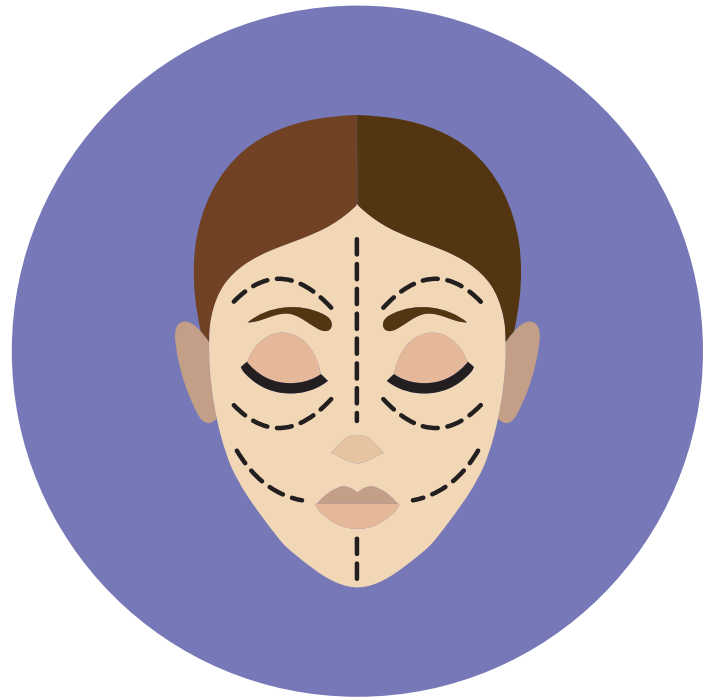


Cosmetic Surgery



Pre-Reading

A. Warm-Up Questions

1. What are some examples of cosmetic surgery?
2. Should teens be allowed to have cosmetic surgery without parental consent?
3. Why are many celebrities hooked on cosmetic surgery?

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. mold | a) a transplant of healthy skin |
| ___ 2. skin graft | b) an artificial object that takes up space in the body |
| ___ 3. in demand | c) to become addicted to or develop a strong need for something |
| ___ 4. get hooked | d) to form into something |
| ___ 5. flawless | e) bands and wires used for straightening teeth |
| ___ 6. airbrushed | f) digitally altered or removed imperfections in a photo |
| ___ 7. swear off | g) wanted by many people |
| ___ 8. implant | h) to vow to no longer use or take |
| ___ 9. braces | i) without any imperfections |
| ___ 10. vanity | j) pride in one's own appearance |

Reading

COSMETIC SURGERY

Going under the knife

1. Plastic surgery did not originate in Hollywood, as some people wrongly assume. It was an ancient practice named after the Greek word *plastikos*, meaning “to **mold**.” Before nose jobs and face-lifts were performed on the living, these procedures were used to beautify the dead. Ancient Egyptians had to look their best in the afterlife!
2. Reconstructive surgery became popular in Europe and America following World War I. Soldiers returned from the battlefields needing **skin grafts**, facial reconstruction, and artificial limbs. In the 1960s, when plastic surgeons were no longer **in great demand**, specialists began to market their skills as cosmetic surgeons. Does it surprise you that middle-aged women were the first to **get hooked**?
3. These days, the goal of looking young, thin, and **flawless** has cosmetic surgeons working overtime. If you’re unhappy with your nose, you get a nose job. If you can’t get your pre-pregnancy shape back, you can get a tummy tuck or breast lift. If you can’t afford the procedure, there are even payment plans. Men, women, and even children compare themselves to **airbrushed** models and celebrities. Is going under the knife becoming a way of life?
4. Some people are not ashamed of their **vanity**. They claim to have greater confidence due to their surgically enhanced body parts. Others **swear off** plastic surgery and regret the decisions of their past. They realize how fake their face-lifts look, or they worry about the health risks of their **implants**.
5. What about hair replacement and dental **braces**? Are these a form of cosmetic surgery too?

“Plastic surgery is like a big elephant sitting in the Hollywood living room.”

—Patricia Heaton, actress

Comprehension

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

1. What are the two main branches of plastic surgery?
2. Why does the reading mention World War I?
3. Why did cosmetic surgery pick up in the 1960s?
4. What does the author imply about photographers of celebrities?
5. Provide two reasons given for swearing off cosmetic surgery.

Vocabulary Review

A. Spot the Errors

Circle the vocabulary error in the sentences below.

Then rewrite the corrected sentences below or in your notebook.

1. Chin plants are demanding now that baby boomers are aging.

2. We got hooked at the new reality show about cosmetic surgery.

3. The car accident victim required a skin draft on her burnt arm.

4. After paying for costly liposuction, the basketball coach swore on all fast food.

5. The model's skin is always flawed in the magazine. The photos are obviously airbrushed.

6. In Japan, many polio sufferers received plantations in their legs.

Vocabulary Review cont.

B. Complete the Sentences

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

1. Her front teeth are a bit crooked, so her parents want her to get _____ .
2. Skilled cosmetic surgeons are _____
in major urban centers such as New York City and Tokyo.
3. The celebrity _____ alcohol after making a fool of himself in public during a social event.
4. In the magazine, the celebrity's baby belly was _____ out of the picture.
5. Plastic surgery is not always about _____. Reconstructive surgery saves lives.

Discussion

1. What do you think the field of cosmetic surgery will be like 50 years from now?
2. Does physical attractiveness help people move up in the workplace?
3. Some cosmetic procedures are associated with specific ethnic groups or genders. Discuss some of the different surgeries such as brow lifts, chin plants, and eyelid surgery, and how they relate to the beauty standards of different ethnic groups.

Critical Thinking

Work with a partner and discuss this question.

Babies who are born with birth defects, such as cleft palates, often require expensive surgery. This surgery may be for cosmetic and reconstructive purposes. Should the government pay for this type of surgery?

Listening

Fill in the blanks as you listen to the recording.

COSMETIC SURGERY

Going under the knife

1. Plastic surgery did not originate in Hollywood, as some people wrongly assume. It was an ancient practice named after the Greek word *plastikos*, meaning "to _____." Before nose jobs and face-lifts were performed on the living, these procedures were used to _____ the dead. Ancient Egyptians had to look their best in the afterlife!
2. Reconstructive surgery became popular in Europe and America following World War I. Soldiers returned from the battlefields needing _____, facial reconstruction, and artificial limbs. In the 1960s, when plastic surgeons were no longer _____, specialists began to market their skills as cosmetic surgeons. Does it surprise you that middle-aged women were the first to get _____?
3. These days, the goal of looking young, thin, and _____ has cosmetic surgeons working overtime. If you're unhappy with your nose, you get a nose job. If you can't get your pre-pregnancy shape back, you can get a tummy tuck or breast lift. If you can't afford the procedure, there are even payment plans. Men, women, and even children compare themselves to _____ models and celebrities. Is going under the knife becoming a way of life?
4. Some people are not ashamed of their _____. They claim to have greater confidence due to their surgically enhanced body parts. Others _____ plastic surgery and regret the decisions of their past. They realize how fake their face-lifts look, or they worry about the health risks of their _____.
5. What about hair replacement and dental _____? Are these a form of cosmetic surgery too?

Answer Key

LESSON DESCRIPTION:

In this lesson, students read a brief history of cosmetic surgery. They discuss whether plastic surgery should be restricted to reconstructive procedures.

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: discussion, cosmetic surgery, plastic surgery, beauty, aging, Hollywood, celebrities

Pre-Reading

A. WARM-UP QUESTIONS

Have students work in small groups or as a class.

B. VOCABULARY PREVIEW

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

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 two main branches of plastic surgery are cosmetic and reconstructive.
- The reading mentions World War I because many soldiers who returned from the battlefields required reconstructive surgery.
- Cosmetic surgery picked up in the 1960s because there were many medical specialists who needed work.
- The author implies that photographers of celebrities use special techniques to make the celebrities appear flawless. This drives the market for cosmetic surgery.
- The acknowledgement of the risks of cosmetic surgery
 - The feeling that one's appearance is beginning to look fake

Vocabulary Review

A. SPOT THE ERRORS

- Chin plants are **in demand** now that baby boomers are aging.
- We **got hooked on** the new reality show about cosmetic surgery.
- The car accident victim required a **skin graft** on her burnt arm.
- After paying for costly liposuction, the basketball coach **swore off** all fast food.
- The model's skin is always **flawless** in the magazine. The photos are obviously airbrushed.
- In Japan, many polio sufferers received **implants** in their legs.

B. COMPLETE THE SENTENCES

- | | | |
|--------------|---------------|-----------|
| 1. braces | 3. swore off | 5. vanity |
| 2. in demand | 4. airbrushed | |

Discussion

Answers will vary.

Critical Thinking

Answers will vary.

Listening

- mold, beautify
- skin grafts, in great demand, hooked
- flawless, airbrushed
- vanity, swear off, implants
- braces