

A stylized illustration of a guitar, primarily yellow with a dark blue headstock and body. The neck features three vertical red stripes. The body has a large dark blue circular sound hole. The background is a light beige color with a pattern of small, scattered orange dots.

# CULTURE

Ještě nevíš, co budeš dělat po úspěšném složení zkoušky? Přijď se za námi bavit a studuj jazyk se **statusem studenta**. U PELICANA navíc získáš ISIC a druhý jazyk zdarma. Více informací i přihlášku k **pomaturitnímu studiu** najdeš na stránkách [www.skolapelican.com](http://www.skolapelican.com).

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# THE MEANING OF CULTURE

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Culture can be characterised as the patterns of behaviour and thinking that people learn, create and share. Culture distinguishes one group of people from others. A person's culture includes their beliefs, rules of behaviours, language, rituals, art, technology, clothing, ways of producing and cooking food, religion and political and economic systems.

The arts (plural) covers literature, performing arts and fine art(s). Conversely, art (singular, uncountable) usually means fine art, but can also refer to technique and creativity. Literature includes biographies, poetry (sonnet, haiku,...), drama, atlases, short stories, children's books, travel guides, autobiographies, essays, textbooks, encyclopedias, novels, etc. Examples of fine art(s) are sculpture, painting, architecture and ceramics. The term performing arts covers theatre, dance, cinema, ballet, opera and concerts.

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## THE ARTS

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Reading for pleasure is a form of pastime whose popularity has been declining, despite the emergence of e-books and audiobooks. The rising popularity of video games, the Internet and TV might be the reason behind this. Literature can be divided into two main categories: fiction and non-fiction. Fiction is invented or imaginary writing by a novelist, which can be realistic (events happening in the real-life setting) or non-realistic (from another world). Non-fiction deals with real events, stories or people. Literary genres include romance, horror, fantasy, classic, crime/detective and science fiction. A story should have a plot, which is an interrelated sequence of main events, and characters. Some stories are so gripping that readers become so engrossed by the book and can't put it down. There are three types of poetry: narrative, dramatic and lyric. A work of poetry is called a poem and is written by a poet. It can be written in verse, i.e. possessing a metrical rhythm and rhyme, or in free verse, meaning without strict limitations of a regular meter or rhythm. Some people like to recite poems out loud. Books that are sold in very large numbers are called bestsellers. If you want to buy a book, you can go to the book shop (for printed books) or you can buy one online (printed and electronic). If you don't want to buy it, you can borrow it from a library and then return it when you finish reading.

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## LITERATURE

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Painters work outside if painting a mural or in a studio with an easel, palette, brush, colour/paint, thinner, varnish and canvas. Sometimes with a model.

Painting styles include: Renaissance, Baroque, Art Nouveau, avant-garde, cubism, futurism, fauvism, expressionism, surrealism, impressionism, etc.

Furthermore, there are many painting techniques, for instance: watercolour, oil painting, tempera, pastel, collage, mosaic, drawing, sketch, charcoal, portrait, landscape, still life, abstract, realistic, etc. If the painter is satisfied with the result, they can frame it and sell it at an auction to a collector or prepare an exhibition, where they can get publicity from critics. When a painting gets old, for example at an art gallery, a painter might be hired for its restoration. A graphic artist creates the artwork that will be used in a graphic project such as an advertisement, poster or book cover.

The artist may be an illustrator or an animator and may even create artwork on a computer. Sculptors make sculptures by carving out stone, marble or wood or by casting metal or plaster. A bust is a sculpture of a person's head, shoulders and chest. Architects master the art or practice of designing and constructing buildings. Fine arts also include ceramics. Ceramics are articles made from clay hardened by heat, for example: vases, bowls, mugs, plates, flower pots, etc. There are also artists who create art with china or glass.

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## FINE ART(S)

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# PERFORMING ARTS

Musicians play/sing solo, in/with a band, quartet or orchestra (chamber, symphonic, theatre). A typical orchestra is divided into four groups of instruments: strings, woodwinds, brass, and percussion, and conducted by a conductor. The instruments musicians play include: trombone, saxophone, trumpet, French horn, recorder, clarinet, harp, keyboard, xylophone, harmonica, accordion, cello (played with a bow), violin (played with a bow), piano, guitar (fingers or picks are used to set guitar strings in motion to produce audible notes), bass guitar, drums (played with drum sticks), cymbals, flute, organ, lyre, etc. Successful musicians play at weddings, balls, clubs, concerts, festivals and important events. If the audience applauds a lot after the last song, it means they enjoyed the performance and want an encore (another song). When musicians record an album, they usually go on tour after its release. The most popular musical genres are hip hop, rap, techno, R&B, punk, metal, country, (indie) rock, electro, Latin, house, blues, classical, etc. Opera is a genre of classical music and it is a dramatic work in one or more acts, set to music for singers and instrumentalists. If an opera is in a foreign language, surtitles are shown on the screen, so that the audience understands what is being sung. Sometimes opera singers do not use microphones.

Dancing is also a form of performing arts. Dance styles include: ballet, waltz, tap, Irish, folk, modern, swing, jazz, contemporary, hip hop, pole, Latin, hustle, tango, lindy hop, salsa, foxtrot, rumba, cha cha, jive, etc. People dance at home, in a ballroom or studio.

When going to the theatre, people choose from various performances, for instance: a comedy, tragedy, musical, opera or a historical play. The writer of a play is called a playwright. Going to the theatre is usually a special occasion and people usually dress up for it. In the theatre, there are aisles, rows, boxes, circles, set/scene, stalls, curtain, gallery, orchestra pit, box office (for buying tickets), seats, foyer, etc. People can leave their outwear at the cloakroom. During the interval, the audience can buy some refreshments at the theatre bar. Actors are on stage dressed in costumes and use props. After a good performance of the cast, there is a standing ovation and a few curtain calls. The actors and actresses return to the stage and bow.

Going to the cinema is a very popular leisure activity. A cinema-goer is a person who is keen on seeing films and goes to the cinema regularly. Besides the word "cinema", pictures, movies and flicks are used. "Pictures" is British English and is more colloquial than "cinema". "Movies" and "movie theater" is American English, so instead of saying, "Let's go to the pictures", an American would say, "Let's go to the movies/movie theater". "Movie" in the singular is used in the sense of "film". Many old, traditional cinemas have closed. In bigger towns and cities, multi-screen cinemas - multiplexes - are taking their place. They are more comfortable, several films are shown at the same time, the screen is often bigger, films are usually on for several weeks, not just a day or two, and they have premiered recently. Unfortunately, cinema tickets at multiplexes tend to be more expensive than at traditional cinemas. We can distinguish between several types of film. There are feature films, i.e., full-length films, usually lasting between 90 minutes to 2 hours but sometimes longer. Then there are documentaries and cartoons/animated films. As for the genres of films, tastes differ. There are comedies, dramas, historical films, musicals, westerns, horror films, sci-fi films, thrillers or action films. Further, films may be silent or sound, subtitled or dubbed. Some people like to watch the trailer of the film they want to see or read its review (from a critic who saw it premiered at a film festival). Some films are a box office success/blockbuster, others a flop. It's also important to check the rating before going. It can be: U-universal, G-General, PG-Parental Guidance, R-Restricted or X-Rated. At the beginning and at the end, film credits are rolled, showing the names of the leading and supporting actors/actresses (also called stars and co-stars), scriptwriter(s), producer(s), director(s), camera crew, stuntpeople, extras, film composer, etc.

Nowadays, streaming platforms like Hulu, Netflix, Amazon Prime Video or Vimeo are becoming more and more popular. A streaming platform is an on-demand online entertainment source for TV shows, films, musicals, documentaries and other streaming media. Their subscriptions are not very expensive and people can view audiovisual content from the comfort of their home at any time, which is why some people have stopped going to the cinema!