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1. Do you like to paint?
2. What are the names of some famous painters?
3. Who painted the *Mona Lisa*?

**Vocabulary Preview**

Match the word or phrase with its meaning.

1. ____ She excels in every subject at school.
2. ____ That painting is his greatest achievement.
3. ____ Max's mom praised him when he got an A+.
4. ____ Chocolate was the specialty of the candy store.
5. ____ You need to be a genius to understand this book.
6. ____ Adam is so inventive. He could build anything.

a. very smart person  
b. special product  
c. to say good things about  
d. creative  
e. does very well  
f. finished task
Leonardo da Vinci was born on April 15, 1452. He grew up in Italy, in a town called Vinci. Interestingly, his name means "Leonardo from Vinci." He was an amazing man of many talents. He was very smart. He has been described as a genius because he excelled at everything. Whatever he tried, he easily became a master of it. As a student, his teachers often praised him for his achievements.

He is best known for his paintings. Many people think da Vinci is one of the greatest painters who ever lived. His specialty was creating realistic paintings. Two of his works, Mona Lisa and The Last Supper, are still famous today. The Mona Lisa is kept in the Louvre Museum in Paris, France. Every day, thousands of visitors line up to see it.

However, the talents of da Vinci were not limited to painting. He was also talented in the sciences. Da Vinci was an architect and an engineer. He was incredibly curious and inventive. Surprisingly, he thought of many things which we still use. For example, in his notebooks, he wrote about items like the helicopter and the army tank. He also thought about solar power and the calculator. He foresaw these items in the 16th century. This was several hundred years before they were actually used. He truly was a genius.

Leonardo da Vinci died in France, on May 2, 1519. Today, only a few of his paintings and notebooks remain. They are masterpieces to treasure for all time.

Word Practice

Choose the correct word or phrase.

1. Jessie is always asking questions about everything. She is so ______.
   a. smart   b. curious   c. amazing   d. talented

2. Our teacher ______ a shovel as a tool used for digging.
   a. described   b. liked   c. praised   d. came up with

3. James was a very ______ writer. He created many interesting characters.
   a. inventive   b. curious   c. limited   d. mean

4. Pamela got another A! She always ______ at school!
   a. lines up   b. excels   c. writes   d. creates
Choose the best answer.

1. What is this story mainly about?
   a. A flying machine
   b. A genius with many talents
   c. The world’s best painter
   d. A museum in France

2. What does “it” in line 11 refer to?
   a. The Louvre Museum
   b. Paris, France
   c. The *Mona Lisa*
   d. Da Vinci’s inventions

3. Which talent is da Vinci most famous for?
   a. Creating machines
   b. Writing music
   c. Designing buildings
   d. Making realistic pictures

4. What was so surprising about da Vinci’s inventions?
   a. He thought of so many things.
   b. Most were never used.
   c. They were very realistic.
   d. He thought of some modern things.

Focus On  Same or Opposite.

Write S for same or O for opposite.

1. _____ excel  do well
2. _____ invent  create
3. _____ genius  fool
4. _____ thousands  many
Leonardo da Vinci was a man of many 1_________. He is considered a genius and one of the world’s greatest 2_________. Perhaps his most famous piece is 3_________. In addition to art, da Vinci is famous for 4_________ many things. Several of his inventions are used today. He died in 5_________ in 1519.
A Real Genius

Listen to the dialog and take notes.

Who does Jane think is a genius?

Why does Jane think he is a genius?

What has he done?

What is his greatest achievement?

Listen again and check your notes.

Use your notes to fill in the blanks.

Story Summary

Jane thinks ________ ________ is a genius. He has many different ________. He got an ________ in every ________ when he was a student. He can also speak ________ languages. His greatest achievement is making a new door for their ________. It opens if you ________ to it.

My Story Notes

Do you know about a genius? Write some notes about him or her.

Who do you think is a genius?

Why do you think he or she is a genius?

What has he or she done?

What is his or her greatest achievement?

Using your notes, write your story in complete sentences.

Writing

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________
Speaking

Look at the dialog. Fill in the blank with the correct choice.

a. I had a special talent
b. anyone really smart
c. What is he known for?
d. many little kids learn to play music

1. Lucy has a lot of great ideas. She is very ______.
   a. careful  b. inventive  c. stubborn  d. scary

2. The police ______ the car that was stolen. It was mine!
   a. called  b. compared  c. described  d. wrote about

3. My grandma's ______ is blueberry muffins.
   a. met  b. thought about  c. specialty  d. fit in

4. The teacher ______ her for getting such good grades.
   a. praised  b. disappointed  c. introduced  d. caused

Now practice with a partner. Make your own answers.

Vocabulary Review

Choose the correct word or phrase.

1. Lucy has a lot of great ideas. She is very ______.
   a. careful  b. inventive  c. stubborn  d. scary

2. The police ______ the car that was stolen. It was mine!
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