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"1,000 IDEAS & ACTIVITIES FOR LANGUAGE TEACHERS"

The Breaking News English.com Resource Book

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Girl Guides want photo airbrushing warning

http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1008/100803-girl_guides.html

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THE ARTICLE

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1008/100803-girl_guides.html

The world's Girl Guides have spoken out against the fashion magazine industry. They are fed up with the way glossy mags change the faces of models, singers and actresses to make them look more beautiful. They have added their names to a petition to tackle airbrushed images of glamorous celebrities. Girlguiding U.K. wants publishers to be more honest and label photographs that have been altered. Many pictures are changed using computer software like Photoshop. This makes teeth look whiter, eyes brighter, and skin clearer and blemish-free. Young girls want to look like these unrealistic images, which has led to a rise in eating disorders and a lack of confidence. The Guides point to research that shows half of teenage girls worry about their appearance and want cosmetic surgery.

Many high-profile celebrities, including British actress Kate Winslett, have called for the labelling of "touched-up" photos in magazines. Susan Ringwood, the CEO of the eating disorder charity Beat, said: "Young people...tell us that being surrounded everyday by pictures of unnaturally 'perfect' bodies makes their own recovery so much more difficult to achieve." She added: "We know the difference it would make...if [young girls] could be sure which of the images they see are natural and true to life." Lauren Fletcher, an 11-year-old Guide, told reporters that magazines often "really upset" her "because people in magazines are made to look different when that's not really how they look". She said: "It might make people uncomfortable about themselves. I just think that's unfair."

WARM-UPS

1. FASHION MAGAZINES: Walk around the class and talk to other students about fashion magazines. Change partners often. Sit with your first partner(s) and share your findings.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, decide which of these topics or words from the article are most interesting and which are most boring.

Girl Guide / fashion mags / models / airbrushed photos / clear skin / cosmetic surgery / celebrities / eating disorder / perfect bodies / recovery / true to life / upset / unfair

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

3. FASHION INDUSTRY: Good or bad? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners and share what you wrote. Change and share again.

	Good or bad (and why)
Airbrushed photos	
Size zero	
Role models	
Fur	
Sweatshops	
Brand clothes	

4. PHOTOS: Students A **strongly** believe there's nothing wrong with airbrushing photos in fashion magazines; Students B **strongly** believe there's a lot wrong with it. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

5. WORRIES: What do you worry about most? Rank these and share your rankings with your partner and say why. Change partners and share your rankings again.

- Face
- Hair
- Confidence
- Voice
- Sense of humour
- English ability
- Height
- Weight

6. FASHION: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word 'fashion'. Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1008/100803-girl_guides.html

1. TRUE / FALSE: Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

- | | |
|---|-------|
| a. Girl Guides want to be told when their photos are airbrushed. | T / F |
| b. The Guides are going to add their names to a list as a protest. | T / F |
| c. Guides go to photo shops to get their facial photos altered. | T / F |
| d. Around 50% of teenage girls in this article want cosmetic surgery. | T / F |
| e. A British actress thinks "touching-up" photos is a good thing. | T / F |
| f. A charity boss said "touched-up" photos help girls eat better. | T / F |
| g. The boss said photos of people as they really are are more helpful. | T / F |
| h. A girl said airbrushed pics upset her because they aren't true images. | T / F |

2. SYNONYM MATCH: Match the following synonyms from the article.

- | | |
|---------------|------------------|
| 1. spoken out | a. reach |
| 2. fed up | b. defect |
| 3. tackle | c. mean |
| 4. altered | d. sort out |
| 5. blemish | e. illness |
| 6. disorder | f. talked openly |
| 7. perfect | g. recuperation |
| 8. recovery | h. faultless |
| 9. achieve | i. tired |
| 10. unfair | j. changed |

3. PHRASE MATCH: (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| 1. spoken out | a. to life |
| 2. glossy | b. about their appearance |
| 3. added their names | c. much more difficult to achieve |
| 4. led to a rise | d. mags |
| 5. teenage girls worry | e. disorder |
| 6. "touched-up" | f. against the fashion magazine industry |
| 7. eating | g. in eating disorders |
| 8. so | h. how they look |
| 9. natural and true | i. to a petition |
| 10. that's not really | j. photos in magazines |

WHILE READING / LISTENING

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1008/100803-girl_guides.html

GAP FILL: Put the words into the gaps in the text.

The world's Girl Guides have spoken _____ against the fashion magazine industry. They are fed up with the way _____ mags change the faces of models, singers and actresses to make them look more beautiful. They have added their names to a _____ to tackle airbrushed images of glamorous celebrities. Girlguiding U.K. wants publishers to be more honest and _____ photographs that have been altered. Many pictures are changed using computer software like Photoshop. This makes teeth look whiter, eyes _____, and skin clearer and blemish-_____. Young girls want to look like these unrealistic images, which has led to a _____ in eating disorders and a lack of confidence. The Guides point to research that shows half of teenage girls worry about their appearance and want _____ surgery.

free
petition
rise
label
out
cosmetic
glossy
brighter

Many high-_____ celebrities, including British actress Kate Winslett, have called for the labelling of "touched-_____" photos in magazines. Susan Ringwood, the CEO of the eating _____ charity Beat, said: "Young people...tell us that being surrounded everyday _____ pictures of unnaturally 'perfect' bodies makes their own recovery so much more difficult to _____." She added: "We know the difference it would make...if [young girls] could be sure which of the images they see are natural and _____ to life." Lauren Fletcher, an 11-year-old Guide, told reporters that magazines often "really upset" her "because people in magazines are _____ to look different when that's not really how they look". She said: "It might make people uncomfortable about themselves. I _____ think that's unfair."

true
up
just
achieve
profile
made
disorder
by

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1008/100803-girl_guides.html

The world's Girl Guides _____ the fashion magazine industry. They are fed up with _____ the faces of models, singers and actresses to make them look more beautiful. They have added their names to _____ airbrushed images of glamorous celebrities. Girlguiding U.K. wants publishers to be more honest and label photographs _____. Many pictures are changed using computer software like Photoshop. This makes teeth look whiter, eyes brighter, and skin _____. Young girls want to look like these unrealistic images, which has led to a rise in eating disorders and a lack of confidence. The Guides point to research that shows half of teenage girls worry about their appearance _____.

Many high-profile celebrities, including British actress Kate Winslett, have _____ of "touched-up" photos in magazines. Susan Ringwood, the CEO of _____ Beat, said: "Young people...tell us that being surrounded everyday by pictures of unnaturally 'perfect' bodies _____ so much more difficult to achieve." She added: "We know the difference it would make...if [young girls] _____ the images they see are natural and true to life." Lauren Fletcher, an 11-year-old Guide, told reporters that magazines often "really upset" her "because people in magazines are made to _____ not really how they look". She said: "It might make _____ themselves. I just think that's unfair."

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1008/100803-girl_guides.html

1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'fashion' and 'magazine'.

fashion	magazine

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS: Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

3. GAP FILL: In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

4. VOCABULARY: Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

5. TEST EACH OTHER: Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• spoken• fed• altered• whiter• rise• half	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• called• charity• recovery• true• upset• unfair
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STUDENT FASHION PHOTOS SURVEY

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1008/100803-girl_guides.html

Write five GOOD questions about fashion photos in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper. When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

FASHION PHOTOS DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

- a) What did you think when you read the headline?
- b) What springs to mind when you hear the word 'fashion'?
- c) What do you think of fashion magazines?
- d) Is it right or wrong that most models are good-looking?
- e) Are models good role models for teenagers?
- f) Do you think airbrushed photos should be labelled?
- g) Is it wrong for photos in fashion magazines to be altered to make the people look more beautiful?
- h) Should the government do anything about the link between fashion magazine photos and eating disorders?
- i) What do you think of the fashion for "size zero" models?
- j) Would you ever have cosmetic surgery?

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FASHION PHOTOS DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

- a) Did you like reading this article?
- b) Do you think actors and singers would be for or against their photos being airbrushed?
- c) We are surrounded by images of 'unnaturally perfect' bodies. Does this bother you in any way?
- d) Is there anything wrong with the fantasy of fashion?
- e) How do fashion magazines affect boys and girls differently?
- f) Would a magazine showing normal and unattractive people work?
- g) What would life be like without the fashion industry?
- h) Would you like a professional to airbrush a photo of you?
- i) Should teenagers be able to sue fashion magazines that upset them?
- j) What questions would you like to ask Susan Ringwood?

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LANGUAGE – MULTIPLE CHOICE

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The world's Girl Guides have spoken (1) ____ against the fashion magazine industry. They are fed up with the way glossy (2) ____ change the faces of models, singers and actresses to make them look more beautiful. They have added their names to a petition (3) ____ tackle airbrushed images of glamorous celebrities. Girlguiding U.K. wants publishers to be more honest and label photographs that have been (4) _____. Many pictures are changed using computer software like Photoshop. This makes teeth look whiter, eyes brighter, and skin clearer and blemish-(5) _____. Young girls want to look like these unrealistic images, which has led to a (6) _____ in eating disorders and a lack of confidence. The Guides point to research that shows half of teenage girls worry about their appearance and want cosmetic surgery.

Many high-profile celebrities, including British actress Kate Winslett, have called for the labelling of "touched-(7) _____" photos in magazines. Susan Ringwood, the CEO of the eating disorder charity Beat, said: "Young people...(8) _____ us that being surrounded everyday by pictures of (9) _____ 'perfect' bodies makes their own recovery so much more difficult to achieve." She added: "We know the difference it would make...if [young girls] could be sure which of the images they see are natural and true (10) _____ life." Lauren Fletcher, an 11-year-old Guide, told reporters that magazines often "really upset" her "because people in magazines are (11) _____ to look different when that's not really how they look". She said: "It might make people uncomfortable (12) _____ themselves. I just think that's unfair."

Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

- | | | | | |
|-----|--------------|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1. | (a) in | (b) out | (c) on | (d) by |
| 2. | (a) bags | (b) nags | (c) mags | (d) tags |
| 3. | (a) to | (b) at | (c) on | (d) of |
| 4. | (a) altering | (b) alters | (c) alter | (d) altered |
| 5. | (a) frees | (b) freely | (c) free | (d) freer |
| 6. | (a) rise | (b) raise | (c) up | (d) higher |
| 7. | (a) down | (b) in | (c) in | (d) up |
| 8. | (a) voice | (b) tell | (c) speak | (d) say |
| 9. | (a) natural | (b) unnatural | (c) naturalized | (d) unnaturally |
| 10. | (a) of | (b) by | (c) to | (d) on |
| 11. | (a) got | (b) made | (c) taken | (d) did |
| 12. | (a) about | (b) from | (c) to | (d) as |

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HOMework

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find out more about airbrushed fashion photos. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. FASHION PHOTOS: Make a poster about fashion photos. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. TOUCHED-UP: Write a magazine article about touched-up photos. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against them.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

5. LETTER: Write a letter to a fashion mag boss. Ask him/her three questions about airbrushed fashion photos. Give him/her three ideas on how to make fashion magazines more responsible. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

TRUE / FALSE:

- a. F b. T c. T d. T e. T f. F g. F h. F

SYNONYM MATCH:

- | | |
|---------------|------------------|
| 1. spoken out | a. talked openly |
| 2. fed up | b. tired |
| 3. tackle | c. sort out |
| 4. altered | d. changed |
| 5. blemish | e. defect |
| 6. disorder | f. illness |
| 7. perfect | g. faultless |
| 8. recovery | h. recuperation |
| 9. achieve | i. reach |
| 10. unfair | j. mean |

PHRASE MATCH:

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| 1. spoken out | a. against the fashion magazine industry |
| 2. glossy | b. mags |
| 3. added their names | c. to a petition |
| 4. led to a rise | d. in eating disorders |
| 5. teenage girls worry | e. about their appearance |
| 6. "touched-up" | f. photos in magazines |
| 7. eating | g. disorder |
| 8. so | h. much more difficult to achieve |
| 9. natural and true | i. to life |
| 10. that's not really | j. how they look |

GAP FILL:

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Many high-**profile** celebrities, including British actress Kate Winslett, have called for the labelling of "touched-**up**" photos in magazines. Susan Ringwood, the CEO of the eating **disorder** charity Beat, said: "Young people...tell us that being surrounded everyday **by** pictures of unnaturally 'perfect' bodies makes their own recovery so much more difficult to **achieve**." She added: "We know the difference it would make...if [young girls] could be sure which of the images they see are natural and **true** to life." Lauren Fletcher, an 11-year-old Guide, told reporters that magazines often "really upset" her "because people in magazines are **made** to look different when that's not really how they look". She said: "It might make people uncomfortable about themselves. I **just** think that's unfair."

LANGUAGE WORK

- 1 - d 2 - a 3 - b 4 - c 5 - c 6 - b 7 - d 8 - a 9 - b 10 - d 11 - c 12 - a

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