

## The fashion page: teacher's notes and tips

### 1 Pre-writing tasks: speaking

- a Ask students to ask each other these questions (written on board):
- Are they interested in fashion - do they think fashion is important? Why / why not?
  - Do they prefer local styles of dress (for example?) or western clothes?
  - Can they describe this season's / year's 'look'?
  - Do they know the names of any fashion designers?
  - Do they make their own clothes?
- b Open class feedback – who's the most fashionable student in the class?!

**Tip: don't skip on the speaking**

Make sure that everyone is involved whether they are male or female, and if they like fashion or not – it'll be more fun doing the writing task later on. Fashion magazines would be great too.

### 2 Pre-writing tasks: vocabulary input

- a Put the students in pairs, but let them have a handout each, and get them to decide which words go where. Encourage them to help each other and to move on to another word when they get stuck.
- b Quicker students can add one or more words extra to the categories.
- c Get the students to explain the words by making a sentence about another student in the class: *Araya has curly hair, Jorge is wearing baggy trousers.*

**Tip: don't get bogged down with dictionaries at this stage**

Use the students and their clothes to show the meaning of words nobody knew – or pictures from a magazine, or some quick sketches on the board. Make sure there's enough time for this.

### 3 Pre-writing tasks: reading an example

- a Students read – they should tell that it's about men's fashion.
- b Using the faint body outline as a guide students draw a man wearing the clothes as described. Get them to show each other their drawings. This should be fun!
- c Highlight the structure of the text: use of present simple, what *not* to wear and what *is best*.

**Tip: encourage students to react to the text**

Do they like this 'look'? Why / why not? Does anyone in the class look like this?!

#### 4 Writing

- a Tell the students that they are all fashion designers! In pairs they must either design something for a woman or for a man. It can be anything – outrageous, fun, silly, for work, for pleasure, for the evening – they decide. It can also be inspired by another culture, like the Indian example.
- b Once they have come up with ideas, give the students the blank page of the magazine. They have to draw their design onto the model – encourage use of colours, textures etc. *No writing at this stage!*
- c **First draft:** Students, looking at both their drawing and the example text, write a paragraph together describing the look. They should *not* be doing this directly onto the magazine page but on another piece of paper.
- d **Improving:** Students then swap their descriptions with another pair to look at and edit. Does the description match the drawing?
- e **Final draft:** Students make any necessary changes with spelling, vocabulary or grammar and then write neatly onto the page.
- f The final writing task is for students to decide what colour, accessory, material etc is in fashion, and what is not. They can make this up of course – they are the designers! They then add these words to the *top fashion tips*. E.g. What's hot? – orange / flat shoes; What's not? – pink / high-heels. This can be given for homework instead.

#### 5 Post-writing tasks: speaking

- a It would be great to have some kind of fashion show. Perhaps get one student of a pair to show the drawing to the class as if the model was on a catwalk while the other student reads out the description to the class. They can then vote for the most popular design.
- b There has been a lot of vocabulary input during the class so think about follow-up consolidation activities for the next class: back to the board, Pictionary, anagrams...have a look at the onestopenglish website – there are plenty of ideas!

**Please note:**

This writing task is one of many that make up pages for *One World* magazine. When the students have finished this activity ask them to keep the page somewhere safe. In the future, when all the pages are written, the students will have an opportunity to design a front cover and put the pages together to make a complete magazine.