

Exercise 1 *Guess*

Look at this image What is it?



Describe what you see? *I think it is, It could be/perhaps it is, it might be*

What?..... *a computer part? a piece of metal, old books?*

Who or what created the image?.....*a painter? a computer? etc*

Why?.....*What is its purpose?*

To find answers; complete Exercise 2,3,4&5

© vhsteacher.com

Exercise 2: Fill the gaps in the sentences using these key words from the text.

environmental *to preach(3)* *a greenhouse* *glad(1)* *to fly* *poor(4)* *an impact*
to concentrate *to export* *produce* *glad(2)* *a pattern(3)* *to take (7)* *a source*

1. _____ is to get a photograph using a camera
2. _____ is a building with glass sides and a glass roof for growing plants in
3. _____ is to sell and send goods to another country
4. _____ is connected with the natural conditions in which people, animals and plants live; connected with the environment
5. _____ is the powerful effect that something has on somebody / something
6. _____ is not good; of a quality that is low or lower than expected
7. _____ is grateful for something
8. _____ is pleased; happy
9. _____ is a place, person or thing that you get something from
10. _____ is to give all your attention to something and not think about anything else
11. _____ is to move through air or space in an aircraft
12. _____ is to give somebody advice on moral standards, behaviour, etc., especially in a way that they find annoying or boring
13. _____ is a regular arrangement of lines, shapes, colours, etc. as a design on material, carpets, etc.
14. _____ are things that have been made or grown, especially things connected with farming

Exercise 3: Find and highlight the above key words in the text. (see example: **produce)**

Exercise 4: Reading

Bernhard Lang's best photograph: the 'Sea of Plastic' greenhouses from the air

I took this last year on the coast of Andalusia, southern Spain, over the Mar del Plastico, which means “sea of plastic”.

It's 350 square kilometres completely covered in greenhouses that grow millions of tons of fruit and vegetables to be exported to western Europe.



Mar del Plastico, Andalusia, Spain:
350 sq km of greenhouses growing fruit and vegetables to feed Europe.

The area has a big environmental impact because of the huge amounts of water pumped out of the ground, and most of the people working there are Moroccans on poor wages. But a lot of people are glad it's there – my pilot said it is a big source of income for Spain.

I take photographs out of open doors on aeroplanes and helicopters. The first time I did it, I was so sick I was glad when it was over. These days I concentrate so hard on the photos, I have no room for fear. But I am still happy to touch down on the ground.

We flew for about three hours the day I took this. It was cloudy. The forecast was for sun, but the weather never goes the way I plan it. In the end, though, I was happy it wasn't bright; you can get huge shadows when the sun comes out, and the soft light actually helped here.

When I'm in the air, I shoot like hell: I take between 1,000 and 2,000 pictures. But I only keep the strongest. This was one of 20 I kept.

The contrast between the beauty of the Earth and the impact of humans on it is an important part of my work. Sometimes I feel sad about humanity's impact, but I don't want to preach and there is beauty to observe.

The greenhouses are built into the landscape, so none of them are completely straight, which makes for some amazing patterns. This shot looks like an abstract painting to me.

About half of the **produce** that comes from these farms is exported to Germany, where I live. I think about this photo every time I go to the supermarket. The big chains, like Aldi and Lidl, stock a lot of these mass-produced fruit and vegetables, which just don't taste as good. It changed my shopping habits for good.

Guardian Newspaper July 2015

Exercise 4a:

Comprehension

Read the above article and answer these questions

1. Who took the photograph on page 1? _____

2. Where was the photograph taken? _____

3. What does *Mar del Plastico* mean in English? _____

4. Where do most of the workers come from? _____

5. Is Bernhard scared when he takes photos? _____

6. How many photographs does Bernhard normally take when he's in the air? _____

7. Does Bernhard still shop in Aldi? _____

8. What technique does Bernhard use to get the photographs?

9. What is an important consideration in Bernhard's work?

Exercise 5:

Listening

Click on the link and listen for answers to these questions (Switch on Subtitles/Closed Captions)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oG5jk1DpGIM>

1. Where does Bernhard Lang live? _____
2. What year did he start work on his "ariel views" _____
3. Where did he take his first Ariel views _____
4. When did Bernhard shot the Mar del Plastico series? _____
5. In which category did Bernhard win first prize at the IPA awards? _____
6. Why does Bernhard produce big photographs? _____



Exercise 5a:

2nd Listening

Click on the link and listen for answers to these questions (Switch on Subtitles/Closed Captions)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GZzm-nM4Fqk> (stop video at 6 minutes)

1. How many tomatoes are grow inside the first Greenhouse visited by the BBC _____
2. Are the tomatoes grown in the ground? _____
3. How does the presenter describe the area from the air? _____
4. Why was it so difficult to grow crops in the region before the introduction of greenhouses?

Exercise 6:

Talking

Almería is a province of Andalusia, Spain and contains Europe's driest area.

Yet today, despite the almost desert like conditions of the sandy coastline of Huelva and Almería, modern agricultural methods means the area can supply year round, plentiful, cheap fruit and vegetables for European customers.



Look at the underlined statements. **Is this a good or bad thing?** Why? Could this method be used to help alleviate starvation in famine prone areas of the world? Should the system be replicated in other hot dry countries? Africa, India, etc.

1: Make a list of some of the benefits and *repercussions of Mar del Plástico

** an indirect and usually bad result of an action or event that may happen some time afterwards*

Compare and talk about your suggestions with a partner in class

Benefits	Repercussions
1	
2	
3	

2: Who is responsible for creating “The Sea of Plastic? Discuss with your partner
