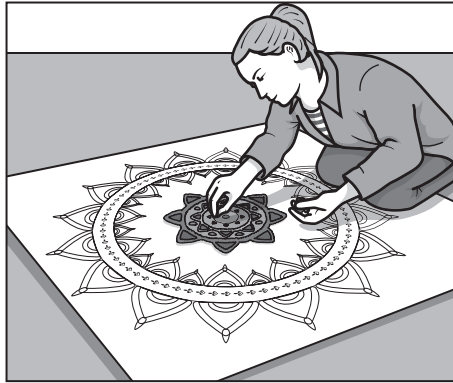




Exercise 4

Read the article about an artist who creates artwork on the ground using coloured sand, and then answer the questions.

The sand artist



If you take a walk in a popular London tourist area, you'll see street entertainers such as musicians or magicians. You might also see something different – the work of sand artist Lisa Cortez. Lisa uses coloured sand to create detailed patterns on the ground. If people like her work, they can show their appreciation by leaving money in the small box she has nearby. There are of course some people who appear too busy with their mobile phones to show an interest in her art. She feels, however, that she gives people who wouldn't necessarily consider a trip to an art gallery the chance to experience art for themselves, something which she thinks is very positive. Most passers-by do stop and ask where the inspiration for her highly detailed designs comes from.

Working outside comes with certain challenges. Her creations cannot be fixed to the ground, as the sand needs to be swept up at the end of each day. But she can prevent her artwork from being blown away by choosing a place out of the wind. Normally at lunchtimes, she can rely on a flow of office workers or tourists to see her work as they enjoy the chance to be outside. In extremely hot weather, however, they prefer the air-conditioned atmosphere found in the cafés to being outside. You might also imagine that rain would be the most difficult problem to manage, but as Lisa points out, it is quite easy to check when rain is expected so she can alter her plans.

Lisa explains that she spends most of the summer designing and creating her patterns. Because her artwork is different to the usual things people see, she finds that the box she leaves out for donations from people who admire her work fills up quickly on a good day, and sometimes, people come to find her because she's an artist they've heard about. With the money from the box, and the art classes she runs during the winter, she makes enough to rent her small flat in London. Teaching full-time would allow her to afford something bigger, but she'd miss making her art outside. The classes she teaches are for people who want to learn traditional painting methods, although she's thinking about running some classes teaching other people her techniques with sand.

Lisa offers suggestions to anyone thinking about trying sand art in public. For example, while most people walking by say lovely things, there are always those who like to criticise, she says, so learning not to be upset is important. She has also discovered that if you try and create your sand art too close to a path, the sand will be disturbed by the movement of the crowds. Somewhere quieter is better, and will allow you to work on fine decoration, she adds. Lisa's work is based on very precise, beautiful Indian patterns. While making pictures that reflect familiar scenes seems like a good idea, she believes that the colourful sand is perfect for her highly detailed patterns.

Lisa has an exciting month ahead, with an exhibition of her work coming up. It took a while to find the best way of displaying her work; obviously the items she has created specially for the exhibition can't hang on the wall, so she has asked the organisers to cover her work with thin plastic sheets. These give a clear view of the art while at the same time prevent people touching it. The hall where the exhibition takes place should be big enough for the people Lisa is hoping will come to view her work in comfort.



Question 13

What advice does Lisa give to people who would like to try sand art in public?

- A** Include ideas from the local area in your artwork.
- B** Create your artwork where lots of people walk past.
- C** Be prepared to deal with negative comments.

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