

HOW FAR WOULD YOU GO FOR FASHION?

Age: Teenager/Adult

Level: Intermediate to upper intermediate (B1-B2)

Time: 45 minutes

Activity: In this lesson, students will:

1. Read about tattoos, piercings and alternative fashions
2. Design a tattoo
3. Create a fashion

Language focus: vocabulary relating to fashion (clothes, make-up, hair, accessories)

Materials: one copy of the worksheet per student; sheets of blank paper

PROCEDURE

1. On the board, write the question: *What's in fashion at the moment?* Ask students make a list in pairs. When they've finished, invite them to call out their answers for you to write on the board. If they only mention clothes, ask about accessories, tattoos and piercings too.

L LANGUAGE TIP: When teaching vocabulary for clothes, a good grammar point to include is countable and uncountable nouns. Low-level students often make mistakes with these (*'I am wearing a jeans'*) so why not highlight clothes which are always plural (*trousers, tights*) or practise collective nouns (*a pair of _____*), making sure to focus on word stress and correct pronunciation?

2. Discuss which fashions are more for girls and which are for boys. And which fashions do they themselves follow?
3. Tell students they are going to read about three fashions. Hand out the first page of the worksheet.. Ask students to read each text and put a tick next to the things they would do and a cross next to the things they wouldn't.
4. When they have finished, ask students to compare and discuss their answers in small groups. Tell them they should report to the class who is the most daring or fashion-conscious in their group.
5. Students work in the same groups to design a tattoo.
6. Students show their designs to the class, and explain where the tattoo would be. The class votes on the most original tattoo.
7. Now, hand out the second page of the worksheet. Ask them to look at the picture of the girl. Ask them to describe her and name the fashion. (*Answer: Goth.*) Do they like the fashion? Would they follow it? What else do they associate with goths?
8. Tell students they are going to start a new fashion. They have to think about the clothes, make-up, accessories, hair, music and activities that will be associated with the fashion.
9. Students discuss their ideas in pairs or small groups and then complete the fact file. They could also draw their ideas for the fashion on some blank paper, as an additional option.
10. Students explain their fashion to the class. The class decides which they like best.
11. Finally, students look at a list of fashions. Do they know anything about them? In pairs or small groups, they should discuss each fashion, going through the fact file categories together if they can. If students don't know the vocabulary, it may be useful to look up the words on the Macmillan English Online Dictionary as a class before beginning, or ask them to do so in their groups: www.macmillandictionary.com. Alternatively, you could assign each student a fashion to research for homework, asking them to create a factfile with reference images for sharing in the next lesson.

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WORKSHEET

HOW FAR WOULD YOU GO FOR FASHION?



Following a fashion usually means buying the right clothes, listening to the right music, having the right haircut, using the right language. But sometimes fashion requires you to make a bigger commitment and do something that is more permanent and maybe even painful! How far would you go for fashion?

TATTOOS



this far? yes no

It's only in the last few years that tattoos have become really fashionable. In the past they were usually associated with Hells Angels and sailors! Now everyone seems to want one, including the rich and famous. Celebrities with real tattoos include David Beckham and Angelina Jolie. Many people want the same tattoos as their favourite stars, while others want more original designs. Chinese and Japanese symbols are popular as well as Celtic and Maori patterns. Some people like to have very visible tattoos, while others prefer to keep them hidden. In the United Kingdom you have to be 18 to have a permanent tattoo. If you're not 18 or don't want to commit yourself then you can try a temporary tattoo. Henna tattoos last for about six weeks and stick-on tattoos can last up to three weeks.

Imagine you decide to have a tattoo. What would you like it to be? What would you like it to say? Make a design on a piece of paper.

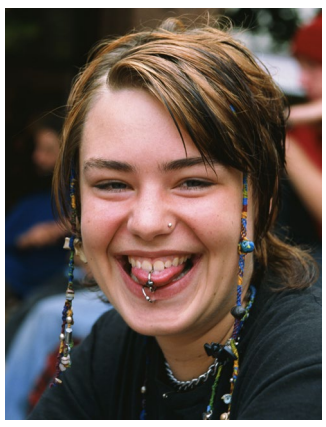
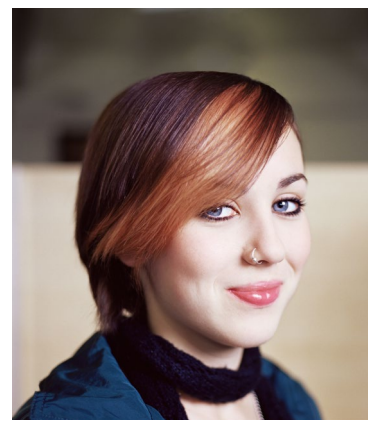
DESIGNER SCARS

this far? yes no

A few summers ago, newspapers in Britain started reporting a new fashion craze: the designer scar.

According to the papers, the fashion started in clubs in London and Manchester amongst fans of the group Manic Street Preachers. Richey Edwards, who played guitar with the group until he went missing, was obsessed with self-mutilation. Plastic surgeons, who usually put their expertise into improving people's looks, were suddenly being asked to perform scarification. Some women have asked for a scar like Sharon Stone's (she has one on her neck), while men have asked for a Harrison Ford-type scar to make them look more masculine. African tribal scars have also become popular. The operation takes about 30 minutes and can cost as little as £500.

PIERCINGS



this far? yes no

Twenty-five years ago it was rare to see a man with a pierced ear. Wearing an earring was considered effeminate and unattractive. Times have changed and today anyone can have their ears pierced. But not happy with just piercing ears, young people have spent the last few years piercing other parts of the body. It might be fashionable, but it's also dangerous. In one survey 95 per cent of British doctors said they had dealt with medical complications arising from the fashion, including infections, blood poisoning, bleeding and disfigurement. Hundreds of people have ended up in hospital. Ear-piercing was regulated in the early 1970s, but body-piercing is still uncontrolled by law, so many people go on a one-week course and then start a business. Navels and tongues are the most popular parts to pierce.



START A FASHION

Not every new fashion is a success. Remember the goths? They wore black satin and rubber, put on white make-up and carried dead animals! Here's your chance to create a fashion. You decide what the followers of your fashion have to wear and do!

THE FACT FILE

Clothes _____

Make-up _____

Accessories _____

Hair _____

Music _____

Activities _____



Look at the following fashions. What do you know or what can you remember about each one? With a partner, discuss the FACT FILE categories above for each fashion.

- METROSEXUALS
- EMOS
- COSPLAY
- MODS
- PREPPY
- GRUNGE
- ROCKERS
- PUNK
- NEW ROMANTICS
- HIP-HOP
- VINTAGE
- HIPPIES

