

## THE WALL

These four walls

Match each of the walls below with the correct description.

- |                            |                     |
|----------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Hadrian's Wall          | 2. the Berlin Wall  |
| 3. the Great Wall of China | 4. the Western Wall |
- When it was finally completed during the Ming Dynasty (1368–1644), it was over 2,000km long. Today, it is the only man-made object that is visible from space.
  - This wall is also known as the Wailing Wall. Jewish people from all over the world come to pray here. The wall is the only remaining part of the Second Temple of Jerusalem, destroyed by the Romans in 70 AD.
  - It was made of concrete, was over 100km long and almost 4m high, and it is estimated that around 70 people died trying to cross it. Demolition of this wall started on 9th November, 1989.
  - It was built to protect the northern boundary of Roman Britain against hostile tribes to the north. Work on the wall started in about 122 AD and it took about 11 years to complete.

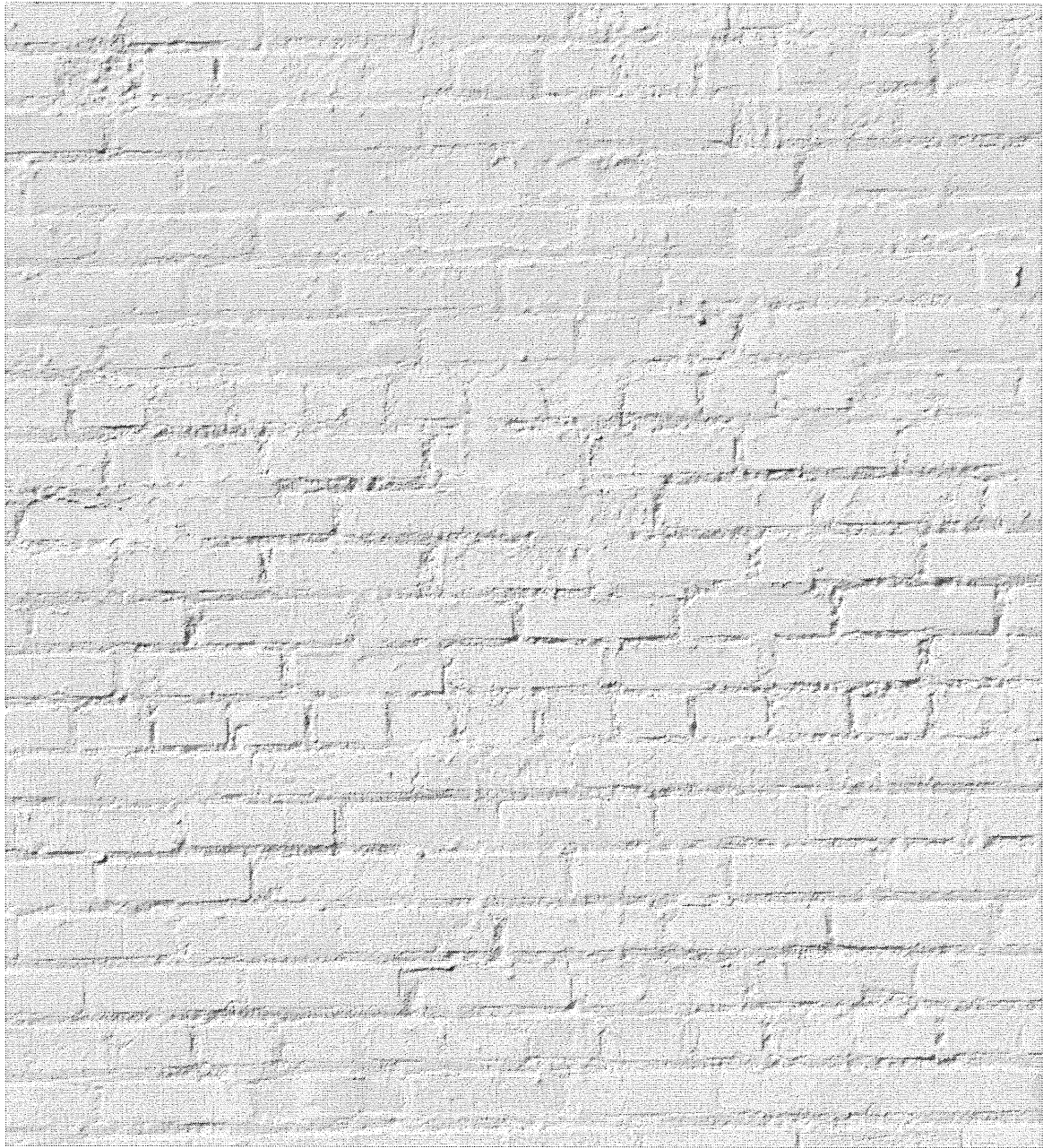
Get out your spray can

True graffiti artists express themselves and leave a record on the wall of who they are and how they feel. See if you can match each example of famous graffiti below with the correct description.

BRITS OUT KILROY WAS HERE  
 turk 182 DON'T WORRY I ♥ NY  
 BE HAPPY  
 GEORGE DAVIS IS INNOCENT

- Leave your name.** This graffiti first appeared in the United States in the 1930s and it is now perhaps the most famous piece of graffiti of all time.
- Write a message.** This is an example of graffiti from 1990, inspired by a pop song with an optimistic message.
- Support a cause.** In 1975, a London taxi driver was sent to prison for robbery. People who believed he was not guilty wrote this slogan all over London.
- Write your tag.** This 'tag' appeared on the subway trains of New York in the early 1970s. The idea behind 'tagging' is to write your graffiti identity in as many places as possible.
- Declare your love.** This was originally part of a campaign to attract tourists to New York. Today, it is used for anything or anybody.
- Make a political comment.** This graffiti from Northern Ireland told British soldiers that some people wanted them to leave the country. It has many racist and sexist variations.

## Graffiti your own wall



## PHRASEBOOK

**Making guesses**

I think this is / means ...

I reckon ... stands for ...

I think you drew .. because ...

Could this be ...?

**Asking for confirmation**

Am I right?

Am I far off?

**Speculating**

I wonder if ...

This might be / mean / stand for ...

It's difficult to say, but maybe ...

This looks like ...

I'm not really sure, but perhaps ...

## FLY ON THE WALL

Describing a wall

Look at this drawing of Oliver's wall. Complete the description using the words below.



|                 |       |                  |                 |                  |
|-----------------|-------|------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| to the left of  | below | in the middle of | to the right of | behind           |
| to the right of | above | behind           | in front of     | in the middle of |

I'm looking at it right now. It's the wall \_\_\_\_\_(1) my computer. Right \_\_\_\_\_(2) it, there's a corkboard. There's not much on it at the moment – just a couple of notes reminding me to do things. \_\_\_\_\_(3) the corkboard, there's a long poster of the Himalayas with Mount Everest in the middle. I went to Nepal two years ago but it was the monsoon season and too cloudy to see the mountains, so I bought this poster instead! \_\_\_\_\_(4) the corkboard, there's a shelf. \_\_\_\_\_(5) the shelf there are some books. \_\_\_\_\_(6) the corkboard, there's a really beautiful painting from Indonesia. On the painting, there's a woman sitting \_\_\_\_\_(7) a very small house with a tree \_\_\_\_\_(8) it. \_\_\_\_\_(9) the painting, there's a poster from the Rioja region of Spain. On the poster you can see wine bottles from the different wines that are produced in this region. And, \_\_\_\_\_(10) the shelf, there are some holiday photos.

Wall idioms meaning

Choose the best definition for each wall idiom. The idioms are in bold.

1. Callum's inviting Emily round for dinner tonight. He's going to ask her to marry him. I wish I could **be a fly on the wall!**
  - a. be there and not be seen
  - b. stop it happening
  - c. be there and make them feel uncomfortable
  
2. He always plays techno music when he's at home. **It drives me up the wall.**
  - a. It makes me want to get up and dance.
  - b. It really annoys me.
  - c. I have to go upstairs so I can't hear it.
  
3. Chloe? She's the one who wears really **off-the-wall** clothes.
  - a. strange
  - b. horrible
  - c. standard and boring
  
4. I've tried to convince her not to start boxing but **it's like talking to a brick wall.**
  - a. You can't understand what she says.
  - b. She can't hear what I say.
  - c. She won't listen.
  
5. I know I said I'd help you, but I can't right now. There's a serious problem at work and **my back's against the wall.**
  - a. I've got a bad back.
  - b. I'm in a very difficult situation.
  - c. I'm really busy.



## Wall idioms practice

Complete the sentences with the idioms below.

it's like talking to a brick wall

driving me up the wall

a fly on the wall

the writing's on the wall

his back's against the wall

off-the-wall

1. The football coach was really popular but \_\_\_\_\_ after all those terrible results.
2. I keep telling her to tidy up her room but \_\_\_\_\_.
3. I'd love to be \_\_\_\_\_ when John goes to see the school director!
4. She has these really \_\_\_\_\_ ideas. I don't know whether she's joking or being serious.
5. Hey! Will you stop sniffing? It's \_\_\_\_\_.
6. Some people think \_\_\_\_\_ for the printed page and that books will disappear now that people have e-readers and tablets.

Think of a time that you wished you could be a fly on the wall. Then, tell your partner about it.

Now, tell your partner what really drives you up the wall.

Use the phrases in the box below to show you are listening and encourage your partner to continue talking.

## PHRASEBOOK

**Reacting to what your partner is saying**

Yes, that would be fascinating.

Wow!

Yes, that would drive me up the wall, too.

I can see why that annoys you.

Oh, how annoying!

**Showing you are listening**

Ah, OK.

I see.

**Encouraging your partner to say more**

Really?

So, what happened next?

Tell me a bit more about that.