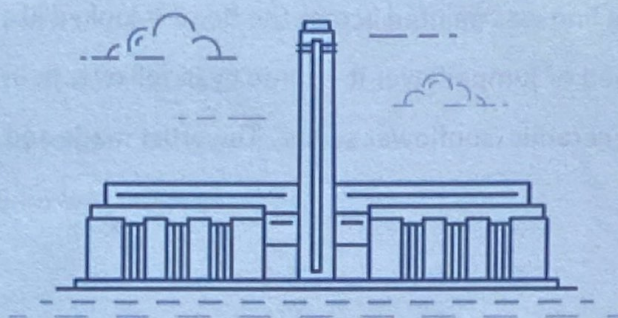


## The Wonderful World of Tate Modern



Tate Modern is one of the most important modern art galleries in the world – and it's also one of the most popular attractions in London. The gallery's **permanent collection** displays British and international art from 1900. It's not the only Tate Gallery in the UK – there are two in London, one in Liverpool and one in St Ives (a **seaside** town in the south west), as well as a virtual gallery – Tate Online. However, Tate Modern is the most popular. Since it opened in 2000, it has attracted more than five million visitors every year. Its opening hours are from 10 am to 6 pm from Sunday to Thursday, and until 10 pm on Fridays and Saturdays. Like most British museums and art galleries it's free to get in, although visitors over 12 have to pay to see special **exhibitions**.

Tate Modern isn't just famous for its art but also for its actual building. Why? Firstly, its location – it is on the south **bank** of the river Thames, opposite the **iconic** St Paul's Cathedral. Visitors can cross the river from one to the other by walking across a **pedestrian bridge**. This bridge, called the Millenium bridge as it was built in the year 2000, was opened at about the same time as Tate Modern. In addition, the design of the building makes it a famous **landmark**. It was originally a **power station** which closed down in 1981. With its 99 metre high chimney, it is an impressive sight. The local council wanted to **demolish** the power station but people campaigned to save it. They were successful, and planners decided to make it an art gallery.

There was an international competition for an architect, and work on the building began in 1995; it cost £134 million. That was not end, though. The gallery was so successful that soon there was a need to extend the building. In 2009 work began on a **massive** new extension, which included a 'viewing terrace' with fantastic views of the city. The new building was opened in 2016.



Some of the art works at Tate Modern have been extraordinary and controversial, but they are always popular. Here are some examples: in 2006, huge chutes (like the ones at theme parks!) were installed between the floors of the gallery – people **queued** to **slide** down them even if there were stairs! In 2008 a long line was painted across the floor. It looked like a big crack in the ground, and people stepped or jumped over it – some even fell over it. In 2010 an entire hall was filled with millions of tiny ceramic 'sunflower seeds'. The artist made and painted all of them by hand.

**EX1. Read the text about the Tate Modern Gallery and match words with definitions.**

- |                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| 1. Permanent collection      | the area near the sea, especially where people spend their holidays and enjoy themselves.                  |
| 2. Display ( <i>verb</i> )   | a structure which links two points at a height above the ground designed for walking only.                 |
| 3. Seaside                   | a very famous building or place.   |
| 4. Exhibition                | objects, artifacts, or pieces of art that are collected and owned by a museum.                             |
| 5. Bank                      | very famous or popular.  |
| 6. Iconic                    | to wait in a line of people, often to buy something.   |
| 7. Pedestrian bridge         | very large in size, amount, or number.   |
| 8. Landmark                  | 2 to arrange something or a collection of things so that the public can see it.                            |
| 9. Power station             | 1 an event at which objects such as paintings are shown to the public, or the act of showing these things. |
| 10. Demolish ( <i>verb</i> ) | land along the sides of a river.   |
| 11. Massive                  | to move on a surface easily, with no obstacles.  |
| 12. Queue ( <i>verb</i> )    | to completely destroy a building, especially in order to use the land for something else.                  |
| 13. Slide ( <i>verb</i> )    | a factory where electricity is produced.   |



## EX2. Decide if the statements are True (T) or False (F).

1. There are five Tate galleries altogether. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Tate Modern displays art from around the world. \_\_\_\_\_
3. You don't usually have to pay to visit an art gallery in Britain. \_\_\_\_\_
4. The power station was demolished. \_\_\_\_\_
5. In 2006, visitors had to use chutes. \_\_\_\_\_
6. The crack on the floor was not real. \_\_\_\_\_

## EX3. Answer the questions on a piece of paper in exercise section.

1. How many people visit the Tate Modern Gallery annually?
2. When is Tate Modern closed?
3. What is Tate Modern famous for?
4. What is the origin of the name 'Millenium bridge'?
5. Who saved the old power station from demolition?
6. What happened in 2009?
7. Name two controversial art works at Tate Modern and describe them.

## EX4. EMAIL WRITING preparation: read the email and complete it with the given expressions.

HOORAY      ANYWAY, I HAVE TO GO NOW      HOW ARE YOU?  
 SORRY I DIDN'T REPLY EARLIER      TALK SOON

Hi Matt,

HOW ARE YOU? Thanks for your email.  
SORRY I DIDN'T REPLY EARLIER but I have been busy with exams. I've just  
 done the last one, HOORAY 😊 ! We'll get the results  
 next week – wish me luck!

What are your plans for the summer? Are you coming to the UK again? I hope so! We're going on holiday in August, but only for a week. We're going camping in Wales! I've never been camping before so I'm looking forward to it.

Write back soon, or maybe we could chat online? When's a good time for you to do that? Let me know!

ANYWAY I HAVE TO GO NOW - football training's starting!

TALK SOON,

Joe



EX5. Have a closer look at the email above. Then, tick the right answer.

1. The verbs are conjugated ☒ in their short form ☐ in their long form
2. The body of the email is divided into ☐ one paragraph ☒ two paragraphs

EX6. Write an email to your English friend Jane and tell her about your summer trip to London.

1. Greet Jane
2. Thank her for the email
3. Tell her about your plan for the trip: when you're going, who you're going with, where you're staying, what you're doing
4. End the message in a friendly way