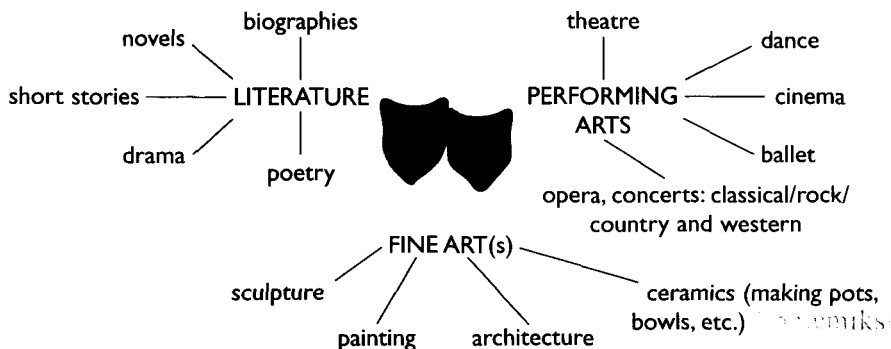


Things which generally come under the heading of 'the arts'



The **arts** (plural) covers everything in the network. **Art** [singular, uncountable] usually means **fine art**, but can also refer to technique and creativity.

Have you read the **arts page** in the paper today? [that part of the newspaper that deals with all the things in the network]

She's a great **art lover**. [loves painting and sculpture]

Shakespeare was skilled in the **art of poetry**. [creative ability]

Dance usually refers to modern artistic dance forms: **ballet** usually has a more traditional feel, unless we say **modern ballet**. *Remember:* a **novel** is a long story, e.g. 200–300 pages; a piece of short prose fiction, e.g. 10 pages, is a **short story**.

! Use of the definite article

When we refer to a performing art in general, we can leave out the definite article.

Are you interested in (the) **cinema/ballet/opera/theatre**?

But: Would you like to come to the **cinema/ballet/opera/theatre** with us next week?
[particular performance]

B Describing a performance

We went to see a new production of *Hamlet* last night. The **sets**⁽¹⁾ were incredibly realistic and the **costumes**⁽²⁾ were wonderful. It was a good **cast**⁽³⁾ and I thought the **direction**⁽⁴⁾ was excellent. Anthony O'Donnell gave a marvellous **performance**⁽⁵⁾. It got **rave reviews**⁽⁶⁾ in the papers today.

⁽¹⁾scenery, buildings, furniture on the stage or in a studio; ⁽²⁾clothes the actors wear on stage; ⁽³⁾all the actors in it; ⁽⁴⁾the way the director had organised the performance; ⁽⁵⁾and ⁽⁶⁾note these typical collocations; ⁽⁶⁾ means 'got very enthusiastic comments'

C Words connected with events in the arts

There's an **exhibition** of paintings by Manet on in London.

They're going to **publish** a new edition of the **works** of Cervantes next year.

The Opera Society are doing a **performance** of *Don Giovanni*.

Our local cinema's **showing** *Titanic* next week.

Note: **What's on** at the cinema/theatre, etc. next week? (note the two prepositions)