

Read the following passages. Find all the gerunds and infinitives and underline them. Then, identify “how” they are being used (object of preposition, infinitive of purpose, subject, etc.)

I. *What is art?*

Trying to define art is almost impossible because each individual has an opinion about what *is* or *is not* art. For some, art is only certain types of music or painting or sculpture, while for others art includes any creative act. The best way, then, to define art may be to consider what it does rather than what it is.

For most people, the function of art is to be pleasing to the eye or ear. In fact, art has served as decoration since prehistoric times. Yet, does something have to be beautiful to be art? Can a disturbing or distasteful piece be considered art? Does the definition of art as beauty exclude works like Picasso’s *Guernica*, which portrays the destruction of an entire town?

According to some critics, art goes beyond beauty. It involves making the world understandable by bringing order to the chaos of human experience. But can this definition be appropriate when one considers the chaos in works such as Michelangelo’s *Last Judgement* or Erik Satie’s *Through the Looking Glass*?

Perhaps we can define art only by giving a more general explanation of its function. Art historian John Canaday expresses this idea by saying that art is meant “to clarify, intensify, or otherwise enlarge our experiences of life.”

II. *Jazz*

Jazz musicians are unique as creative artists. Many poets, painters, and novelists are accustomed to working alone, but this is often impossible for jazz musicians. Because of the nature of jazz, most of their playing and practicing must be with other musicians. They need each other’s sounds and impulses to become inspired.

To develop their own styles, jazz musicians must be ingenious and versatile. Playing jazz involves remembering hundreds of musical phrases and improvising on them during a solo. Each musician’s personal style develops through various ways of improvising.

Some jazz musicians are so skillful at improvising that they can even improvise on their mistakes. The great trumpeter Dizzy Gillespie is famous for using any mistake to begin a new improvisation. By using a mistake to begin a new melody, he creates a whole new piece of music.

III. *The Impressionists*

On April 15, 1874, a small group of artists held its first exhibition in Paris. The Parisian art world had already begun to react to the tremors of “modernism,” yet few people were prepared for the shock waves from this exhibition. The pictures shown by Pissarro, Degas, Cézanne, Sisley, Monet, Morisot, Renoir, and a few guest artists cause the public to react violently with

disappointment and disgust. It seemed for a moment as though all of Paris had stopped to criticize the “radical” style of these artists.

Art critics were virtually unanimous in their panning of the exhibition. Some even advised burning all of the paintings. One critic sarcastically labeled the group’s technique “impressionist,” after having seen *Impression, Sunrise*, a painting by Claude Monet. The critic had already been trying to define their technique for a long time. After hearing these remarks, the painters stopped looking for definitions and began to call themselves “impressionists.”