Unit 1 People

ACADEMIC SKILLS PLUS

Psychology: First impressions

Reading skills: Identifying the main idea in a paragraph

Writing skills: Writing a 'first impression' profile; Conjunctions *and* and *but*

1 VOCABULARY Adjectives and parts of the body

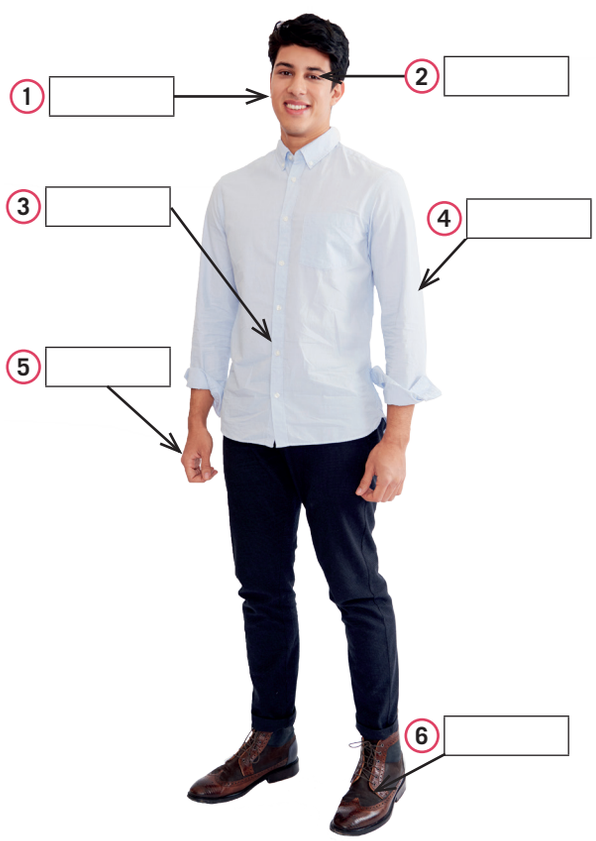
a Match adjectives 1–4 with adjectives a–d (with the opposite meaning).

1	☐ interesting	a	unfriendly
2	☐ happy	b	unkind
3	☐ kind	c	boring
4	☐ friendly	d	sad

b Write three sentences about people or things. Use different adjectives. Read your sentences to another student.

c Label the picture with the words in the box.

face body hands eyes arms feet



d Close your books. In pairs, point to parts of your body and ask your partner to say the word.

e The first time you meet someone, what do you look at? Why?

2 READING 1

a When you meet someone for the first time, what do you think about? The things that you … ?

1 feel 2 see

Read the article and find out.

First impressions

[1] The first time we meet someone new, we decide what kind of person they are. In a few seconds, we decide if a person is kind, friendly and interesting. After we decide, it is often difficult to change our opinion. For example, we meet a new person at work on their first day and this person is worried and unhappy. After a month, the person feels comfortable in the new job. They are happy and maybe funny, but we still think the person is worried and not happy.

[2] How do we decide? We look at a person's face and decide if the person is happy, kind, interesting or maybe boring. We also watch a person's body language. Body language is about the way you stand and the things you do with your hands, your arms and your feet!

[3] We also listen to the way a person speaks, and we look at the kind of jacket, trousers or dress a person wears, for example. If someone speaks in a loud way, we think the person has a strong personality. If a person wears a suit, we think they are a boss.

[4] First impressions are very important. For example, on your first day at university, other people look at you and decide what kind of person you are. Maybe they are wrong, but it's difficult to change their first impression.

b Match sentences a–d to paragraphs 1–4.

a We look at a person's clothes to decide what they are like.
b We decide what we think about people quickly and we don't change our ideas.
c When you begin a new job, people decide what kind of person you are.
d A person's body and face tell us something about them.

c **CRITICAL THINKING**
MAIN IDEAS

Answer the questions.

1 Are the sentences in 2b the main ideas in each paragraph?
2 Do the sentences in 2b talk about details? Why / Why not?
3 How many main ideas does a paragraph usually have?

d Do you agree with the article? Why / Why not?

3 LANGUAGE FOCUS *and, but*

a Read this sentence from the article and answer the questions.

They are happy and maybe funny, but we still think the person is worried and not happy.

Which underlined word shows that you add … ?

1 a similar idea 2 a different idea

b Look at paragraph 4 and underline examples of *and* and *but*. Which word do we use a comma (,) before?

c Add *and* or *but* to these sentences. Add a comma if you use *but*.

1 We look at people's faces _____ their body language to decide what they are like.
2 Some people have an unfriendly face the first time you meet _____ after, you understand they are really nice and kind.
3 Some people look at a person's body language _____ other people listen to the way they speak.
4 First impressions are important when you begin a new course _____ when you start a new job.
5 All the students in the group have kind faces _____ some of them are a bit boring when they speak.

4 READING 2

a Read about Marcia. Which paragraph talks about first impressions? Which paragraph talks about personal information?

First impressions of my maths tutor

[1] Our new maths tutor is Australian. Her name is Marcia and she's from Palm Beach, a town near Sydney. She's married, but she doesn't have children. She likes surfing and Sudoku.

[2] I think Marcia is friendly and interesting. Her face is very friendly and her eyes are kind. Her body language is very clear and she uses her hands in a clever way so we understand maths. She's quiet and polite, but she is sometimes funny. She is my favourite tutor this year.

b Complete the information about Marcia.

	Marcia	My partner
Name	Marcia	
Nationality		
City/Town		
Job		
Likes	Sudoku	
First impressions	friendly, interesting	

c Underline more examples of *and* and *but* in Marcia's profile.

STUDY SKILLS: NEW LANGUAGE EXAMPLES

1 In 4c you looked at more examples of *and* and *but*. How does this help you?
2 After you study new language, is it a good idea to look for more examples when you read?

5 SPEAKING

a Talk to your partner. Ask questions about their personal information to fill in the table in 4b.

b Write adjectives of your first impressions of your partner.

6 WRITING

a Write a 'first impressions' profile of your partner. Use the ideas below to help you.

My new classmate …
… is/isn't married
His/Her name …
He/She likes …

I think …
He's/She's …
His/Her face is …
He's/She's from …

b Swap your profile with a new student – not your partner. Read each other's profile. Do you agree with the first impressions of the person in the profile?