Hair: reading tasks

1 Decide if the following statements are true or false:

a Hair is the fastest growing part of the body.
b The average scalp (the skin that covers the part of the head where the hair grows) has 10,000 hairs.
c Hair grows on every part of our body.
d Hair continues to grow after you are dead.
e More men go bald (lose their hair) than women.

2 Look at the other students in the class. Do most students have …

a … short, shoulder-length or long hair?
b … straight, wavy or curly hair?
c … blond(e)*, brown, red, black or grey hair?

3 The following people are mentioned in the text: monks, Sikhs, skinheads, hippies, prophets. Who are these people, and what do you think the reading about hair says about them?

4 Match the words with their meanings. The number in brackets refers to the paragraph.

1 dyed (1); to dye (4) a opposed to change, preferring traditional values
2 to stare (3) b to have too much interest in your own appearance
3 conservative (4) c to look at somebody or something for a long time
4 a complaint (4) d to change the colour of something
5 a compliment (4) e connected with God or a god, considered to be holy
6 shaved (5) f e.g. ‘Our teacher gives us too much homework!’
7 vanity (5) g to have hair cut from the head or face using a razor
8 sacred (5) h e.g. ‘What a nice dress you’re wearing!’

5 Now ask another student three of following questions:

a How often do you wash your hair?
b Do you dye your hair - if so, how often do you dye it?
c When was the last time you went to a hairdresser?
d Do you have the same hairstyle as ten years ago?
e Why are men’s haircuts so much cheaper than women’s?
f Do you think blond(e) hair is more attractive than dark hair?

* We use blonde for females and blond for males.