

Art or vandalism? 破坏公物的艺术?

Vocabulary: law and the courts 词汇: 法律与法庭

Is it art or **vandalism**? Britain is divided by **graffiti**. Recently, a British **judge** was so impressed by one graffiti **gang**, called SMT, he said in court that they should be proud of their work.

He still **sent them to prison** though.

Under the law, graffiti is **criminal damage**, and the **maximum sentence** is ten years in prison, so the gang **got off lightly**. One member **got nine months**, one six months and one, who was under 18, got six months in a **youth detention centre**.



The **prosecuting barrister** said that they had caused £150,000 worth of damage to the railways. He said "It's not simply **tagging** with marker pens. The scale we are talking about is the entire **carriage** being **daubed**."

In contrast, the judge said the gang were talented artists, he didn't want to give them a **custodial sentence**, and would be as **lenient** as he could. After looking at photographs of their graffiti, he called it a **portfolio** to be proud of.

It's difficult to speak about graffiti, without making it clear whether you like it or hate it. The prosecuting barrister talked about vandalism and damage to property. He used the word 'daub', which means to apply colour without any skill or **artistry**.

Meanwhile the judge's words all show he sees their graffiti as art – a portfolio is a professional artist's collection of work, and the judge repeatedly used the word talent and talented.

Local councils in Britain spend a lot of money every year removing **spray-painting**, because many people complain it makes an area feel unsafe and **run-down**. However, research in 2008 showed that people were willing to tolerate some graffiti. They were more likely to **report** it as vandalism if they saw it as 'low quality' or **offensive**.

But the research also showed that even when graffiti was accepted and valued as community art, it was often sprayed over by another graffiti writer in time, and people then saw that as vandalism.

词汇表请参看答案与词汇部分

Quiz 测验

阅读短文并回答问题。

1. According to the article, do all British people feel the same about graffiti?
2. What is the maximum sentence for graffiti?
3. Who described the gang's graffiti as daubing not art?
4. Is the following statement true, false or not given? *People are more likely to report graffiti if it is offensive.*
5. Which word, used in the article, means an artist's collection of work, used to show their talent?

Exercise 练习

请你在不参考课文的情况下完成下列练习。从每个表格中选择一个意思合适的单词填入句子的空格处。

1. I had the wrong ticket, but I got _____ lightly. The ticket inspector just told me off and I didn't have to pay a fine.

on	off	of	in
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2. The judge sent her _____ prison for stealing money from her company.

to	in	for	into
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3. I think he should have had a much harsher punishment. The court was too _____.

lenient	gentle	sensitive	easy
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4. They should paint the outside of the building. It looks really uncared for and _____.

ran down	running down	runs down	run-down
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5. Kids smashed the windows last night. There's a lot of that sort of _____ at the moment.

vandalism	run-down	offensive	tagging
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Answers and Glossary 答案与词汇

Quiz 小测验

1. According to the article, do all British people feel the same about graffiti? No. Some see it as art and some as criminal damage or vandalism.
2. What is the maximum sentence for graffiti? 10 years in prison.
3. Who described the gang's graffiti as daubing not art? The prosecuting barrister.
4. Is the following statement true, false or not given? *People are more likely to report graffiti if it is offensive.* This is true.
5. Which word, used in the article, means an artist's collection of work, used to show their talent? Portfolio.

Exercise 练习

1. I had the wrong ticket, but I got off lightly. The ticket inspector just told me off and I didn't have to pay a fine.
2. The judge sent her to prison for stealing money from her company.
3. I think he should have had a much harsher punishment. The court was too lenient.
4. They should paint the outside of the building. It looks really uncared for and run-down.
5. Kids smashed the windows last night. There's a lot of that sort of vandalism at the moment.

Glossary 词汇表

vandalism	破坏公物的行为
graffiti	涂鸦
judge	法官
gang	（犯罪）团伙
sent them to prison	送他们入狱
criminal damage	刑事损害
maximum sentence	最高刑罚
got off lightly	（被）从轻判决
got nine months	被判九个月的徒刑
youth detention centre	少年拘留所
prosecuting barrister	起诉律师
tagging	标注
carriage	车厢
daubed	（随意）涂抹
custodial sentence	监禁刑罚
lenient	宽松的
portfolio	作品集
artistry	艺术技巧
local councils	地方（政府）理事会
spray-painting	喷漆
run-down	状况差的，衰退的
report	报告
offensive	冒犯无礼的