In the Name of Beauty

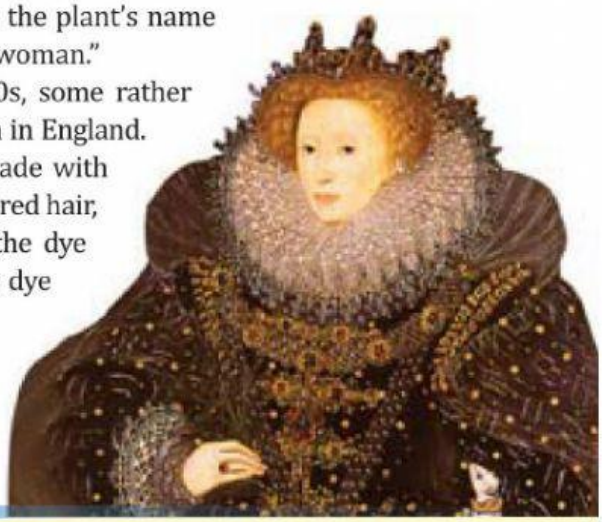
Track 1

Cosmetics have been used throughout history. The ancient Greeks, the Egyptians, and the Romans all used various kinds of makeup. Some of these **cosmetics** were used to improve one's appearance. Others were used to protect one's skin. However, in some cases, things used for makeup were dangerous or even deadly!

Skin care treatments including perfumes, lotions, and cosmetic masks were used in ancient Egypt by rich and poor alike. Egyptians also developed some of the earliest sunscreens. They used oils and creams for protection against the sun and dry winds. Egyptians, as well as other ancient cultures, used various powders on their skin for beauty as well. Egyptians used black **kohl** around their eyes. Romans put white **chalk** on their faces. And Indians painted red **henna** on their bodies.

Most of the ancient cosmetics were harmless. However, in the name of beauty, some people applied dangerous chemicals and poisons to their skin. During the Italian **Renaissance**, women wore white powder made of **lead** on their faces. Of course, doctors today know lead is like a poison for our bodies. Also around the time of the Renaissance, women in Italy put drops of **belladonna** in their eyes. These belladonna drops were made from a plant whose poison affects the **nerves** in the body. By putting belladonna drops in her eyes, a woman's **pupils** would become very large. People thought this made women more beautiful. Actually, this is where the plant's name comes from. In Italian, belladonna means "beautiful woman."

When Elizabeth I was queen in the late 1500s, some rather dangerous cosmetics were also being used by women in England. In particular, women were using special hair **dye** made with lead and sulphur. The dye was designed to give people red hair, the same color as the queen's hair, but over time, the dye made people's hair fall out. Finally, women using this dye ended up bald, like the queen, and had to wear **wigs**.



Reading Time _____ minutes _____ seconds 326 words

2 *cosmetics*: makeup

9 *kohl*: a powder made of antimony sulfide (Sb_2S_3) used around the eyes

9 *chalk*: a soft white limestone composed mostly of the shells of small marine organisms

10 *henna*: a red or orange dye made from the henna plant

13 *Renaissance*: the 1300s through 1500s in Europe, when great artistic and scientific achievements were made

13 *lead*: a soft metal (Pb)

15 *belladonna*: a poisonous plant with black berries

16 *nerve*: the part of the body that passes information to the brain

17 *pupil*: the hole in the middle of the eye that can become smaller or larger

22 *dye*: a liquid for coloring

26 *wig*: an artificial covering for the head that looks like hair

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Reading Comprehension

Choose the best answer.

1. What is the main idea of this reading?

a. The ancient Egyptians used a lot of makeup.
b. People have always used makeup.
c. Some cosmetics in the past were dangerous.
d. Italian women had the best makeup.

2. Which of the following statements is NOT correct?

a. The Egyptians used makeup to help their skin.
b. The Romans used chalk to make their faces white.
c. Queen Elizabeth I had blond hair.
d. All of the above

3. Where did Italian women apply lead powder?

a. In their hair
b. On their hands
c. On their faces
d. Under their arms

4. What was belladonna used for?

a. To give women pretty eyes
b. To change the color of women's skin
c. To poison plants
d. To make people look smarter

5. What is the meaning of "rather" as it is used in line 20?

a. normally
b. on the contrary
c. preferred
d. fairly

Idiomatic Expressions

Find these idioms in the reading.

- **in some cases** [sometimes]
  In some cases, the medicine made people's hair fall out.
- **in the name of** [for]
  The explorer claimed the island in the name of his country.
- **end up** [to finally become]
  She started her own company and ended up a millionaire.

Fill in the blank with one of the above idioms. Change its form if necessary.

1. _____, teachers found students did better on longer exams.

2. Let's follow the map, or we may _____ lost.

3. We must keep fighting _____ freedom!

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Summary

Fill in the blanks with the correct words.

in the name of	**culture**	**drops**
nerves	**cosmetics**	**dangerous**

Although 1 _____ have been used all throughout history, not all of them have been safe. In fact, some of them have been quite 2 _____ to people. For example, long ago in Italian 3 _____, people thought women with big eyes were beautiful. Therefore, 4 _____ beauty, women began to put 5 _____ of belladonna in their eyes to make their pupils larger. Belladonna, however, is poisonous, and it can affect the 6 _____ in the body.



Listening

Makeup for Men?

track 2

Listen to the dialog and choose the best answer.

1. Which is true about the man?

a. He doesn't usually wear makeup.
b. He works for a cosmetics company.
c. He does not have good skin.
d. He knows a good place to buy makeup.

2. According to the woman, why do a lot of men wear skin creams?

a. It makes their skin white.
b. It is fun.
c. It smells nice.
d. It protects their skin.

3. What happens at the end of the conversation?

a. The man puts on a cosmetic.
b. The man gets angry.
c. The woman buys the makeup.
d. The man promises to help the woman.

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Discussion

Discuss the following questions.

1. Which brands of makeup are good for your skin?
2. What is the strangest beauty treatment you have heard of?
3. What do you wear when you want to look nice?

Grammar

Infinitives of Purpose

An infinitive can be used to talk about a person's purpose as a reduced form of *in order to* or *so as to*.

Some of these cosmetics were used (to improve / to improving) one's appearance.
The dye was designed (to give / to giving) people red hair, the same color as the queen's hair.

Writing

Write your own short paragraph by answering the questions below.

Dressing up

(1) What do you wear to dress up?
(2) What are those things made of?
(3) What color are those things? OR How do those things look? **(4)** When was the last time you wore them? **(5)** Did anyone notice or say anything about how you looked?

Example

I wear a suit and tie to dress up. I don't know what my suit is made of, but my tie is made of silk. My suit is dark blue, and my tie is red and yellow. The last time I wore them was at my sister's wedding. Nobody noticed me because most of the men at the wedding were in suits.

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Vocabulary and Idiom Review

A. Choose the best word or phrase to fill in the blank.

1. Creams can make our skin _____.

a. ancient b. large c. poor d. smooth

2. I think it will rain soon. I just felt a _____.

a. drop b. plant c. treatment d. wig

3. If you need perfume, you should go to a store that sells _____.

a. skin b. cosmetics c. history d. prices

4. Joan of Arc tried to lead her army to fight _____ God.

a. ending up b. having to do c. in some cases d. in the name of

5. She sat on the beach all day. Now her _____ is red.

a. powder b. culture c. pupil d. skin

6. That is not dust on the floor. It is face _____.

a. dye b. cream c. oil d. powder

7. Be careful. Some of those chemicals are _____.

a. ancient b. dangerous c. silky d. special

B. Choose the correct form of the word to fill in the blank.

8. The people living in the rainforest hunt with _____ arrows.

a. poison b. poisonous c. poisoning

9. The country is _____ unique. There is no other culture like it.

a. culture b. cultural c. culturally

10. The new and _____ soap seems very similar to the old soap.

a. improvement b. improves c. improved

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