

Brief History of Art and design

20th-21st century

01 BAUHAUS

(1919–1960)

SPEAKING

for English lesson

BAUHAUS



Co-funded by
the European Union



LIEPĀJAS MŪZIKAS,
MĀKSLAS un DIZAINA
VIDUSSKOLA



SUPŠ:UH



Materials created within Erasmus+ Small-scale partnership project "EmpowerED: Fostering Employability, Cultural Understanding, and Digital Resilience in VET Education" No 2023-2-LV01-KA210-VET-000178458 Implemented from 1.04.2024. till 31.03.2026. by coordinator MIKC "Liepājas Mūzikas, mākslas un dizaina vidusskola" (Latvia) and project partner Střední umělecko průmyslová škola Uherské Hradiště (Czech Republic), total project budget is 60 000 euro.

SPEAKING

1. DEBATE – MASS PRODUCTION VS. CRAFTSMANSHIP

Instructions: Divide students into two groups. One group supports mass production, and the other supports traditional craftsmanship. Each group must prepare arguments and counterarguments before debating the topic.

Prompts:

- Should all design be mass-produced for affordability, or is craftsmanship more valuable?
- Can modern design successfully combine industrial production with artisanal techniques?
- Which is more important: accessibility or uniqueness in design?

2. ROLE-PLAY – INTERVIEW WITH A BAUHAUS DESIGNER

Instructions: One student plays the role of a journalist in the 1920s, and another plays a Bauhaus designer. The journalist asks about Bauhaus principles, influences, and goals.

Sample Questions for the Journalist:

- What inspired you to join the Bauhaus movement?
- How is Bauhaus different from traditional art schools?
- Some critics say Bauhaus design lacks warmth. What is your response?
- How do you think Bauhaus will influence the future of architecture and design?

Challenge: Encourage follow-up questions and deeper discussion.

3. PICTURE DESCRIPTION – ANALYSING BAUHAUS DESIGNS

Instructions: Show students pictures of Bauhaus architecture, furniture, or graphic design. Each student must describe the design and explain how it follows Bauhaus principles.

Follow-up Questions:

- What materials and colours do you notice?
- How is functionality emphasized in this design?
- Would you like to have a similar object/building in your home or city? Why or why not?

4. PROBLEM-SOLVING DISCUSSION – BAUHAUS IN TODAY'S WORLD

Instructions: In small groups, students discuss how Bauhaus principles could be applied to modern challenges.

SCENARIOS:

- Imagine you are designing a small, affordable apartment for a young professional. How can you use Bauhaus ideas to make it stylish and practical?
- Your company is creating sustainable furniture. How can Bauhaus principles help balance function, aesthetics, and eco-friendliness?
- A city wants to build a new public space (park, library, or school) using Bauhaus ideas. What should it look like?

Follow-up: Each group presents their solution to the class.

5. AGREE OR DISAGREE – BAUHAUS STATEMENTS

Instructions: Read statements aloud, and students must say whether they agree or disagree. They should justify their opinion.

Statements:

1. *"A good design should always prioritize function over beauty."*
2. *"Minimalism makes spaces feel empty and boring."*
3. *"All designers should learn from Bauhaus, even today."*
4. *"Technology has replaced the need for traditional craftsmanship."*
5. *"Bauhaus failed to include cultural identity in its designs."*

6. STORYTELLING – LIFE IN A BAUHAUS-INSPIRED FUTURE

Instructions: Students imagine they live in a futuristic city designed entirely with Bauhaus principles. Each student describes their daily life, including their home, workplace, and transportation.

Prompts:

- What does your home look like?
- What kind of furniture and technology do you use?
- How do people interact with design in this city?

Variation: Do this as a pair activity, where one student asks questions while the other describes their vision.