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The 4 page 60 minute ESL British English lesson – 25/08/13

Should women have hairy armpits?

Should women have hairy armpits? Well, should they? It's a good talking point. Why do people think hairy armpits are ok for men but not for women? It is true most men today prefer to see women without hairy armpits, but why?

Some women, like Pixie Lott, in 2012, are proud to have hairy armpits! Julie Roberts once revealed hers at the movie premier of Notting Hill. The German pop singer Nena famously flashed her pits when she sang '99 Red Balloons'. Emer O'Toole, 28, who is a journalist, flashed her armpits on UK TV in 2012. She hadn't shaved them for 18 months! She also hadn't shaved her legs. This is another good talking point. Should women shave their legs?

Many women though get fed up with having to go through the process of hair removal every day. Some would say - what is all the fuss about women having hairy armpits? Some women might apologise if they haven't shaven, but why should they? It is natural for women to have hair and not just on their head!

There can be some very beautiful women with hairy armpits but is it socially acceptable? Should feminists throw their razors out of the window or is it all about choice? Why are hairy armpits such a social taboo? How many women do you know with hairy legs who don't shave them?

In the modern world girls are expected to shave off their body hair and pluck their eyebrows otherwise they get bullied by their peers. It is 'socially unacceptable' for a girl to have hairy armpits and legs. At the end of the day though it is down to each woman to decide for themselves. Of course we could all get a life and discuss something a bit more serious but then again it is summer!

SPEAKING

Think of three things you know about women with hairy armpits. Go round the room swapping details with others.

LISTENING – WRITING - DICTATION

The teacher will read some lines of the article slowly to the class.

READING

Students should now read the article aloud, swapping readers every paragraph.

SPEAKING - UNDERSTANDING

1) The article – Students check any unknown vocabulary or phrases with the teacher.

2) The article - Students should look through the article with the teacher.

- 1) What is the article about?
- 2) What do you think about the article?
- 3) Was this an easy or difficult article to understand?
- 4) Was this a boring or interesting article?
- 5) Discuss the article.

3) Article quiz - Students quiz each other in pairs. Score a point for each correct answer. Score half a point each time you have to look at the article for help. See who can get the highest score!

Student A questions

- 1) Who is Julie Roberts?
- 2) Who is Emer O'Toole?
- 3) What does 'socially unacceptable' mean?
- 4) What is a 'peer'?
- 5) What does 'get a life' mean?

Student B questions

- 1) Name the German singer.
- 2) What is a razor?
- 3) What does 'social taboo' mean?
- 4) Name the song.
- 5) What is natural for women to have?

Category: Women / Shaving / Hairy Armpits
Level: Intermediate / Upper Intermediate

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WRITING / SPEAKING

In pairs. On the board write as many words as you can to do with '**Hairy armpits**'. *One-two minutes.* Compare with other teams. Using your words compile a short dialogue together.

WRITING / SPEAKING

In pairs – Think of three things women shave. Add three things men shave. Write them below. Talk about them!

- 1) _____ (1) _____
- 2) _____ (2) _____
- 3) _____ (3) _____

Add three negative and three positive points about shaving.

- 1) _____ (1) _____
- 2) _____ (2) _____
- 3) _____ (3) _____

The teacher will choose some pairs to discuss their findings in front of the class.

SPEAKING – QUICK DEBATE - CHOICE

Student A prefers women with hairy armpits and legs. Student B prefers women with shaved armpits and legs. Discuss together. *2 mins.*

Or choose the following - Role reversal

Student A – As a woman you prefer men with beards. Student B – As a woman you prefer men who are shaved. Discuss together. *2 mins.*

DISCUSSION

Student A questions

- 1) Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- 2) Should women have hairy armpits?
- 3) Why do people think hairy armpits are ok for men but not for women?
- 4) Why do men prefer women with shaved armpits?
- 5) What do you think of Emer O'Toole not shaving her armpits and legs for 18 months?
- 6) What is all the fuss about women not shaving their armpits?
- 7) Why do women have to apologise for not shaving their legs?
- 8) Why should women shave their legs?
- 9) Has this been an interesting lesson for you?
- 10) Have you learnt anything today?

SPEAKING – ROLEPLAY 1

In groups. One of you is the interviewer. The others are one of the following people. You are in the *Debate Live TV* studio. Today's interview is about: *Should women have hairy armpits?*

- 1) A woman with hairy armpits.
- 2) A feminist.
- 3) A man.
- 4) Yourself!

The teacher will choose some groups to roleplay their interview in front of the class.

SPEAKING - ROLEPLAY 2

In pairs. You are in a café with a friend. Start a conversation about whether women should have hairy armpits? *5 mins.*

SPEAKING

On the board – List 10 things about shaving. Talk about them.

SPEAKING - CLASS SURVEY

Allow 10 minutes – As a class.

Discuss the following...

Should women have hairy armpits?

Yes or No?

The teacher can moderate the session.

DISCUSSION

Student B questions

- 1) What do you think about what you've read?
- 2) Is it socially acceptable for a woman not to shave her legs? Explain.
- 3) Should feminists throw their razors out of the window?
- 4) Should women have a choice about whether to shave or not?
- 5) Why are hairy armpits such a social taboo?
- 6) How many women do you know who have hairy armpits or unshaven legs?
- 7) Do women shave any other parts of their body?
- 8) What parts of the body do men shave?
- 9) Has this been a difficult lesson in English for you to understand?
- 10) Did you like this discussion?

GAP FILL: READING

Should women have hairy armpits?

Should women have hairy armpits? Well, should they? It's a good talking point. Why do people think hairy armpits are ok for men but not for women? It is true most men today (1)___ to see women without hairy armpits, but why?

Some women, like Pixie Lott, in 2012, are proud to have (2)___ armpits! Julie Roberts once revealed hers at the movie (3)___ of Notting Hill. The German pop singer Nena (4)___ flashed her pits when she sang '99 Red Balloons'. Emer O'Toole, 28, who is a journalist, flashed her armpits on UK TV in 2012. She hadn't shaved them for 18 months! She also hadn't shaved her legs. This is another good talking point. Should women shave their (5)___?

Many women though get fed up with having to go through the process of hair (6)___ every day. Some would say - what is all the (7)___ about women having hairy (8)___?

armpits / hairy / prefer / fuss / premier / removal / famously / legs

Some women might (1)___ if they haven't shaven, but why should they? It is (2)___ for women to have hair and not just on their head!

There can be some very beautiful women with hairy armpits but is it socially acceptable? Should (3)___ throw their (4)___ out of the window or is it all about choice? Why are hairy armpits such a (5)___? How many women do you know with hairy legs who don't shave them?

In the modern world girls are expected to shave off their body hair and (6)___ their eyebrows otherwise they get bullied by their (7)___ . It is 'socially (8)___' for a girl to have hairy armpits and legs. At the end of the day though it is down to each woman to decide for themselves. Of course we could all get a life and discuss something a bit more serious but then again it is summer!

peers / apologise / feminists / social taboo / pluck / natural / unacceptable / razors

GAP FILL: GRAMMAR

Should women have hairy armpits?

(1)___ women have hairy armpits? Well, should they? It's a good talking point. Why do people think hairy armpits are ok for men but not for women? It is true (2)___ men today prefer to see women without hairy armpits, but why?

Some women, like Pixie Lott, in 2012, are proud to have hairy armpits! Julie Roberts once revealed hers at the movie premier of Notting Hill. The German pop singer Nena famously flashed her pits (3)___ she sang '99 Red Balloons'. Emer O'Toole, 28, who is a journalist, flashed her armpits on UK TV in 2012. She hadn't shaved (4)___ for 18 months! She (5)___ hadn't shaved her legs. (6)___ is another good talking point. Should women shave their legs?

(7)___ women though get fed up with having to go through the process of hair removal every day. Some would say - (8)___ is all the fuss about women having hairy armpits?

many / what / this / also / should / when / /most / them

Some women might apologise (1)___ they haven't shaven, but why should they? It is natural for women to have hair (2)___ not just on their head!

There can be some very beautiful women with hairy armpits (3)___ is it socially acceptable? Should feminists throw their razors out of the window (4)___ is it all about choice? (5)___ are hairy armpits such a social taboo? (6)___ many women do you know with hairy legs who don't shave them?

In the modern world girls are expected to shave off their body hair and pluck their eyebrows otherwise they get bullied by their peers. It is 'socially unacceptable' (7)___ a girl to have hairy armpits and legs. At the end of the day though it is down to each woman to decide for themselves. Of course we could all get a life and discuss something a bit more serious but then again (8)___ is summer!

why / but / for / and / if / it / or / how

GAP FILL: LISTENING

Should women have hairy armpits?

Should women _____? Well, should they? It's a good talking point. Why do people think hairy armpits are ok for men but not for women? It is true most men today prefer to see women without hairy armpits, but why?

Some women, like Pixie Lott, in 2012, are proud to have hairy armpits! Julie Roberts _____ at the movie premier of Notting Hill. The German pop singer Nena famously flashed her pits when she sang '99 Red Balloons'. Emer O'Toole, 28, _____, flashed her armpits on UK TV in 2012. She hadn't shaved them for 18 months! She also hadn't shaved her legs. This is another _____. Should women shave their legs?

_____ get fed up with having to go through the process of hair removal every day. Some would say - what is all the fuss about women having hairy armpits?

Some women might apologise if they haven't shaven, but why should they? It is natural for women to have hair and not _____!

There can be some very beautiful women with hairy armpits but is it _____? Should feminists throw their razors out of the window or is it all about choice? Why are hairy armpits such a social taboo? How many women do you know with hairy legs who don't shave them?

In the _____ are expected to shave off their body hair and pluck their eyebrows otherwise they get bullied by their peers. It is 'socially unacceptable' for a girl to have hairy armpits and legs. _____ though it is down to each woman to decide for themselves. Of course we could _____ discuss something a bit more serious but then again it is summer!

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WRITING/SPELLING

WRITING / SPEAKING

1) Five and Five – Think of five reasons for women to shave their armpits. Then think of five famous women who have hairy armpits!

In pairs/groups – Discuss together. 2 mins.

2) Sentence starters - Finish these sentence starters. Correct your mistakes. Compare what other people have written.

- 1) Hairy armpits _____
- 2) I prefer _____
- 3) Women should _____

3) Homework - Write and send a 200 word email to your teacher about: ***Should women have hairy armpits?*** Your email can be read out in class.

GAP FILL READING

- 1) prefer
- 2) hairy
- 3) premier
- 4) famously
- 5) legs
- 6) removal
- 7) fuss
- 8) armpits

ANSWERS

- 1) apologise
- 2) natural
- 3) feminists
- 4) razors
- 5) social taboo
- 6) pluck
- 7) peers
- 8) unacceptable

SPELLING

The teacher will ask the class individually to spell the following words that are in the article. Afterwards check your answers.

- 1) armpits
- 2) hairy
- 3) once
- 4) premier
- 5) famously
- 6) balloons
- 7) journalist
- 8) should
- 9) though
- 10) through

SPELLING

Use the following ratings:

Pass = 12

Good = 15

Very good = 18

Excellent = 20

- 11) process
- 12) removal
- 13) would
- 14) fuss
- 15) about
- 16) might
- 17) natural
- 18) beautiful
- 19) acceptable
- 20) peers

Should women have hairy armpits? – *25th August 2013*