



# THE VISUAL VILLAGE



- A Before the age of the smartphone, aspiring photographers had to learn how to use high-tech cameras and photographic techniques. Not everyone had cameras, and it took skill and a good eye to capture and create a great photograph. Today, with the huge range of camera apps on our smartphones, we are all amateur photographers. And pretty good ones, too: The quality of smartphone images now nearly equals that of digital cameras.
- B The new ease of photography has given us a **tremendous** appetite for capturing the magical and the ordinary. We are **obsessed** with documenting everyday moments, whether it's a shot of our breakfast, our cat—or our cat's breakfast. And rather than collect pictures in scrapbooks, we share, like, and comment on them with friends and strangers around the globe.
- C Even photojournalists are experimenting with cell phones because their near invisibility makes it easier to capture unguarded moments.<sup>1</sup> The Internet also allows photojournalists to avoid traditional media. They can now act as their own publishers—reaching huge audiences via social media sites such as Instagram. A photograph taken in New York can get a response from someone in Lagos within a second of being uploaded.
- D In the past, magazines published unforgettable photos of important people and global events that captured our imaginations. These photos had the power to change public opinion—even the course of history. But if there are fewer memorable images today, it's not because there are fewer good images: It's because there are so many. No one image gets to be special for long.
- E Cameras are everywhere—a situation that is transforming the way we experience **dramatic** events. When there are major political events or natural disasters, it is ordinary citizens with cell phones—not photojournalists—who often provide the first news images. Quality still matters, but it's less important than what's **instantly** shared.
- F As people everywhere **embrace** photography and the media make use of citizen journalists, professional standards appear to be shifting. In the past, most people trusted photojournalists to accurately **represent** reality. Today, however, digital images can be altered in ways the naked eye might

<sup>1</sup> Something done in an **unguarded moment** is done when you think no one is watching.



never notice. Any image can be altered to create an “improved” picture of reality. The average viewer is left with no way to assess the accuracy of an image except through trust in a news organization or photographer.

- 6 The question of the accuracy of images gets even trickier when photojournalists start experimenting with camera apps—like Flickr or Instagram—which encourage the use of

filters. Images can be colored, brightened, faded, and scratched to make photographs more artistic, or to give them an antique look. Photojournalists using camera apps to cover wars and conflicts have created powerful images—but also **controversy**. Critics worry that antique-looking photographs romanticize war, while distancing us from those who fight in them.



A taxi driver in Kolkata, India, catches up on the news before starting his day (photographed by Annapurna Mellor).



H Yet, photography has always been more subjective than we assume. Each picture is a result of a series of decisions—where to stand, what lens<sup>2</sup> to use, and what to leave in or out of the frame. Does altering photographs with camera app filters make them less true?

<sup>2</sup> A **lens** is a thin, curved piece of glass or plastic used in things such as cameras.

- I There's something powerful and exciting about the experiment that the digital age has forced upon us. These new tools make it easier to tell our own stories, and they give others the power to do the same. Many members of the media get stuck on the same stories, focusing on elections, governments, wars, and disasters. In the process, they miss out on the less dramatic images of daily life that can be just as revealing and **relevant**.
- I The increase in the number of photographs and photographers might even be good for **democracy** itself. Hundreds of millions of potential citizen journalists make the world smaller and help keep leaders honest. People can now show what they are up against, making it increasingly difficult for governments to hide their actions. If everyone has a camera, Big Brother<sup>3</sup> isn't the only one watching.
- K Who knows? Our obsession with documentation and constantly being connected could lead to a radical change in our way of being. Perhaps we are witnessing the development of a universal visual language. It's one that could change the way we relate to each other and the world. Of course, as with any language, there will be those who produce poetry and those who make shopping lists.
- L It's not clear whether this flowering of image-making will lead to a public that better appreciates and understands images. Or will it simply numb<sup>4</sup> us to the **profound** effects a well-made image can have? Regardless, the change is irreversible. Let's hope the millions of new photographs made today help us see what we all have in common, rather than what sets us apart.

<sup>3</sup> **Big Brother** refers to a person or organization exercising total control over people's lives; the phrase originates from George Orwell's novel 1984.

<sup>4</sup> If an event or experience **numbs** you, you are not able to feel any emotions or think clearly.



**A. Choose the best answer for each question.**

- |            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| MAIN IDEA  | 1. According to the author, why are there fewer memorable photographs today?<br>a. because the quality of many images is very poor<br>b. because most images are not interesting to a global audience<br>c. because traditional media refuse to publish amateur photos<br>d. because there are so many good images these days                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| DETAIL     | 2. What kinds of images does the author think matter most these days?<br>a. images that are important to people and can be shared quickly<br>b. high-quality images that help show dramatic events<br>c. images presented in a traditional way that reflect reality<br>d. images that can be altered to improve one's sense of reality                                                                                                                                                                          |
| PURPOSE    | 3. Why does the author put the word <i>improved</i> in quotation marks in paragraph F?<br>a. The writer is using the exact word from another source.<br>b. The writer wants to stress that the picture of reality is greatly improved.<br>c. The writer feels it is questionable whether the picture is truly improved.<br>d. The writer is not sure the reader understands the word, so draws attention to it.                                                                                                 |
| INFERENCE  | 4. Who does the author criticize in paragraph J?<br>a. citizen journalists<br>b. government leaders<br>c. Big Brother<br>d. people who alter photos                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| PARAPHRASE | 5. When referring to visual language, what does the author mean by <i>as with any language, there will be those who produce poetry and those who make shopping lists</i> (paragraph K)?<br>a. It will be most useful for shopping and for writing beautiful poetry.<br>b. It will be better because it can be used for a variety of things.<br>c. Visual language has certain limitations compared to written language.<br>d. Some people will use it for everyday things, and others for more creative things. |



**B. Match each paragraph with its main idea (a–e).**

- |                  |                                                                                                                                           |
|------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Paragraph A • | • a. More photojournalists are taking smartphone images now and uploading them to social media sites.                                     |
| 2. Paragraph C • | • b. The effect on us of the increasing number of photographs is still uncertain.                                                         |
| 3. Paragraph E • | • c. When there are big or dramatic news stories, amateur photographers often share the first images with the public.                     |
| 4. Paragraph G • | • d. Altering photos with camera apps can give viewers a misleading impression about serious events such as wars.                         |
| 5. Paragraph I • | • e. Anyone can be an amateur photographer now because photos taken on smartphones are almost as good as photos taken on digital cameras. |

## Understanding Words with Multiple Meanings

Many words have more than one meaning. In some cases, the words may be different parts of speech; for example, a noun and a verb. They may be different in meaning (e.g., a **slip** of paper; to **slip** on the ice), or similar (e.g., to score a **goal**, my **goal** in life). In each case, you may need to use a dictionary to understand a word's exact meaning.

### IDENTIFYING MEANING

- A.** Scan paragraphs A–D in Reading A to find the words in **bold** below (1–6). Then choose the correct meaning (a or b) for each.

- |                    |                        |                           |
|--------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>1. age</b>      | a. a period in history | b. how old someone is     |
| <b>2. pretty</b>   | a. quite               | b. attractive             |
| <b>3. appetite</b> | a. physical hunger     | b. a strong desire        |
| <b>4. act</b>      | a. an action           | b. to behave              |
| <b>5. second</b>   | a. a 60th of a minute  | b. number two in a series |
| <b>6. course</b>   | a. a class             | b. the direction          |

### ANALYZING

- B.** Read each of these excerpts from Reading A (1–4). Choose the sentence in which the underlined word has the same meaning as the **bold** word.

- ... makes it easier to **capture** unguarded moments. (paragraph C)
  - NASA is using space telescopes to help capture images of distant planets.
  - The capture of the gang's leader should lead to less crime in the city.
- Photojournalists using camera apps to **cover** wars ... (paragraph G)
  - The local media will cover the results of the election.
  - His photo appeared on the cover of a magazine.
- ... a result of a **series** of decisions ... (paragraph H)
  - There has been an unusual series of events.
  - What is the most popular comic book series?
- ... and what to leave in or out of the **frame**. (paragraph H)
  - It looked like somebody was trying to frame him for the theft.
  - Look in the camera frame and tell me what you see.

### CRITICAL THINKING Evaluating Pros and Cons

Do you think news photographers should be allowed to use filters when publishing images of serious subjects (e.g., wars)? What are the pros and cons of doing so? Discuss with a partner and note your ideas.

Pros: \_\_\_\_\_

Cons: \_\_\_\_\_

Your opinion: \_\_\_\_\_



## COMPLETION

A. Circle the correct words to complete the paragraph below.

Recent years have seen some <sup>1</sup>**relevant / dramatic** changes in photography. The availability of cell phones has allowed millions of people to <sup>2</sup>**embrace / represent** photography as a hobby. Image-sharing apps allow anyone to share photos <sup>3</sup>**instantly / profoundly** with friends and followers online; some people become <sup>4</sup>**tremendous / obsessed** with capturing and documenting every detail of their lives. However, the popularity of image-sharing sites has also raised some <sup>5</sup>**obsessive / controversial** issues—for example, when images of an individual are widely shared without the person's knowledge.



## WORDS IN CONTEXT

B. Complete each sentence with the correct answer (a or b).

- A **controversy** involves \_\_\_\_\_ among people.
  - agreement
  - disagreement
- If a photo **represents** a place, it \_\_\_\_\_ what the place is like.
  - shows
  - doesn't show
- In a **democracy**, citizens \_\_\_\_\_ the right to vote.
  - have
  - don't have
- If the ideas in an old book are **relevant** today, they \_\_\_\_\_ matter.
  - no longer
  - still
- If you feel a **tremendous** amount of pressure, you feel \_\_\_\_\_ of pressure.
  - a lot
  - a little bit
- Something that is **profound** is felt or experienced very \_\_\_\_\_.
  - briefly
  - strongly



## WORD FORMS

C. We can add **-tic** to some nouns to form adjectives (e.g., **drama** + **-tic** = **dramatic**). Complete the sentences below using the adjectives in the box.

**athletic    democratic    dramatic    genetic**

- A person's \_\_\_\_\_ ability—for example, their speed and strength—may be partly affected by \_\_\_\_\_ factors.
- In the 20th century, many countries held their first \_\_\_\_\_ elections.
- In 2011, Amy Weston took a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ photo of a woman leaping to safety from a burning building.

- DEFINITIONS** A. You are going to read about photographer Annie Griffiths. Below are some expressions she uses (1–5). What do you think they mean? Match each one with its definition (a–e).
- |                    |   |                                   |
|--------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| 1. small talk      | • | • a. light conversation           |
| 2. put at ease     | • | • b. addicted; obsessed           |
| 3. hooked          | • | • c. make people feel comfortable |
| 4. by some miracle | • | • d. extremely good; excellent    |
| 5. top-notch       | • | • e. amazingly; surprisingly      |
- PREDICTING** B. What could be some challenges of being a professional photographer? Discuss with a partner. Then check your ideas as you read the passage.

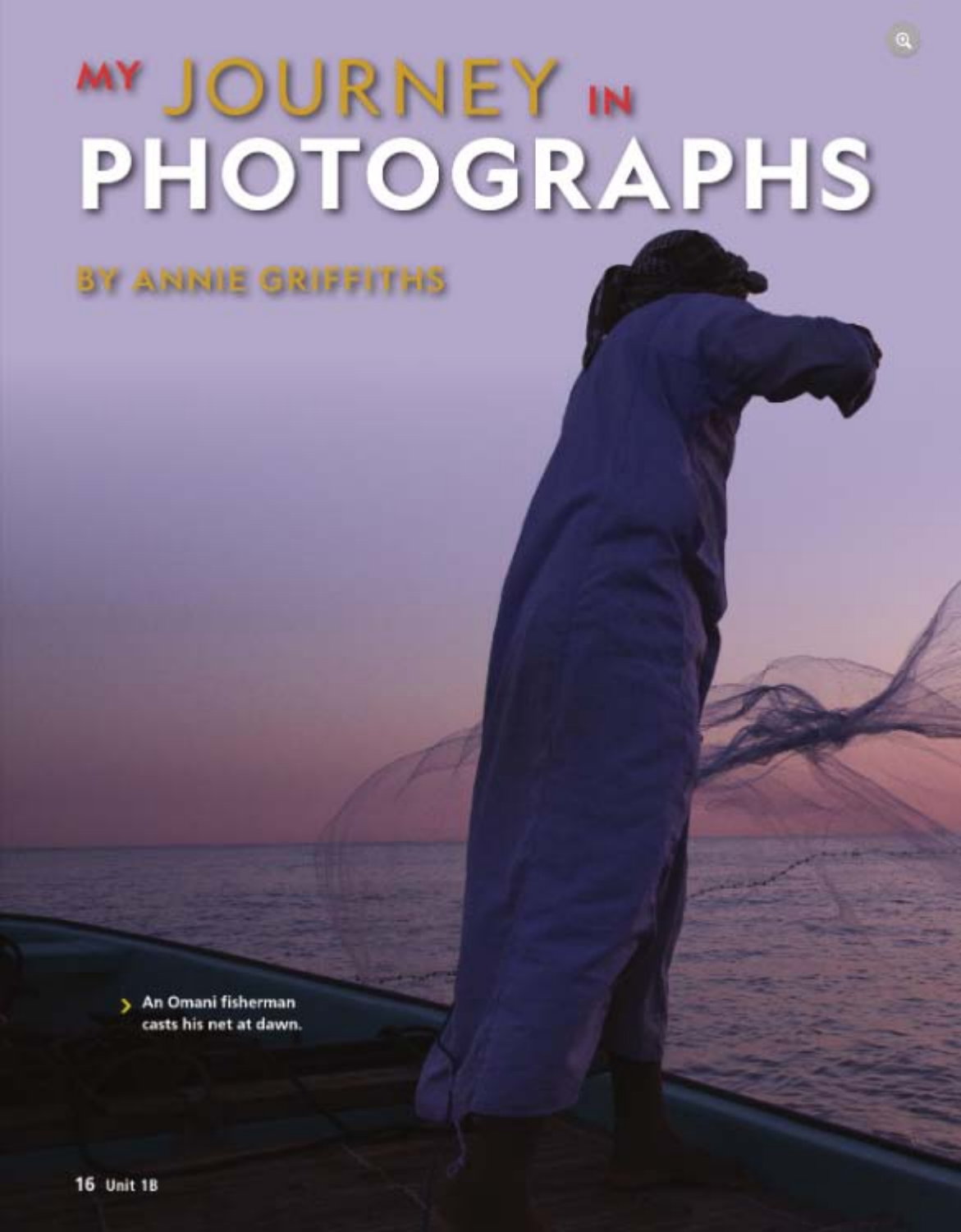


◀ Annie Griffiths has photographed in nearly 150 countries during her career.



# MY JOURNEY IN PHOTOGRAPHS

BY ANNIE GRIFFITHS

A photograph of a fisherman in a blue robe casting a net at dawn. The fisherman is seen from the back, standing on a boat. The net is being thrown into the air, creating a large, billowing shape against the soft, pinkish-orange light of the dawn sky. The water is calm and reflects the light. The boat's edge is visible in the foreground.

> An Omani fisherman casts his net at dawn.





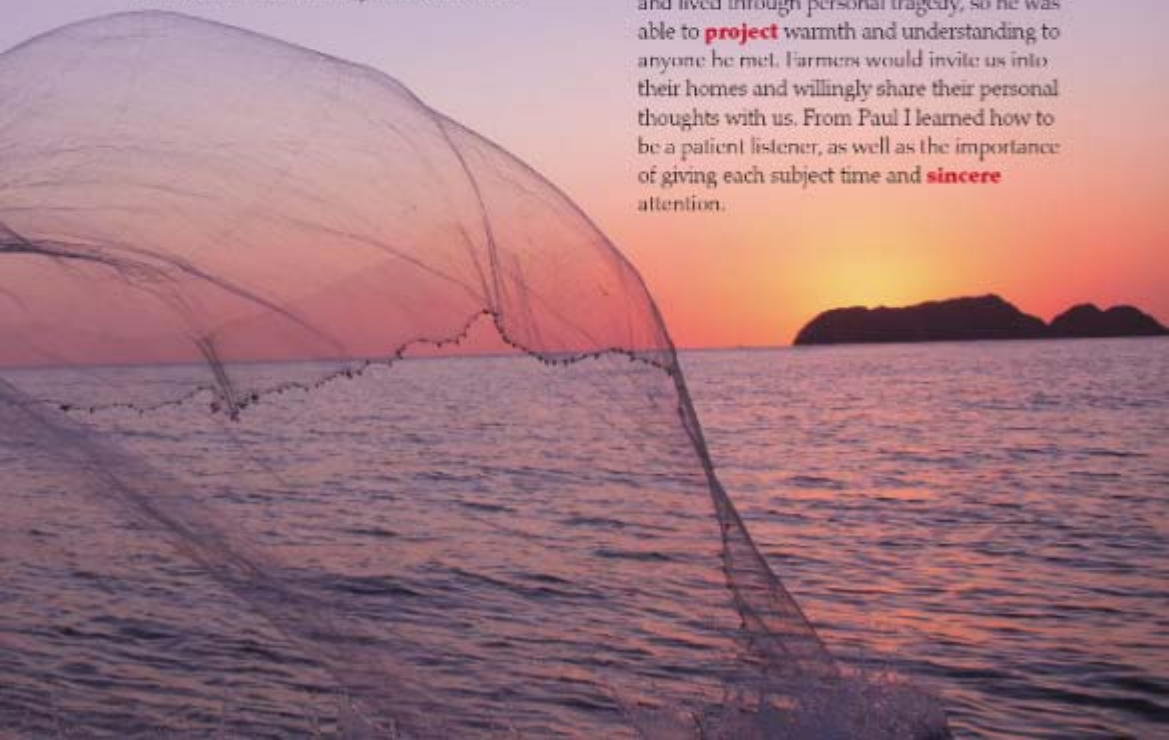
A I got my first real job at age 12, as a waitress. I am convinced that I learned more as a waitress than I ever did in a classroom. When I went on to college, it also paid for **tuition** and housing and—eventually—a camera. But best of all, being a waitress taught me to quickly assess and understand all kinds of people. I learned how to make small talk and how to quickly put people at ease—great training for a journalist. Waiting tables also taught me **teamwork** and service and humor.

B From the moment I picked up a camera, I was hooked. I lost interest in other studies, and all I wanted to do was take pictures for the university newspaper, the *Minnesota Daily*. In six months, I was able to get a lot of great experience. The week I finished college, I was contacted by the *Worthington Daily Globe*, a regional daily newspaper in southern Minnesota with a history of excellence in

photography. By some miracle I was hired, and the two-year experience that followed was like a master class in photojournalism.

C Jim Vance was the top-notch publisher of the *Globe*. He had very high **expectations** of all the staff. With little or no instruction from him, writers and photographers were expected to fill the paper with stories that were important to our readers. I didn't know it at the time, but this independent reporting was perfect training for my future career.

D Among the most important things I learned at the *Globe* was that if you can make friends with a shy Norwegian farmer and be invited to his kitchen table, you can probably do well in any culture on Earth. I worked with a wonderful writer named Paul Gruchow. Together we would search the farming communities for stories. Paul had grown up on a farm himself and lived through personal tragedy, so he was able to **project** warmth and understanding to anyone he met. Farmers would invite us into their homes and willingly share their personal thoughts with us. From Paul I learned how to be a patient listener, as well as the importance of giving each subject time and **sincere** attention.





◀ A portrait of an Indian woman from a poor background who became a solar engineer





- E It was while I was working at the *Globe* that I happened to answer the phone one morning. A man's voice asked, "You a photographer?" When I replied that indeed I was, the voice responded, "This is Bob Gilka. *National Geographic*. I need a hail<sup>1</sup> damage picture. You guys get a big hailstorm last night?" I **overcame** my nervousness and said, "Yes, sir." When he asked if I could take the picture for him, I again said, "Yes, sir."
- F My little picture of hail damage in southern Minnesota was well received, and a year later, I was working for Bob—*National Geographic's* legendary director of photography. **Thus** began one of the most important relationships of my life.

## Lessons on the Road

- G I was the youngest photographer working for *National Geographic* when I arrived in 1978, and I spent at least a decade just trying not to make mistakes. With each new assignment came the fear that this was going to be the one where they figured out that I couldn't do the job.
- H On many assignments, the most challenging part **turned out** to be the transportation. Over the years, I traveled by horse, car, train, truck, and all sorts of old vehicles. I traveled by mule<sup>2</sup> in Mexico, by ship along the Indian Ocean, by fishing boat in the Sea of Galilee, by moped<sup>3</sup> in Bermuda, by sailboat in Sydney. I flew in helicopters chasing bears in the Arctic. Twice, while flying in light planes, pilots have had to make emergency landings far from any airport. But there were also wonderful experiences. In Africa I traveled by balloon, ultralight aircraft, and elephant. In a rubber raft off the west coast of Mexico, I was suddenly lifted out of the water on the back of a friendly whale.
- I Wherever I traveled in the world, taking beautiful pictures was always my goal. However, later in my career, I also wanted my pictures to make a real difference in people's lives. That is why each spring I tour two or three developing countries, shooting **portraits** of people whose lives are better because of the dedicated workers who care about them. The photos are used in a variety of fund-raising products. The other issue that stole my heart was the environment. With support from the National Geographic Expeditions Council, I have traveled all over the United States to photograph the last one percent of wilderness left here.
- J I am deeply grateful for my life in photography and the amazing lessons it has taught me. I have learned that women really do hold up half the sky; that language isn't always necessary, but touch usually is; that all people are not alike, but they do mostly have the same hopes and fears; that judging others does great harm, but listening to them **enriches**; and that it is impossible to hate a group of people once you get to know one of them as an individual.

<sup>1</sup> **Hail** is small balls of ice that fall from the sky like rain.



**A. Choose the best answer for each question.**

- PURPOSE** 1. What is the purpose of paragraph A?
- to show how working as a waitress is similar to life as a photographer
  - to explain how Griffiths' first job helped prepare her for her future career
  - to compare Griffiths' life before and after being a waitress
  - to describe how Griffiths became interested in photography at college
- SEQUENCE** 2. What happened after Griffiths graduated from college?
- She picked up a camera for the first time.
  - She began working at the *Minnesota Daily*.
  - She got a job at the *Worthington Daily Globe*.
  - She started teaching photography.
- DETAIL** 3. Which sentence does NOT describe Griffiths' job at the *Globe*?
- She received detailed instructions from her publisher.
  - She learned how to be a patient listener.
  - The experience prepared her well for a job at *National Geographic*.
  - She was expected to fill the paper with stories that readers wanted.
- DETAIL** 4. What kind of transportation challenge does Griffiths mention?
- having an accident in a fishing boat
  - getting attacked by an elephant
  - being forced to land in a remote place
  - getting lost in the ocean in a rubber raft
- MAIN IDEA** 5. According to Griffiths, what has life as a photographer taught her?
- that language is essential for communication
  - that most people have very different hopes and fears
  - that expressing an opinion is as important as listening
  - that it is important to get to know people as individuals



**IDENTIFYING MEANING**

Review this reading skill in Unit 1A.

**B. Scan the section "Lessons on the Road" to find the words in bold below (1–6). Then choose the correct meaning (a or b) for each.**

- spent** a. paid money for something      b. passed time in a specific way
- light** a. not heavy      b. pale; not dark
- back** a. rear surface of a body      b. in the opposite direction
- spring** a. to suddenly jump forward      b. the season after winter
- left** a. went away      b. remaining
- once** a. one time only      b. as soon as; when

## Scanning for Information (1)—Short Answer Questions

Scanning is an important skill for taking exams, but how you approach scanning should depend on the question type. With **short answer questions**, for example, read each question carefully first to determine the information you need. Check if there is a word limit for each answer. Identify key words in the questions, and think about what synonyms might be in the text. Then scan to find the relevant parts of the text. Note that answers normally follow the order they appear in the text.

**ANALYZING** A. Read the questions below. What kind of answer will you need to scan for? Circle a, b, or c.

- What kind of photographic equipment did Griffiths' waitress job help pay for?
  - an object
  - a number
  - a reason
- For how long was Griffiths employed at the *Worthington Daily Globe*?
  - a place
  - a specific date
  - a time period
- What was Bob Gilka's role at *National Geographic*?
  - a person's name
  - a place
  - a job title
- Where did Griffiths travel by moped?
  - a reason
  - a place
  - a number
- Why did Griffiths' goals change later in her career?
  - an example
  - an activity
  - a reason

**SCANNING** B. Scan Reading B and write short answers to the questions above.

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

**CRITICAL THINKING** Interpreting

- ▶ Griffiths says she has learned that "women really do hold up half the sky." What do you think she means by this? Discuss with a partner.
- ▶ What examples can you think of that support her statement? Note some ideas below. Then share them with a partner.


---



---




---

 **COMPLETION** A. Circle the correct words to complete the paragraph below.

A young girl in traditional Baisha Miao clothing takes a selfie.

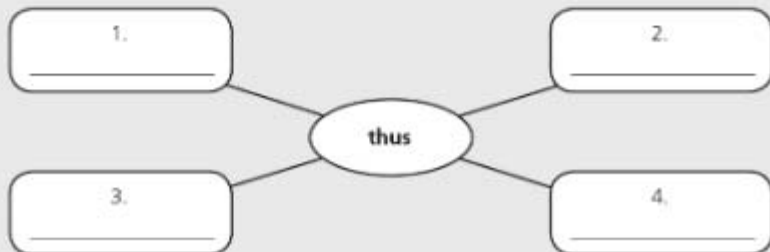
There are a few things to keep in mind when taking a selfie. First, think about what emotion you want to convey. For example, do you want the photo to **'turn out / project** love, sadness, or joy? Do you want it to look natural or perhaps more formal and posed? Decide on your location, and try different angles and distances. Experiment with different camera features. Remember, though, that while new technologies may **'enrich / overcome** your photo, you might prefer a simpler **'portrait / tuition**, even one in black and white. How your final selfie **'overcomes / turns out** will **'thus / portrait** depend on a number of factors.

 **DEFINITIONS** B. Match the words in the box with the definitions below.

<b>enrich</b>	<b>expectation</b>	<b>overcome</b>
<b>sincere</b>	<b>teamwork</b>	<b>tuition</b>

- \_\_\_\_\_ : to successfully deal with a problem
- \_\_\_\_\_ : a belief that someone will or should achieve something
- \_\_\_\_\_ : honest; not pretending or lying
- \_\_\_\_\_ : payment for instruction, especially in a college or university
- \_\_\_\_\_ : the effort of people working together to get something done
- \_\_\_\_\_ : to improve or make better

**WORD WEB** C. Complete the word web with synonyms of **thus**. Use a thesaurus to help you if necessary.



University students in Dubai,  
photographed by Annie Griffiths

VIDEO

# A PHOTOGRAPHER'S LIFE

## BEFORE YOU WATCH

- DISCUSSION** A. You are going to watch an interview with Annie Griffiths. Discuss these questions with a partner.
1. Based on the information in Reading B and the photo above, what kinds of photos do you think Griffiths likes to take?
  2. What do you think Griffiths hopes to achieve with her photography?
- PREDICTING** B. Read these extracts from the video. What words do you think are missing? Discuss with a partner and complete the sentences with your guesses. Use one word for each blank.

"I think our kids also understand that people all over the world are <sup>1</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ — that you don't assume that they are going to be the same as we are. But then if you go into each culture open, and look <sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ in the eye, and observe and <sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_, you're going to make <sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ ..."

"[Photography is] a wonderful, terrible job because you get this <sup>5</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ to go out and do it, but then you're supposed to do it <sup>6</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ than it's ever been done before."



## WHILE YOU WATCH

**GIST** A. Watch the video. Check your guesses in Before You Watch B. Are they correct or similar to what Annie Griffiths says in the video?

**MULTIPLE CHOICE** B. Watch the video again. Choose the correct answer for each question.

- What did Griffiths want to be before she got interested in photography?
  - a writer
  - a painter
- What benefit did Griffiths' daughter gain from the family's travels?
  - She can speak several languages.
  - She is now a confident traveler.
- What tip does Griffiths give for immersing yourself in a different culture?
  - staying away from tourist hotspots
  - respecting the local way of life
- According to Griffiths, what is one of the most inspirational parts about photography?
  - It gives you the opportunity to be creative and grow artistically.
  - A good photo can help shape or change public opinion.

### CRITICAL THINKING *Reflecting*

Griffiths says a photography class had a strong impact on her.

Answer these questions and then share with a partner.

▶ Name a class or learning experience that strongly affected you.

---

▶ In what ways did it affect or change you?

---

---



## VOCABULARY REVIEW

Do you remember the meanings of these words? Check (✓) the ones you know. Look back at the unit and review any words you're not sure of.

### Reading A

- |                                       |                                    |                                    |                                    |                                     |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> controversy* | <input type="checkbox"/> democracy | <input type="checkbox"/> dramatic* | <input type="checkbox"/> embrace   | <input type="checkbox"/> instantly  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> obsessed     | <input type="checkbox"/> profound  | <input type="checkbox"/> relevant* | <input type="checkbox"/> represent | <input type="checkbox"/> tremendous |

### Reading B

- |                                  |                                      |                                   |                                   |                                   |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> enrich  | <input type="checkbox"/> expectation | <input type="checkbox"/> overcome | <input type="checkbox"/> portrait | <input type="checkbox"/> project* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> sincere | <input type="checkbox"/> teamwork    | <input type="checkbox"/> thus     | <input type="checkbox"/> tuition  | <input type="checkbox"/> turn out |

\* Academic Word List