

(2) IDENTITY

ACTIVITY 1: Use the words in the box to describe the people

blond-haired blue-eyed courageous determined
elderly enthusiastic female kind male middle-aged
teenage well-dressed

1. Alex Smith is a woman. _____
2. Alex Brown is a man. _____
3. Annie's 15. _____
4. My grandfather is 80 this year. _____
5. My aunt and uncle are about 50.

6. Astronauts are very brave. _____
7. Luke is full of energy. _____
8. Max is caring and thoughtful. _____
9. Emma always works hard to get what she wants. _____
10. Paul wears fashionable clothes. _____



11. Victor looks like this: _____
12. Sophia looks like this: _____

ACTIVITY 2: Read the [text](#) for detail and answer the questions.

1. Why were strangers saying hello to Neil Richardson?

2. Why do we like to be with people who are similar to us?

3. In what ways is each of us physically unique?

4. How does biometric technology work?

5. Why is it good that we're not all the same?

ACTIVITY 3: Find nouns in the article that are related to words 1-8.

1. confuse (verb)

2. similar (adjective)

3. safe (adjective)

4. unique (adjective)

5. measure (verb)

6. scan (verb)

7. combine (verb)

8. identical (adjective)

ACTIVITY 4: Personal questions.

1. Would you like to meet your doppelganger? Why? / Why not?

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2. In what ways are your friends similar to or different from you?

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3. In what ways are people in your family similar to or different from you?

4. How does the world make it difficult for us to be ourselves?

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ACTIVITY 5: Choose a celebrity. Write 5 (five) sentences describing him/her. Write about their physical appearance and their personality, justify.

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The same ...

but different

When Neil Richardson moved to a new neighborhood, people who he had never met waved and greeted him. It seemed that people there somehow knew him, but they clearly didn't know his name, because they all said, "Hello John." Neil discovered the cause of this confusion when he stepped onto a bus one day and came face to face with his mirror image – a man called John Jemison.

As they compared life stories, it was clear that their similarities weren't only physical. Coincidentally, both men had attended the same college. They both sang in choirs and they shared a love of poetry. They are now close friends. Neil and John's story is not as unique as you might think! If you search for images of *doppelgängers* online, you'll find that there are plenty of people in the world who look alike. You might have a double somewhere, too.

The desire to find people with some similarity to ourselves can be strong. We like to be with people who act the same way, who dress the same way, who like the same things, and who go to the same places. Like many other animals, we often want to be part of a group because there's safety in numbers.

We're comfortable when we don't feel different, because it feels safer to be the same.

What do you think a "doppelgänger" is?

What's the meaning of "there's safety in numbers"?

The fact is that we are all different, however. We are individuals with separate identities. Physically we are all unique in many ways. No two people have exactly the same face, the same voice, or the same way of walking. Nobody has the same fingerprints as you, or the same patterns of blood vessels in their fingers or eyes.

Because we are all physically different, a multi-billion dollar industry called *biometrics* (from the Greek *bios* for "life" and *metrio* for "measure") has developed that uses our uniqueness to identify us. The biometrics industry produces photographic equipment and scanners that use measurements, data, and algorithms to recognize and check our unique features in fractions of seconds. Nowadays some cell phones can recognize your face or voice as fast as your friends can.

It's not only our physical characteristics that identify us, however. We all have individual thoughts and feelings, knowledge, experiences, and beliefs. Your identity is a combination of all of these things and more. And that combination is yours and yours alone. What makes us different is what makes us interesting.

Why is it useful to use physical characteristics to identify people?

How do you think your cell phone can recognize you?

What does "these" refer to?

Neil Richardson

John Jemison