

## TEENAGE PRESSURES

- 1- **SPEAKING.** Look at the photos. What are the people doing?. Use the phrases below. How often do you do these things?

go weight training   put on make-up   straighten your hair  
take a selfie



2- Read the text quickly. How many of the writers believe there is a problem with teenagers and image?

# IMPOSSIBLE IMAGES?

**1** — Female celebrities post selfies on social media; millions of teenage girls see them and try to copy them. They want to have the same artificial hairstyles and make-up. I really believe that this is becoming a big problem. Why? Because girls are worrying about their appearance all the time and they're becoming unhappy. And the problem is growing. For example, teenage girls today spend 90% more on make-up than ten years ago.  
**Maria Baker, Professor of Sociology**

**2** — In my view, social networking websites like Facebook and Instagram are part of the problem. Teenagers take photos of their close friends all the time and then they put these photos on the Internet. A bad photo gets unkind comments. So girls now think it's important to look good all the time. Today's teenage girls are embarrassed about looking natural or having untidy hair. They can't relax. I see this problem every day at school.  
**Sophie Ellis, Head Teacher**

**3** — 'To be honest, this isn't just a problem for girls. Boys have pressures too. They are surrounded by images of male celebrities with muscular bodies. Suddenly, an ordinary male body is not good enough, they think, so they take dangerous drugs to make their bodies muscular. Others go on unnecessary diets – for example, they buy special drinks because they want to be muscular. They talk about it a lot at the gym.'  
**Bob French, Gym owner**

**4** — 'A lot of teenagers try to copy images in magazines and on websites. But it's very easy to change photos on a computer. So today's teenagers are trying to copy an image that is not real. However, these tricks are not a secret these days. In fact, some companies are refusing to change their photos. They use hashtags to advertise their "real photos" on Twitter. Some people say social media is part of the problem. Personally, I think it can be part of the solution.'  
**Luke Woods, Photographer**

**5** — 'In my opinion, people are worrying about this too much. A lot of girls come into my shop and buy make-up. But they aren't copying celebrities. They have their own ideas and their own look. It's a way of expressing your personality. And it can be fun too! Of course some of the images in magazines are fake. Teenagers know that – they aren't stupid!'  
**Anna Granger, Shop owner**

3- Read the **READING STRATEGY**. Then match paragraphs (1-5) with headings (A-G) below. There are two extra headings.

### Reading Strategy

When you do a matching task, check your answers by trying to match the extra headings with each paragraph. They should not match any of them.

- A Copying a lie?
- B Body-building boys
- C Enjoying their own style
- D Smiling celebrities, worried girls
- E From catwalk to clothes shop
- F No escape from the camera
- G Copying hairstyles from the past

4- Explain why the extra headings in exercise 3 do not match any of the paragraphs.

5- Listen and read. Check your answers to exercise 3 (AUDIO 2.12)

6- **VOCABULARY.** Find the eight highlighted adjectives in the text. Write them as four pairs of opposites.

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

7- **VOCABULARY.** Find four adjectives in paragraphs 1-3 of the text which begin with the negative prefix UN-

_____	_____
_____	_____

8- **KEY PHRASES.** Complete these phrases for expressing opinions using the words below. These phrases are all the reading text.

honest my really think view

**Expressing opinions**

I <sup>1</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ believe that ...

In my <sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_, ...

To be <sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_, ...

Personally, I <sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ ...

In <sup>5</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ opinion, ...

9- Match the statements and the opinions (a-i) with the people in the texts (1-5)

- a Bad photos on social networking sites often get unkind comments. \_\_\_
- b Most images in magazines and on the internet are not real because the companies change the photos. \_\_\_
- c Some girls worry a lot about their appearance and this makes them unhappy. \_\_\_
- d Some boys take drugs to make their bodies look more muscular. \_\_\_
- e Girls wear make-up to express their personalities. It isn't a problem. \_\_\_
- f Girls think it's important to look good all the time. \_\_\_
- g Some boys put their health in danger to try to look good. \_\_\_
- h A lot of teenage girls are not happy to look natural or a bit untidy. \_\_\_
- i Teenagers know that the photos in magazines are not real so it isn't a problem. \_\_\_