

FASHION DIARY

I was lucky enough to get an interview with Tommy Hilfiger the other day. He is one of the top American designers so it was rather difficult to catch him, but in the end, I was able to spend half a day with him and his team – quite amazing considering how busy he is. He appeared for our appointment wearing his usual sunglasses, a blue shirt, light trousers and a checked jacket. With his brown hair and bright blue eyes, Tommy looks an energetic mid-sixties – his real age – but can also look older or younger depending on the particular situation.

We talked a little about the history of his company before going on to have a look at some of the new season's fashion designs. After setting up his collection for men – with particular success with his designer jeans and shoes – Tommy continued with his career and in 1996 he introduced a women's clothing line, 'Tommy', which repeated the success of his menswear collection. His fashion design empire now includes athletic wear, underwear and kid's wear as well as designer perfumes, cosmetics, brushes and combs for men and women, jewellery, other accessories and home furniture.

As we watched his top models showing his new collection – slim-line jeans, red leather motorcycle jackets, colourful blouses and leather skirts – he was talking all the time, either to me about his various projects or on his mobile phone, making plans for business photo sessions, flying to Florida and a thousand other things that form a day in the life of one of the world's most successful designers. He also told me that he had plans for future development of his company but those would have to wait until our next interview.

- 1 Tommy Hilfiger ...
 - A often gives interviews.
 - B looks younger than he is.
 - C is about sixty-five years old.
 - D frequently changes his style.
- 2 'Tommy', the women's collection was ...
 - A the most successful collection.
 - B as successful as the men's collection.
 - C less successful than the men's collection.
 - D more successful than the men's collection.
- 3 Tommy Hilfiger's collection should attract ...
 - A mainly women.
 - B men in particular.
 - C teenagers and children.
 - D men, women and children.
- 4 During the fashion show, Tommy was ...
 - A talking about his business plans.
 - B concentrating fully on the show.
 - C commenting on the new designs.
 - D making arrangements for further work.
- 5 The writer of the article is probably ...
 - A a model.
 - B a journalist.
 - C a TV reporter.
 - D another designer.

1 Read the text and decide if the statements 1–5 are true (T) or false (F).

Similarities attract

'Similarities attract.' This phrase comes to mind as I look around at my guests. I can't believe how many differences there are between the people I know. Let's take the example of my manager. He is so arrogant that people in the office prefer to keep out of his way. His poor secretary speaks very timidly when he's around, as if she were very shy. But it's surprising how she comes alive the minute he leaves the room. You can see her happiness suddenly grow! My cousin Suzie, on the other hand, is the sweetest and most kind-hearted person I have ever known. The problem is that when she starts talking, she simply can't stop. Still, there are far worse habits than being talkative.

And finally, there is Ben. I love him quite a bit, but I'm definitely getting annoyed with his mania for computer games. Sometimes I'm not even sure if he knows what's real and what's just fantasy. But I guess it would be boring if everyone was the same.

1. The writer's guests are very similar to each other. ____
2. People in the office prefer to avoid their manager. ____
3. His secretary behaves differently when he is around. ____
4. When the secretary leaves the room, she feels happy. ____
5. Ben loves fantasy games. ____