



Appearances 6.2

Teen tribes

Language focus
describing people and expressing opinions

Key vocabulary
clothes: *baggy, chino trousers, chunky, deck shoes, earphones, floppy hair, flowery, headscarf, hoody, polo shirt*
types of people: *goth, hippy, preppy, skater, techie, townie*

Skills focus
speaking: predicting, describing and discussing

Level
intermediate

Time
50 minutes

Preparation
one photocopy, cut up and clipped together, for each small group of students

Extra notes
Talking about teen tribes or groups could be a sensitive issue for some of your students who are uncomfortable with their own appearances.

Warm-up

- 1 Ask students to draw their favourite outfit, show it to a partner and ask each other questions about it. For example: *Where did you buy your favourite jeans? Is the T-shirt old or new?* You could start this activity by describing and drawing your favourite outfit on the board to give students an idea.
- 2 Ask a few students to tell the class about their partner's favourite outfit.

Main activity

- 1 Put students into small groups for this activity. Give each group a cut-up set of the word cards and tell them they refer to different 'teen tribes'. Ask each student in the group in turn to take a word card and to guess what type of people fit into that 'tribe'. Ask, for example, *What do these people do? What do they wear?* Some will be easier to guess than others, so keep this task short and snappy and if your students don't know, move on quickly to Step 2.
- 2 Now give out the pictures of the six people. Tell your students to try and match the people to the word cards. Ask if their predictions about the type of people were correct.
- 3 Now give out the description cards to each group and ask them to match them to the pictures and the word cards. When you have checked that each group has the right answers, ask the students what else they can tell you about these different groups.

Answers		
Hippies 5 F	Townies 3 D	Goths 1 C
Skaters 2 E	Preppies 6 B	Technies 4 A

- 4 Ask students if there are similar or different types of 'teen tribes' in their country.
- 5 Now write several of the discussion statements below on the board. Set a time limit for students to discuss them in small groups.
Appearance and 'looks' aren't important.
Beauty is on the inside not the outside.
Being an individual is more important than fitting into a 'group'.
First impressions count.
Your appearance shows your personality.

Follow-up

- Choose one of the discussion statements above and hold a class debate.
- Students make posters to show you what is 'in' and 'out' of fashion. Bring in some catalogues and magazines for them to cut up. Then they should write an explanation of the latest trends shown on the poster.
- Give each group one 'tribe' to write about. They could find pictures in magazines or on the Internet and write a description of the typical image of a member of that group.

6.2 Teen Tribes

Word cards

HIPPIES

TOWNIES

GOTHS

SKATERS

PREPPIES

TECHIES

Picture cards

1

2

3

4

5

6

Description cards

A
The latest mobile phone
Laptop
Earphones

B
Floppy hair
Chino trousers
Bag
Expensive jumper

C
Black clothes
Pale skin
Listen to heavy metal music

D
Hoodies
Tracksuits
Gold jewellery

E
Low, baggy trousers
Baggy T-shirts
Chunky trainers

F
Long skirts
Flowery or patterned clothes
Head scarves