



Design

Task: Modern and Contemporary Design

Activity 1: Listening

Welcome to a practice listening task for the GESE 9.

You are going to hear a talk about **modern and contemporary design**. You will hear the talk twice. The first time, just listen. Then I'll ask you to tell me generally what the speaker is talking about. Are you ready?

Audio Script

Many people believe that contemporary and modern design are one in the same thing, hence the similarity in definition of the words in themselves. However, you will find them to be quite different. To give you more of an insight, modern design refers to an era that has passed, while on the contrary contemporary is a design that is considered to be of the present-day.

So, if we look at modern design first, this is a design that was created in the mid-20th century. Furthermore, this design has distinctions made between pre- and postwar. Another aspect is that the characteristics that stand out is simplicity, functionality and clean lines. In other words, decorative elements like picture frames that are hung on the wall in linear shapes. That is to say, the type of furniture that is selected. Then it comes to colour schemes, modern design has a tendency to use warm and neutral colours. On top of that, not only is balance and symmetry included in this design, but also natural material is used, like unpainted wood and exposed brick.

Then, on the other hand, there is that of contemporary design. It is a bit more difficult to pin down, because what is considered to be a present-day design, continues to change over time. Notwithstanding, there are some ways that characteristics can be defined for contemporary design. In addition to this, it can be understood why contemporary design evolves with trends. Whereas, modern design is clean and strong in appearance, with many vertical and horizontal lines easy to define, the complete opposite happens with contemporary design. Here you are able to see a lot of curved and sculptural elements within the design. When it comes to the colour palette, it is based on neutral and strong contrast. What is more, only by using mixed and sustainable materials, as well as cutting-edge shapes, will somebody be really able to produce a contemporary design. When it comes to materials, this could either be seen with polished wood or metals. Additionally, natural fibers and large windows that integrate with the natural world also help establish this constitution of design. When it comes to cutting edge designs, for instance furniture that has a curvy effect, can often help offset this design type.

All in all, if only some people took the time to learn a little about the difference between design concepts, they would be able to make smart choices when furnishing their houses

and could have understood better what works best and what doesn't. People must be made aware of the importance of design, namely because it fosters creativity and self-expression.

Can you tell me in one or two sentences what the speaker was talking about?

Now listen to the talk again. This time make some notes as you listen, if you want to. Then I'll ask you to tell me about **the different aspects between modern and contemporary design.**

Now tell me about **the different aspects between modern and contemporary design.** You have one minute to talk.

This is the end of the listening task.

Answers:

Modern Design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Created in the mid-20th century ● Design has distinctions between pre- and postwar. ● Characteristics: simplicity, functionality, clean lines; strong, vertical & horizontal lines ● Warm and neutral colours ● balance and symmetry, natural material: unpainted wood and exposed brick
Contemporary Design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Difficult to say what contemporary design is: present-day design changes over time ● Evolves with trends ● curved and sculptural elements ● Neutral and strong colours with contrast ● Mixed and Sustainable materials; polished wood, metals, natural fibers, large windows with natural world and cutting edge: furniture with curvy effect

Marks: +_ / +10