task

Reading Source Text

The rise of digital art and AI-generated imagery has sparked a heated debate within the creative community. Traditionalists argue that true art requires a human soul—a direct connection between the artist's emotions and the medium. They claim that without the physical struggle of the brush or the intentionality of the human hand, the result is merely a hollow imitation of creativity.

Conversely, proponents of digital tools argue that technology is simply an extension of the artist's will. They suggest that the "soul" of a piece lies in the concept and the vision, not the tool used to manifest it. To them, an algorithm is no different from a pigment or a chisel. As the boundaries between human and machine blur, we are forced to redefine what it means to be "creative" in the 21st century.

Writing Task

Instrucciones: Basándote en el texto anterior, escribe un ensayo de entre 180 y 220 palabras. Debes presentar tu opinión sobre si la tecnología puede realmente producir "arte" o si el arte requiere necesariamente la intervención humana directa. Utiliza vocabulario avanzado y estructuras de relativo para conectar tus ideas de forma sofisticada.

Speaking checkpoint

Answer these prompts aloud to practice your fluency and range. Try to speak for at least 1-2 minutes per question.

- Compare: Compare the experience of visiting a physical art gallery with looking at art online. Which is more impactful?
- Speculate: How do you think the role of the artist will change in the next fifty years due to advancements in technology?
- Evaluate: "Art should always be beautiful." To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?
- Justify: Some people believe that literature is becoming obsolete in the age of video. Justify why literature remains a vital medium for human expression.
- Describe & Contrast: Describe a piece of art or a book that has had a significant impact on you. How does it differ from the media you usually consume?
- Hypothesize: If you were to create a masterpiece, what medium would you choose and what message would you want to convey to the world?

Self-assessment rubric

Criterion |

Needs work (B2) |

Solid (C1) |

Exam-ready (C1+/C2) |

Accuracy |

Frequent errors in complex structures. |

Good control; errors are rare and don't impede meaning. |

High level of grammatical precision and sophisticated control. |

Range |

Uses basic vocabulary and simple sentences. |

Uses a variety of advanced vocabulary and sentence structures. |

Demonstrates a wide and natural range of sophisticated language. |

Fluency |

Frequent hesitations and repetitions. |

Speaks at length with some hesitation when searching for words. |

Smooth, natural flow with minimal effort in expression. |

Task Achievement |

Answers are too short or off-topic. |

Fully addresses the prompt with relevant detail. |

Provides nuanced, deep, and highly engaging responses. |

Answer key

Grammar consolidation

1. The artist, who painted this mural in 1920, is now considered a national icon.

2. The novel which was written by a former spy became a global bestseller.
3. The museum, located in the city centre, is hosting a new exhibition. (Or: The museum hosting a new exhibition is located in the city centre.)
4. The person whom I met yesterday is responsible for the curation of the gallery.
5. The sculpture made of recycled glass was incredibly fragile.
6. The reasons why the artistic style changed so suddenly are unknown.
7. It was a book that was so moving that I couldn't stop crying.
8. The director of the film, whom we are going to see tonight, is a genius.
9. The student, who had spent years perfecting her technique, won the scholarship.
10. The cafe, which we met in, is now closed. (Or: The cafe in which we met is now closed.)

Vocabulary activation

1. Majesty
2. Expressiveness
3. Revolutionary
4. Devastating
5. Vast
6. Spark
7. Profound
8. Inspired
9. A masterpiece
10. To evoke
11. A cutting-edge technique
12. To capture the essence