

Tattoo: Reading

I have a friend called Mark. Last Sunday it was a beautiful day - very sunny. When it was too hot Mark rolled up his sleeves. I was very surprised - he had a tattoo! I didn't know! Then he told me he has lots of tattoos. He has tattoos on his arms, legs, chest and back. So of course I asked him lots of questions about the tattoos!



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'It was ten years ago. I remember I was on an island in the middle of the sea. I chose a dolphin because I wanted something about the sea.'

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'I liked the idea of doing more designs about the sea. So after the dolphin I had an octopus, and then a starfish. These are on my left leg. Then I had lots of fish swimming together over my left arm. They took a long time to do. I also have a crab and a lobster too!'

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'It's a mermaid. It was finished two weeks ago. I saw a painting of a beautiful mermaid in a museum. I took a photograph and then decided to have a tattoo. I made the design a little simpler. It's on my arm, chest and back. It's my favourite tattoo.'

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'It depends! If you feel relaxed and happy then it's OK. But if you're tired or nervous then you feel it more. I know somebody who fell asleep so he had no problems! It also depends where the tattoo is done. Most people start at the top of the arm. This is OK. But on your foot - ouch!'

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'Again it depends. If the design is big and it takes a long time, then it can be a lot. And if there are lots of colours too. This is because the inks are expensive.'

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'Yes - if it's done in a proper studio. It's important that everything is really clean and that the needles are new. After the tattoo is finished the ink is thrown away and not used for another person.'

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'Before she saw the tattoos my mother was very unhappy. And my big sister too. They thought the idea was stupid. But then when they saw the designs they changed their minds. They saw that the designs were very beautiful and not ugly. They liked them a lot! Now my sister has a tattoo - she has a bunch of roses on her back!'

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'Young people like to be different. They like to do things which their parents don't like. A tattoo, even a small one, can shock parents. Also, when your friend has one - you want one too!'

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'Don't be serious about it. It's fun! Don't choose the name of your girlfriend or boyfriend, or the name of your favourite pop group. Choose something which is not important now - or in the future. My next tattoo is going to be a shark!'