

READING

- 1 Look at the title of the article and the photos. What do you think the text is going to be about?
- 2 Read the article quickly and check your predictions for exercise 1.

The story of a fresco

1 When 80-year-old Cecilia Giménez, a local artist in the village of Borja in Spain, decided to renovate a fresco in her local church, she had no idea what the outcome was going to be. Cecilia had noticed that the damp was starting to damage the 120-year-old portrait of Jesus Christ painted on one of the columns in her local church, so without further ado, she decided to do something about it. Using nothing more than a brush and some oil paint, she set about restoring it without asking permission.

2 Cecilia was on holiday when someone noticed what had happened to the fresco and at first they thought it had been vandalized. The original painting, *Ecce Homo* ('Behold The Man') by Elías García Martínez, painted with delicate brush strokes, had disappeared and was almost unrecognizable. Some people thought it now looked more like a sketch of a monkey wearing a tunic than the face in the original.

3 While the picture was not of great financial value, it held a lot of sentimental value to the people of Borja. This, coupled with the fact that the local artwork preservation centre had just received a substantial donation from the original painter's granddaughter specifically for restoring the fresco, made the matter even harder for local people to deal with.

4 However, those passionate about having the fresco restored to its original glory may have to wait a little longer. To date, the fresco has been left the way Cecilia restored it and she has become something of a local hero. Since the image of *Ecce Mono* ('Behold The Monkey') went viral, more than 57,000 people have visited the church in Borja to see Cecilia's work of art and they each pay a small fee of €1 to view the fresco or to have their photo taken beside it with the money going towards helping finance other charitable work the church does. There are plans to sell the rights of Cecilia's restored picture and have it printed on mugs, T-shirts and other merchandise that tourists can buy. An agreement has been signed which states that Cecilia is entitled to almost half of the profits from such a venture, with the remaining amount going to the church's foundation.

5 Since her restoration of *Ecce Homo*, Cecilia has been invited to exhibit her own pictures at other galleries in Spain and elsewhere. One of her landscapes which she had donated to a charity was recently sold on eBay for €1,000. She explained that she painted as a way to relax and to help her cope with difficulties she has had to face in her life: being widowed at a young age, then losing one of her sons to a degenerative illness and having to care for her other son who is now suffering from the same disease. However, she has made it clear that she has no desire to make money from her reputation as the world's worst art restorer.



GLOSSARY

renovate	to repair something to make it look like it used to
set about	to start trying to sort out a problem
delicate	very careful and precise
substantial	very large
degenerative	making the body weaker

VOCABULARY

Homonyms

3 In which paragraph can you find the following information?

- 1 The name of the original fresco.
- 2 What happened when the image went viral.
- 3 How old the original fresco was.
- 4 Why Cecilia likes to paint.
- 5 How Cecilia's restoration has helped tourism in Borja.

4 Choose the correct answer.

- 1 Cecilia decided to go ahead and restore the fresco ...
 - A once she had been given permission from the church.
 - B without checking with anyone.
 - C before it was completely destroyed by the damp.
 - D having discussed the issue with the local people.
- 2 While Cecilia was on holiday ...
 - A people started to admire the fresco.
 - B no one noticed that the fresco had changed.
 - C someone rang her to ask her if she had restored the fresco.
 - D someone thought the fresco had been vandalized.
- 3 The original fresco ...
 - A was worth a lot of money.
 - B had been donated by the painter's granddaughter.
 - C was not worth a lot of money.
 - D had been donated to the church by the painter.
- 4 The church is keen to use the *Ecce Mono* image and ...
 - A sell it to art buyers.
 - B have Cecilia restore other artworks.
 - C have bought the rights to use the image on pottery.
 - D print it on a variety of products aimed at tourists.
- 5 Cecilia's ...
 - A son died before her husband.
 - B husband died when she was still quite young.
 - C husband died from an inherited disease.
 - D son died when he was very young.

5 Answer the questions.

- 1 What do you think of the decision to leave the fresco?

- 2 What do you think would have happened if the image of the fresco had not gone viral?

- 3 What do you think of Cecilia's restoration of the fresco?

6 Complete the sentences with the words in the box. Use each word twice in the same sentence.

bear block book fly time turn

- 1 We'll never get this dance move right if you don't _____ when it's your _____.
- 2 I can't _____ the thought of that poor _____ being stuck in a zoo the rest of its life.
- 3 I wish that _____ would just _____ away and stop annoying me.
- 4 Did Lucia _____ the tickets for the G.R.R. Martin _____ launch?
- 5 Let's not stand here. That enormous wooden _____ is going to _____ our view.
- 6 Is there enough _____ for us to practise the dialogue one more _____?

7 Look back at *Verb Zone* in your Student's Book and write down the five multi-part verbs from Unit 7.

8 Complete the sentences with the multi-part verbs from exercise 7 in the correct form.

- 1 The council wants _____ a block of flats in six weeks on the playing field.
- 2 I just don't understand the point you're trying _____.
- 3 Before we go into the museum we might _____ the main square.
- 4 Can you _____ any animals in this picture? I think they're hidden in the trees.
- 5 The town planners are going _____ that old factory at last.