

B2.14 Appearance - Handout

- 1 The questions here are all related to the topic of women and their relationship with their appearance. There are of course, feminist objections to Barbie dolls and the way they represent women's bodies in an unreal way. One of the questions raises this issue. Key vocabulary includes: *to judge sb., ageing, make-up, vain, wrinkles* and '*Barbie*' dolls.
- 2 The focus now shifts to men and their relationship with their appearance. Key vocabulary includes: *attractive, handsome, to put pressure on sb., weight gain, hair loss, muscles* and *jewellery*.
- 3 You may need to explain these quotes in simpler terms as their meanings may not be immediately apparent to a learner of English. However, there are probably similar quotes in the learner's first language, or they may be familiar with these quotes in translation. "*Beauty is in the eye of the beholder*" means that something or someone is attractive depending on the person who is looking (more than on the thing itself, or the actual person). "*Beauty is only skin deep*" means that the real judge of beauty is a person's character and behaviour not their physical appearance.
- 4 There are now more questions related to the topic of physical appearance, but not related specifically to gender. Key vocabulary includes: *plastic surgery, tattoos, piercings, pierced, drawbacks* and '*Miss World*'/'*Mr Universe*'.
- 5 All this vocabulary can be demonstrated to your partner and together you can discuss why such gestures and facial expressions might be used. If this discussion is going well, you may like to extend the discussion and demonstration to include other gestures from your respective countries and cultures. Be cautious however, with those that are considered offensive.
- 6 On this occasion the writing task is a creative composition. You may like to brainstorm ideas, with your partner, as to the appearance of the "peculiar looking man". This would recycle some of the vocabulary from the previous exercises and help to inspire your partner when they come to do the ensuing writing task.