



lingoda

Copyright and creative commons

READING

LEVEL
Advanced

NUMBER
C1_2045R_EN

LANGUAGE
English

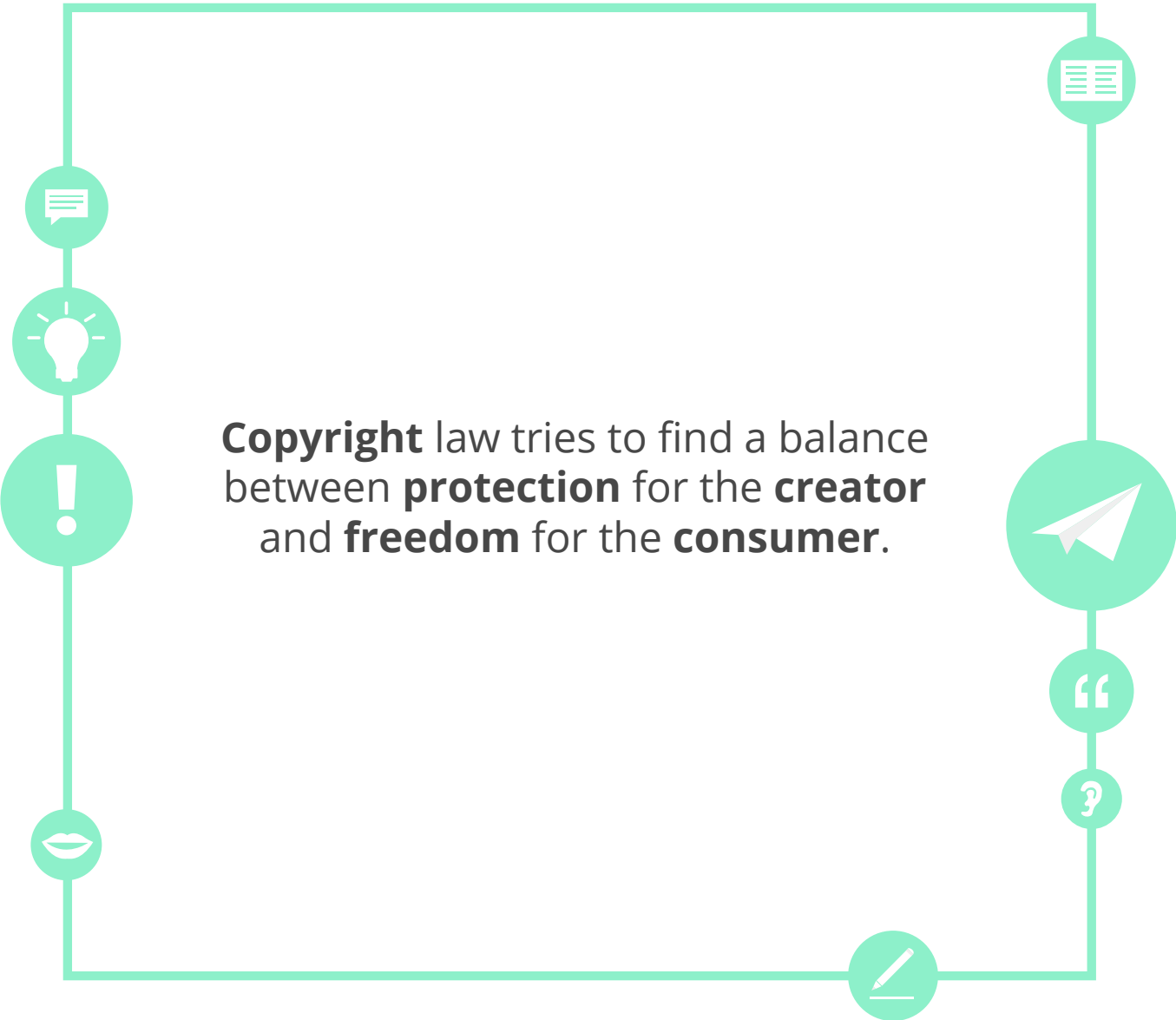




Goals

- Can read and understand a complex text about copyright and creative commons.
- Can describe the benefits of the public domain and compare copyright laws in different countries.



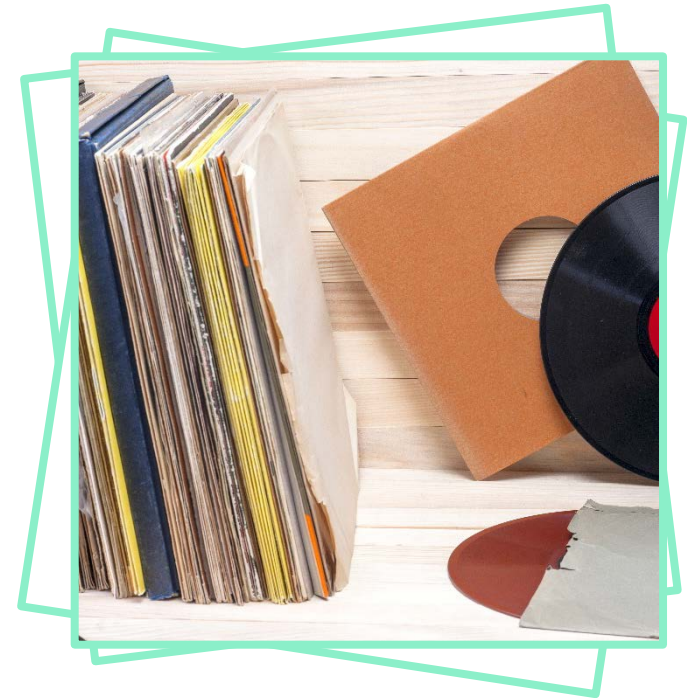


Copyright law tries to find a balance between **protection** for the **creator** and **freedom** for the **consumer**.



Warm up

Where do you get most of your music, books, and films? Why do you choose to obtain them in that way?





Copyright

What kinds of things do you think should be protected under copyright laws? Is there anything that shouldn't be protected?

literature

music

films

software



Imagine

What would you do if all copyright laws were abolished? What would you download or read first?





Copyright and creative commons



We all know what copyright is, broadly speaking. It's the **restriction** that means you can't copy other people's ideas or use their ideas or creations without their permission. In more specific terms, copyright is a legal right granted by a country which gives the creator or publisher of an original work **exclusive** rights to its usage and distribution. These rights are usually limited in time, and **expire** once a certain time has passed. These rights also vary by country.



Copyright and creative commons

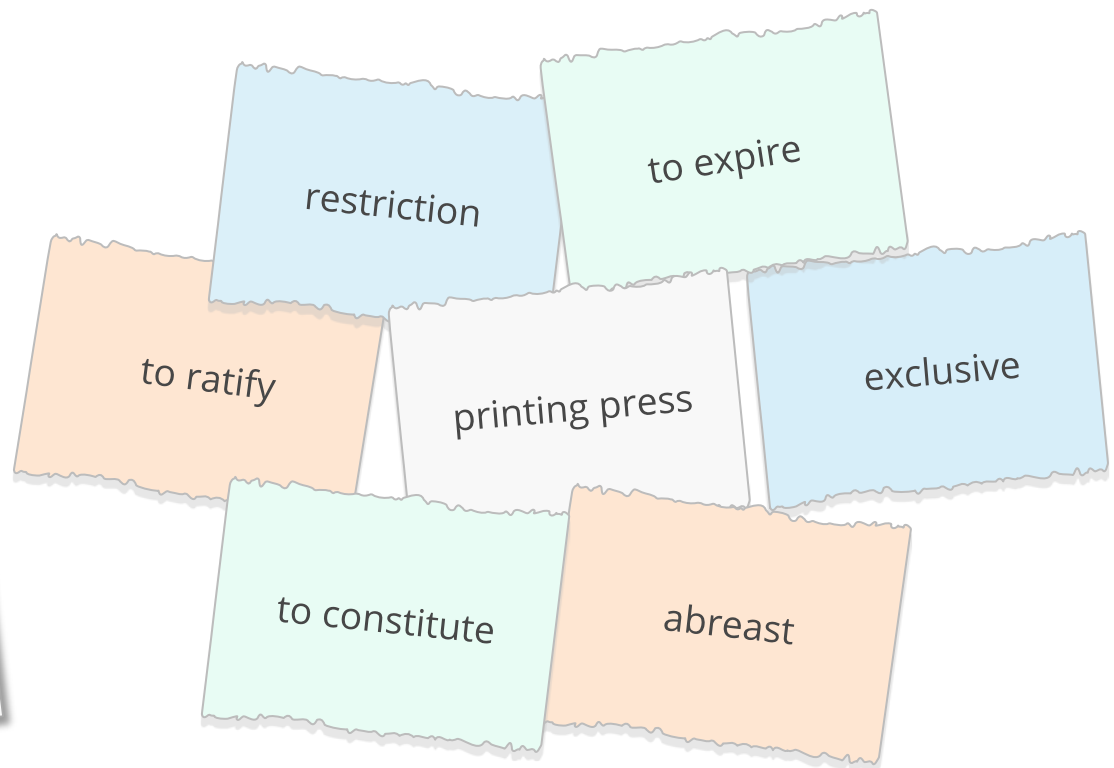


The first copyright laws were restricted to countries, the earliest being **ratified** by Great Britain with the advent of the **printing press**. This made the authorities want to take action to prevent the printing and distribution of materials by unauthorised parties. Copyright was then taken up in other states around the world. While there is no such thing as international copyright, the Berne Convention – ratified in 1886 by almost 180 countries – established minimum standards of protection globally. The Berne Convention stipulates that literary and artistic works are to be protected by copyright; a detailed list of what this **constitutes** varies from country to country, but generally includes anything from works of fiction to audiovisual works and on to software. The Convention is being constantly updated to remain **abreast** of developments in technology.



New vocabulary

Look at the new words below. Do you know what any of them mean already? Give a short definition of each. What is the picture on the left? One of the words below describes what it is! Then turn to the next slide and match the words with their correct definitions.





Match vocabulary on the previous slide with the definitions below.

1. A verb which relates to something which runs out in a fixed period of time.
2. A measure taken to limit something. It usually has to do with official matters.
3. A restriction or limit to a particular person, group of people, or area.
4. The act of making agreements or decisions official. Usually pertains to official organisations or governments.
5. A verb which describes the different parts of which something is made up. To consist of can be a synonym.
6. Alongside, or on the same level as something.



Comprehension

Answer the questions about the text.

1. Which was the first country to introduce copyright laws? What spurred it to do that?
2. What is the name of the international copyright convention? When was it introduced?
3. Are copyright laws the same all over the world?
4. Explain the concept of copyright in your own words.



The Berne Convention



Have you heard of the Berne Convention before? Do you think it is a good idea to have international copyright regulations?



Staying abreast

Do you think it is possible for the Berne Convention to remain abreast of all the developments with the internet and to enforce copyright?





Copyright and creative commons

The general rule for the duration of copyright is that it lasts for the creator's lifetime and an additional 70 years after their death. However, different countries do have different rules for this, and it is certainly true that some works can be copyrighted in some countries and not in others. Once copyright has expired, the creation is then in the **public domain**; in some countries, many government publications are in the public domain from their creation.



Copyright and creative commons

Though most countries have copyright laws in some form, there are certain countries which are not members of international agreements. These countries include Turkmenistan and Eritrea, which the United States maintains do not have any laws, and those such as Vanuatu and the Seychelles, which do not **abide by** international conventions. Furthermore, the **enforcement** of copyright law varies from country to country. China is often cited as a country where copyright laws are hardly enforced, though this has been changing in recent years; however, the old adage that **imitation** is the highest form of **flattery** rings true in Chinese culture, and there is little **stigma** around copying someone else's work.



Look at the new vocabulary below. Go back to where they are in the text and deduce their meaning from their context.

public domain

to abide by

enforcement

imitation

flattery

stigma



Different countries

Why do you think the countries mentioned do not abide by copyright law?

Eritrea

Vanuatu

Turkmenistan



Copyright in your country



What do you know about
copyright law in your country?
Do you think it is heavily
enforced?



International copyright

Do you think copyright laws should be the same in every country? What problems might be caused if it is not?





Imitation

Do you agree with the quotation below? When do you think it might or might not be true?

//

Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery.

//



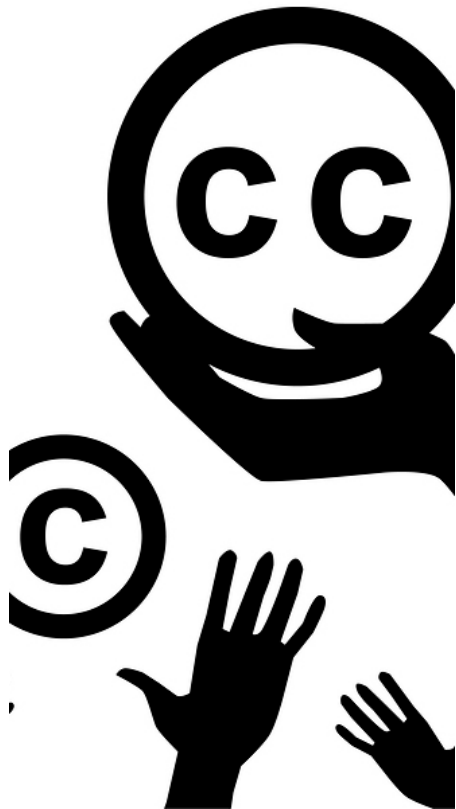
Copyright and creative commons

The advent of computers and the internet has of course caused all kinds of headaches for copyright. Illegal downloading of music, films and software is **prolific**, and countries are trying hard to **stamp it out**. Using university networks to download such things has resulted in costly legal cases and criminal records for students involved.

The stated aims of copyright are to encourage innovation in science and culture, provide a financial benefit to creators, and regulate the relationships between creators and users, **facilitating** access to knowledge for the public. However, there are many critics of copyright. One criticism often put forward is the **duration** of copyright. Many think 70 years after death is too long, and others point out that corporations, which cannot die, often hold copyright, thus it never expires.



Copyright and creative commons



There are organisations which are trying to find a balance between what people often see as **draconian** copyright laws and allowing free-for-all access to everything. **Creative Commons** is an American non-profit organisation whose vision is stated as wanting to realise the full potential of the internet in order to drive a new era of development. It encourages creators to share their work by offering various copyright licences. All licences provide that any users must **credit** the original creator of the work, but others include clauses such as work must not be used for commercial purposes, or that adaptations of the material cannot be shared. It is a looser form of the often too strict copyright laws which still protects the owners wanting to share their work with the world.



New vocabulary

Match the new vocabulary below with its definitions.

The image shows ten torn-edge cards arranged in three rows. The cards contain the following text:

- to stamp sth out
- to make sth easier, or possible
- draconian
- to eliminate
- length of time
- to attribute a piece of work to someone
- prolific
- to credit someone
- to facilitate
- excessively severe
- duration
- something happening in large numbers



Duration of copyright

Answer the questions below with your partner.



1

Do you agree that 70 years after the creator's death is too long for copyright to hold?

2

What do you think about corporations holding copyright?

3

What duration do you think copyright should be held for?



Creative commons

Have you heard of Creative Commons before? What do you think of the aims of their work?





Pros and cons

Make a list of the pros and cons of copyright.

Pros	Cons





For and against

Using the ideas on the previous page, you are going to have a debate with your classmates about copyright. Half of you are for copyright and its enforcement, half of you believe that there should be no rules of copyright.



For copyright



Against copyright



Write a text

Imagine you are a creator and you have just created something new (a book, a song, some software...). Write a text of about 100 words in support of copyright, defending your opinion.

- Make sure your text has an introduction, a middle, and an conclusion.
- Make up some details about your creation – and be passionate in your defence!

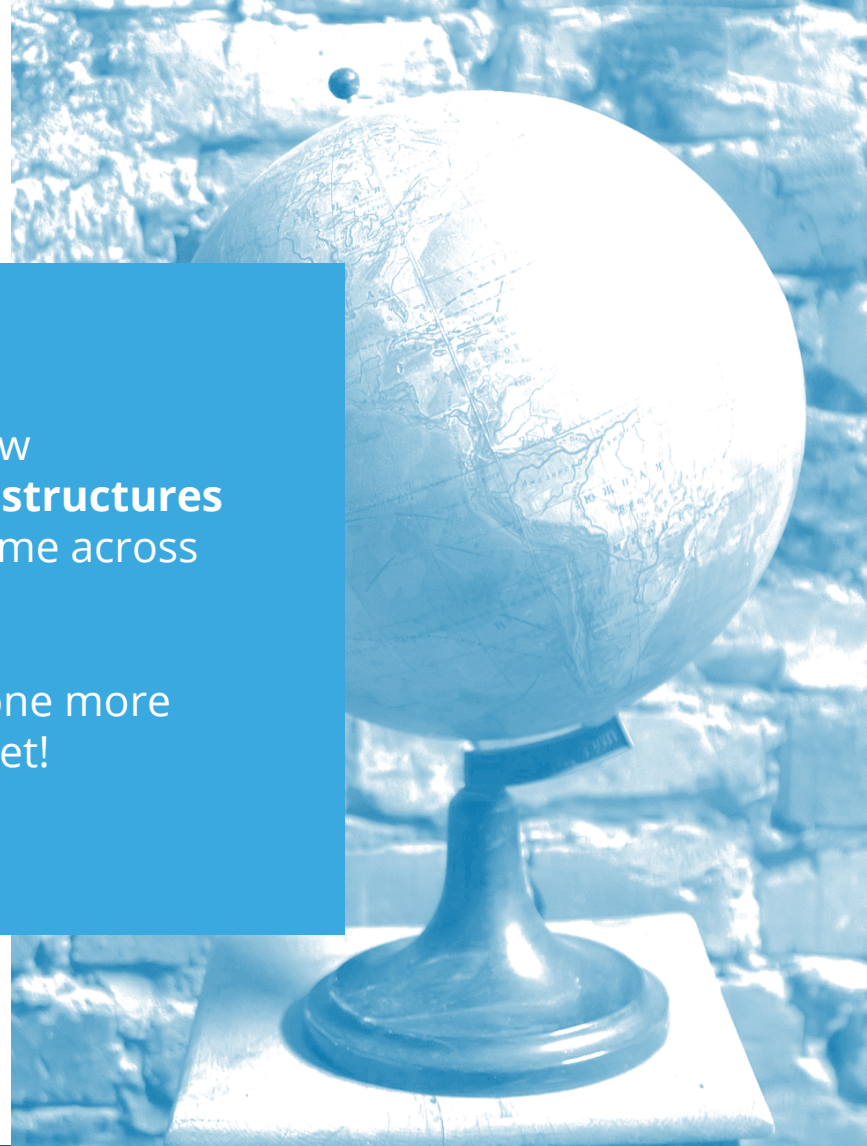




Reflect on this lesson

Take a moment to review any new **vocabulary, phrases, language structures** or **grammar points** you have come across for the first time in this lesson.

Review them with your teacher one more time to make sure you don't forget!





Answer key

Exercise p. 10

To expire: a verb which relates to something which runs out in a fixed period of time.

Restriction: A measure taken to limit something. It usually has to do with official matters.

Exclusive: A restriction or limit to a particular person, group of people, or area.

To ratify: The act of making agreements or decisions official. Usually pertains to official organisations or governments.

To constitute: A verb which describes the different parts of which something is

made up. To consist of can be a synonym.

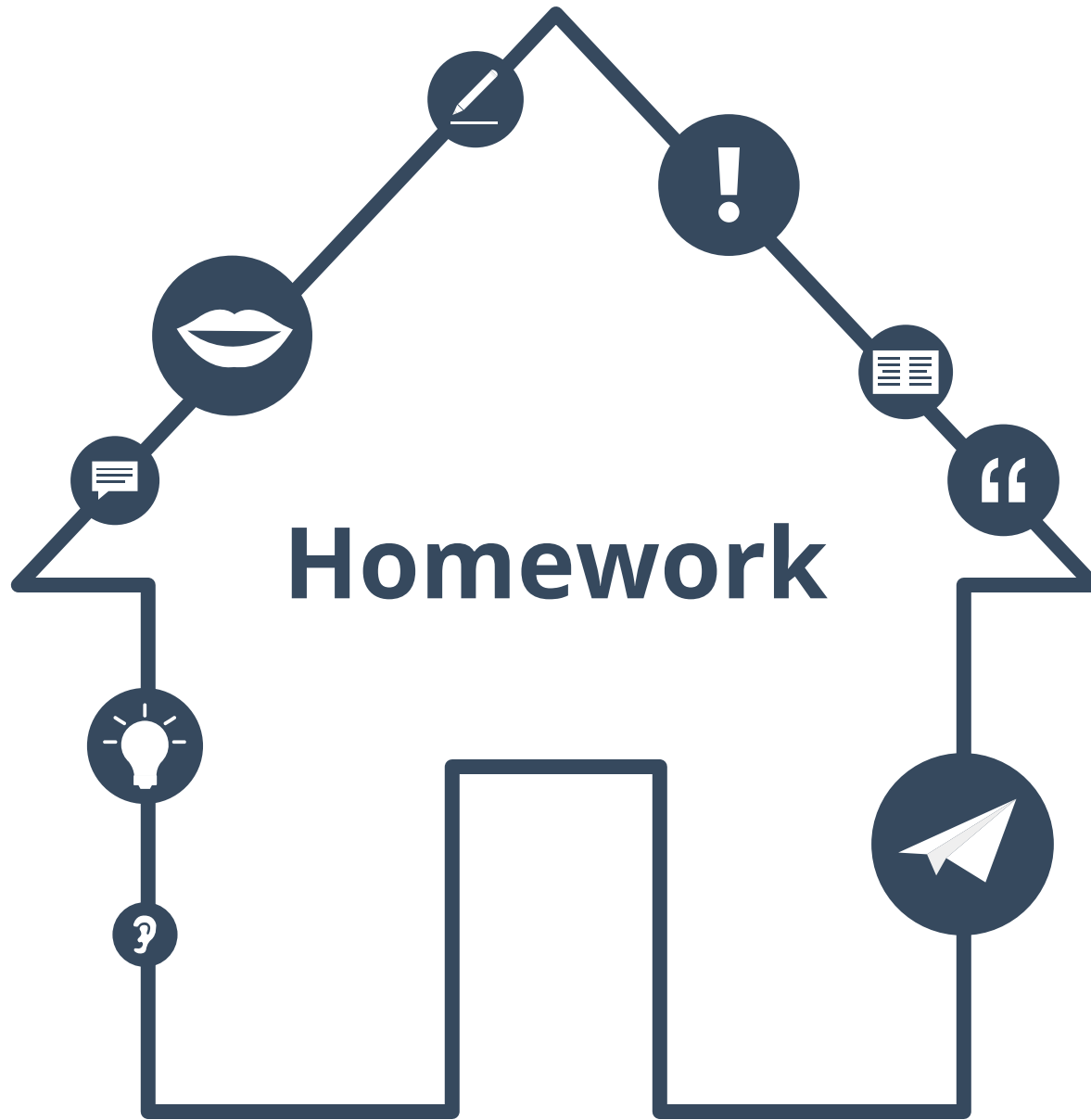
Abreast: Alongside, or on the same level as something.

Exercise p. 11

1. Great Britain, the printing press, 2. The Berne Convention, 1886, 3. No, 4. Yes

Exercise p. 24

To stamp sth out - to eliminate, to credit someone - to attribute a piece of work to someone, to facilitate - to make sth easier, or possible, duration - length of time, prolific - sth happening in large numbers, draconian - excessively severe





Complete the sentences

Complete the sentences. Use the text to help you.

1. Copyright is a legal right...
2. The Berne Convention...
3. The duration of copyright is...
4. In Chinese culture...
5. Creative Commons is...



Fill in the gaps

1. The first copyright laws were _____ by Great Britain.
2. Once copyright expires, the work is in the _____.
3. Copyright laws are supposed to _____ access to work by the public.
4. The proverb goes that imitation is a form of _____.
5. Copyright laws are seen by some as _____.

flattery

public domain

ratified

facilitate

draconian



Homework answer key

Exercise p. 29

1. ratified, 2. public domain, 3. facilitate, 4. flattery, 5. draconian



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