

Body Piercing



Pre-Reading

A. Warm-Up Questions

1. Which body parts do people in your country typically pierce?
2. Where do people go to get body piercings?
3. Are people with body piercings judged or treated differently?
4. What types of earrings are fashionable these days?

B. Vocabulary Preview

Match up as many words and meanings as you can.

Check this exercise again after seeing the words in context on page 2.

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| ___ 1. mummified | a) wearing |
| ___ 2. sporting | b) to say no, to set the limit |
| ___ 3. aesthetic | c) a bar with a ball or disc at each end |
| ___ 4. on a whim | d) to lose strength or quality as time passes |
| ___ 5. novelty | e) to not approve, to dislike |
| ___ 6. wear off | f) small simple earrings such as a single stone or pearl |
| ___ 7. frown upon | g) excitement when something is new |
| ___ 8. studs | h) preserved by drying and wrapping (a dead body) |
| ___ 9. draw the line | i) related to appearance and beauty |
| ___ 10. barbell | j) without thinking very hard about something |
| ___ 11. consent form | k) a legal document signed by a participant or guardian |

Reading

BODY PIERCING

Express yourself!

1. Do you have your ears pierced? What about your tongue, nose, eyebrow, or navel? These are just a few of the common body parts that people get pierced. Rock stars often have piercings in all of the above!
2. Piercing is practiced by men and women worldwide and may date as far back as humans. The oldest **mummified** body ever found was **sporting** an earring. The custom of piercing is religious for some, while others do it for **aesthetic** reasons.
3. Do you know anyone who got a piercing **on a whim** or in response to a bet? The **novelty** of a piercing often **wears off**. Many people remove jewelry due to discomfort or infection. Others remove jewelry before entering the workforce where some piercings are **frowned upon**. Your boss may approve of the **studs** or hoops in your ears, but he may **draw the line** at the **barbell** in your chin!
4. Elaine Davidson of Scotland may have difficulty getting a job. She has over 6,000 piercings. Do you think she got her ears pierced first? Many girls have their ears pierced before their first birthday. Why don't the parents need a **consent form**?

"I am too old for an eyebrow piercing but too young for an eyebrow lift."

—Max Cannon, comic strip creator

Comprehension

Discuss these questions in pairs, and write the answers in your notebook.

1. Which body part is NOT mentioned in the reading: ear, belly button, eyebrow, or toe?
2. True or false? The oldest mummified body had over 6,000 piercings.
3. According to the reading, why do some people remove their jewelry?
4. What is interesting about Elaine Davidson?
5. Why does the author mention a consent form?

Vocabulary Review

A. Complete the Sentences

Complete the sentences using vocabulary from page 1.
You may need to change the word forms.

1. When the pain _____, you will enjoy having pierced ears.
2. The tongue ring was a _____ until Ryan got an infection.
3. The _____ in her belly button looks just like the type weight lifters use.
4. Since you are under 18, you need a parent to sign a _____ form.
5. You can _____ a nose ring, but I _____ at eyebrow piercings.

B. Related Words

Complete the chart by making five groups of three related words.
Use the words from the Word List.
One word from each group has already been added.

Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4	Group 5
<i>sudden</i>		<i>beauty</i>		
	<i>simple</i>			<i>permission</i>
			<i>mummified</i>	

Word List

- dead
- wrap
- studs
- earrings
- appearance
- whim
- decision
- aesthetic
- consent
- signature

Discussion

1. Why might a woman decide to get a nose ring on her 40th birthday?
2. Do you like the look of facial body piercings? Why or why not?
3. How can you tell if a body piercing shop is safe to use?
4. What are the dangers of trying to pierce yourself or a friend?

Class Opinion

Walk around the class and ask your classmates questions.
Write their answers in the chart below.

Classmate's name:	Should minors (under 18) be required to have parental consent for body piercings?	Are body piercings more acceptable in your culture than tattoos?	What word would you use to describe Elaine Davidson (from the reading)?

Listening

Fill in the blanks as you listen to the recording.

BODY PIERCING

Express yourself!

1. Do you have your ears pierced? What about your tongue, nose, eyebrow, or _____? These are just a few of the common body parts that people get pierced. _____ often have piercings in all of the above!
2. Piercing is practiced by men and women worldwide and may date as far back as humans. The oldest mummified body ever found was _____ an earring. The custom of piercing is _____ for some, while others do it for aesthetic reasons.
3. Do you know anyone who got a piercing _____ or in response to a bet? The _____ of a piercing often _____. Many people remove jewelry due to discomfort or infection. Others remove jewelry before entering the workforce where some piercings are _____. Your boss may approve of the studs or hoops in your ears, but he may _____ at the barbell in your chin! Elaine Davidson of Scotland may have difficulty getting a job. She has over 6,000 piercings. Do you think she got her ears pierced first?
4. Many girls have their ears pierced before their first birthday. Why don't the parents need a _____?

Answer Key

LESSON DESCRIPTION:

Students read about body piercings and discuss the reasons why people get pierced. Includes vocabulary review tasks and discussion questions.

TEACHING TIPS:

See *Discussion Starters Teaching Guide* (<https://esllibrary.com/courses/72/lessons/>) for a variety of ways to use the reading.

LEVEL: Int

TIME: 1.5–2 hours

TAGS: body piercing, piercings, earrings, nose ring, eyebrow, culture, body, appearance

Pre-Reading

A. WARM-UP QUESTIONS

Have students work in small groups or as a class.

B. VOCABULARY PREVIEW

- | | | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|-------|-------|
| 1. h | 3. i | 5. g | 7. e | 9. b | 11. k |
| 2. a | 4. j | 6. d | 8. f | 10. c | |

Reading (and/or Listening)

Read individually, in small groups, or as a class. Discuss the quote. You can also play the listening as your students read along. A gap-fill version of the reading is available on page 5. Help your students with vocabulary and expressions that they are unfamiliar with.

Comprehension

- The toe is not mentioned.
(A belly button is another word for a navel.)
- False.
- Some people remove jewelry because it becomes uncomfortable or infected. Others have to do this because of work-related reasons.
- Elaine Davidson is a woman in Scotland who has over 6,000 piercings.
- The author is questioning why parents can have their babies' ears pierced without asking permission.

Vocabulary Review

A. COMPLETE THE SENTENCES

- wears off
- novelty
- barbell
- consent
- sport, draw the line

B. RELATED WORDS

- whim, sudden, decision
- studs, earrings, simple
- aesthetic, beauty, appearance
- mummified, dead, wrap
- consent, signature, permission

(continued on the next page...)

Answer Key cont.

Discussion

Answers will vary.

Can be done individually or in small groups or pairs.

Class Opinion

Have students walk around the class and ask their classmates questions. They should record their answers in the chart.

Listening

1. navel, Rock stars
2. sporting, religious
3. on a whim, novelty, wears off, frowned upon, draw the line
4. consent form

SPELLING NOTE:

This lesson shows the American spelling of the words *Practiced* and *Jewelry*. Most other English-speaking countries spell these words this way: *Practised* and *Jewellery*. Make it a challenge for your students to find these words in the lesson and see if they know the alternate spellings.