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The 4 page 60 minute ESL British English lesson – 10/09/14

## Should tattoos be allowed in offices?

Should tattoos be allowed in offices? It's an interesting question. When I did a bit of research on this I was surprised by people's comments...

Many people now have a tattoo. In Britain one in five people now has a tattoo! Most do cover them up out of fear of losing their jobs. Nevertheless, while tattoos are becoming more accepted, in the workplace they are still a bit taboo.

If you go for a job interview showing off your tattoo it could cost you the job - but should it? Different types of tattoos can be interpreted differently by each employer, who themselves might have a dislike of them.

Certainly many people in human resource departments can be alarmed by tattoos - to the point of them not employing you! Covering up your tattoos might help you. Then again lying about having tattoos could get you fired later on! The type of job you do could affect whether or not you are allowed to show them or not. You could also lose your job because one day you forgot to cover your tattoo up.

Should tattoo discrimination be illegal? Should tattooed employees be covered by employment laws? Are employers keeping up with the times or are they right to insist people cover up their tattoos? Would you employ someone with eighty tattoos all over them? Is there a stigma attached to people who have visible tattoos?

Many companies do still have policies banning their visibility in the workplace. One logical reason here being a visible tattoo in the office does not portray a good corporate image!

A similar topic to this is body piercing. Now that's another interesting body-art topic to debate...

### SPEAKING – WARM UP

Think of three things you know about tattoos. 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) What is a Human Resource department?
- 2) What is a tattoo?
- 3) Give two other meanings of the word 'nevertheless'. (see p4)\*
- 4) What is the similar topic?
- 5) Who are alarmed?

#### Student B questions

- 1) Why do many companies still have policies banning visible tattoos in the office?
- 2) Who did the research?
- 3) What is still a bit taboo?
- 4) What does 'taboo' mean?
- 5) What happens if you lie about having a tattoo in a job interview?

**Category: Business / Tattoos / Office Environment  
Intermediate / Upper Intermediate**

Should tattoos be allowed in offices? - 10<sup>th</sup> September 2014

**WRITING / SPEAKING**

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

**WRITING / SPEAKING**

*In pairs* – Choose three things from the article about **tattoos**. Write them below. Talk about them.

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_

**Add** three other things you know about **tattoos**. What are your conclusions?

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_

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

**WRITING / SPEAKING**

*On the board - In pairs* – List three reasons why people have a tattoo. Then add three advantages and three disadvantages of having a tattoo. *5 mins.*

*The teacher* will choose some students to hear their explanations.

**DISCUSSION**

**Student A questions**

- 1) Could you lose your job if your employer found out that you had a tattoo?
- 2) Do you have a tattoo? Explain where!
- 3) Do you have any body piercing? Explain where.
- 4) Why do many people today want a tattoo?
- 5) What is the legal age in your country to get a tattoo?
- 6) Should tattoos be allowed in offices?
- 7) Should tattoo discrimination be illegal?
- 8) Should tattooed employees be covered by employment laws?
- 9) Are employers keeping up with the times or are they right to insist people cover up their tattoos?
- 10) Have you learnt anything today?

**SPEAKING – ROLEPLAY 1**

*In groups.* You are one of the following four guests or are the interviewer. You are in the *Business FM* radio studio. Today's interview is: *Should tattoos be allowed in offices? 10 mins.*

- 1) Someone with hidden tattoos.
- 2) Someone with body piercing.
- 3) Someone with 20 different tattoos
- 4) An office employer who hates tattoos.

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

**SPEAKING - ROLEPLAY 2**

*In pairs.* Student A has a hidden tattoo. Student B wants to get one. Get some tips from student A! *5 mins.*

**SPEAKING – DISCUSSION**

*Allow 10 minutes* – As a class.

Should tattoos be allowed in the office?

*The teacher* can moderate the session.

**DISCUSSION**

**Student B questions**

- 1) What do you think about what you've read?
- 2) Would you employ someone with eighty tattoos all over them?
- 3) Is there a stigma attached to people who have visible tattoos?
- 4) What is your company's policy on tattoos in the office?
- 5) Does your employer have a tattoo?
- 6) If you go for a job interview showing off your tattoo could it cost you the job?
- 7) Roughly what is the percentage of people in your country with tattoos?
- 8) What exactly is a good corporate company image?
- 9) Has this been a difficult lesson for you to understand?
- 10) Did you like this discussion?

**GAP FILL: READING**

**Should tattoos be allowed in offices?**

Should tattoos be allowed in (1)\_\_\_? It's an interesting question. When I did a bit of research on this I was surprised by people's comments...

Many people now have a tattoo. In Britain one in five people now has a tattoo! Most do cover them up out of (2)\_\_\_ of losing their (3)\_\_. Nevertheless, while tattoos are becoming more accepted, in the (4)\_\_\_ they are still a bit taboo.

If you go for a (5)\_\_\_ showing off your tattoo it could cost you the job - but should it? Different types of tattoos can be interpreted differently by each (6)\_\_\_, who themselves might have a (7)\_\_\_ of them.

Certainly many people in human resource departments can be alarmed by (8)\_\_\_ - to the point of them not employing you! Covering up your tattoos might help you. Then again lying about having tattoos could get you fired later on!

**tattoos / dislike / job interview / offices / jobs / fear / employer / workplace**

The type of job you do could affect whether or not you are allowed to show them or not. You could also lose your job because one day you forgot to cover your tattoo up.

Should tattoo (1)\_\_\_ be (2)\_\_\_? Should tattooed employees be covered by (3)\_\_\_ laws? Are employers keeping up with the times or are they right to (4)\_\_\_ people cover up their tattoos? Would you employ someone with eighty tattoos all over them? Is there a (5)\_\_\_ attached to people who have visible tattoos?

Many companies do still have policies banning their (6)\_\_\_ in the workplace. One (7)\_\_\_ reason here being a visible tattoo in the office does not portray a good corporate image!

A similar topic to this is body piercing. Now that's another interesting body-art topic to (8)\_\_\_.

**illegal / discrimination / debate / visibility / stigma / logical / insist / employment**

**GAP FILL: GRAMMAR**

**Should tattoos be allowed in offices?**

(1)\_\_\_ tattoos be allowed in offices? It's an interesting question. When I did a bit of research on this I was surprised by people's comments...

(2)\_\_\_ people now have a tattoo. In Britain one in five people now has a tattoo! (3)\_\_\_ do cover them up out of fear of losing their jobs. (4)\_\_\_, while tattoos are becoming more accepted, in the workplace they are still a bit taboo.

If you go for a job interview showing off your tattoo it could cost you the job - but should it? Different types of tattoos can be interpreted differently by each employer, who themselves might have a dislike of them.

Certainly many people in human resource departments can be alarmed by tattoos - to the point of them not employing you! Covering up (5)\_\_\_ tattoos (6)\_\_\_ help you. (7)\_\_\_ again lying about having tattoos (8)\_\_\_ get you fired later on!

**might / nevertheless / your / could / then / most / many / should**

(1)\_\_\_ type of job (2)\_\_\_ do could affect whether or not you are allowed to show them or not. You could also lose your job because one day you forgot to cover your tattoo up.

Should tattoo discrimination be illegal? Should tattooed employees be covered (3)\_\_\_ employment laws? Are employers keeping up with the times (4)\_\_\_ are they right to insist people cover up their tattoos? Would you employ someone with eighty tattoos all over them? Is there a stigma attached to people (5)\_\_\_ have visible tattoos?

Many companies do (6)\_\_\_ have policies banning their visibility (7)\_\_\_ the workplace. One logical reason here being a visible tattoo in the office does not portray a good corporate image!

(8)\_\_\_ similar topic to this is body piercing. Now that's another interesting body-art topic to debate...

**who / the / you / or / a / by / in / still**

## GAP FILL: LISTENING

### Should tattoos be allowed in offices?

Should tattoos be allowed in offices? It's an \_\_\_\_\_ . When I did a bit of research on this I was surprised by people's comments...

Many people now have a tattoo. In Britain one in five people now has a tattoo! Most do cover them up out of fear of losing their jobs. \_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_ tattoos are becoming more accepted, in the workplace they are still a bit taboo.

If you go for a job interview showing off your tattoo it \_\_\_\_\_ - but should it? Different types of tattoos can be interpreted differently by each employer, who themselves might have a dislike of them.

Certainly many people in \_\_\_\_\_ can be alarmed by tattoos - to the point of them not employing you! \_\_\_\_\_ tattoos might help you. Then again lying about having tattoos could get you fired later on!

The \_\_\_\_\_ could affect whether or not you are allowed to show them or not. You could also lose your job because one day you forgot to cover your tattoo up.

Should \_\_\_\_\_ be illegal? Should tattooed employees be covered by employment laws? Are employers keeping up with the times or are they right to insist people cover up their tattoos? Would you employ someone with eighty tattoos all over them? \_\_\_\_\_ attached to people who have visible tattoos?

Many companies do still have policies banning their visibility in the workplace. \_\_\_\_\_ here being a visible tattoo in the office does not portray a good corporate image! A \_\_\_\_\_ is body piercing. Now that's another interesting body-art topic to debate...

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## WRITING/SPELLING

### WRITING / SPEAKING

**1) On the board** - In pairs, as a class - write down or draw **20 different tattoos**. Talk about them! 5 mins.

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

- 1) Tattoos \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) I have a \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) My boss \_\_\_\_\_

**3) Homework** - Write and send a 200 word email to your teacher about: **Should tattoos be allowed in offices?** Your email can be read out in class.

From page 1\* - but, however, still, although etc...

### GAP FILL READING

- 1) offices
- 2) fear
- 3) jobs
- 4) workplace
- 5) job interview
- 6) employer
- 7) dislike
- 8) tattoos

### ANSWERS

- 1) discrimination
- 2) illegal
- 3) employment
- 4) insist
- 5) stigma
- 6) visibility
- 7) logical
- 8) debate

### SPELLING

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

- 1) tattoo
- 2) taboo
- 3) nevertheless
- 4) might
- 5) should
- 6) comments
- 7) people
- 8) while
- 9) still
- 10) different

### SPELLING

Use the following ratings:

**Pass = 12**

**Good = 15**

**Very good = 18**

**Excellent = 20**

- 11) certainly
- 12) resource
- 13) lying
- 14) type
- 15) whether
- 16) discrimination
- 17) employment
- 18) stigma
- 19) visibility
- 20) portray

Should tattoos be allowed in offices? - *10<sup>th</sup> September 2014*