

Lesson 27- Appearance- Reading (part3)



Exercise 1

Read the text. Match choices (A-H) to (11-16). There are two choices you don't need to use

11



Egypt

In the heat of Egypt, noblemen and women clipped their hair close to the head. But for ceremonial occasions heavy, curly black wigs were donned. Women's wigs were often long and braided, adorned with gold ornaments or ivory hairpins. Men's faces were generally clean shaved, but stiff false beards were sometimes worn.

12



Rome

In Rome the tendency was to follow Greek styles. The upper classes would use curling irons and favoured the gold powdered look of the Greeks. Women often dyed their hair blonde or wore wigs made from hair of captive civilization slaves. Later, hairstyles became more ornate with hair curled tight and piled high on the head often shaped around wire frames. Hairdressing became popular and the upper classes were attended to by slaves or visited public barber shops.

13



The East

Amongst the Muslim community the hair was traditionally concealed in public. Men wore a turban or fez and women's hair was hidden under the traditional veil. Both men and women visited the local public baths for grooming where the men's head and face were shaved and women's long hair was given a henna rinse.

14



China

Unmarried Chinese girls' hair was usually worn long and braided whilst women combed the hair back from the face and wound into a knot at the nape. The Manchu regime of the time dictated that men shaved the front of the head and wore the back hair long and braided, tied with black silk.

15



Africa

Due to the many tribal customs African hairstyles were many and varied and usually signified status. Masai warriors tied the front hair into sections of tiny braids whilst the back hair was allowed to grow to waist length. Many tribes dyed the hair with red earth and grease – some even stiffened it with animal dung. Other tribes such as the Miango took a more simple approach, covering their long ponytails with a headscarf and adorning with leaves.

16



The Western World

In the 15th century – The Renaissance period – the ladies of the upper classes really took 'plucking' to its limit! If you think tweezing the odd eyebrow here and there is painful, imagine yourself plucking the entire front hairline away to give the appearance of a higher forehead! The rest of the hair was tightly scraped back to show off the elaborate headdresses of the day. This was a practise common in Europe.

Where _____

A wasn't hair generally shown?

B was hair done around a carcass?

- C did it hurt to do wome's hair?
- D did both sexes wear their hair very short?
- E were wigs and chignons invented?
- F did the first hairdresser's appear?
- G were people's hairstyles most diverse?
- H did women's hairstyles depend on the material status?

Exercise 2

Listen to the audio looking at the text

North America and Europe, most women want to be slim. In those places, a slim woman is a beautiful woman. People think that a slim woman is healthy and careful about what she eats. But in some parts of the world, women want to be fat. In many parts of Africa, a woman is a beautiful woman. How fat? There is no limit. If a woman is fat, they think she is healthy and rich. If you are slim, that means you are a worker with little money and not enough food to eat. Also, people believe that a slim woman will be sick. A fat woman has enough to eat, so she is healthy and will have many healthy babies.

To help girls and women look healthy and beautiful, people in central Africa send them to a fattening room. Fattening rooms are an old tradition ad an important part of a girl's life. After a girl goes to a fattening room, her family and her village say that she is a woman. The fattening room is usually near the family's house or part of it. In the fattening room, a girl sits on a special chair until it is time to eat. Then she sits on the floor on a mat made of leaves. She also sleeps on the floor. Her mother gives her bowls of food like rice, yams, and beans-the kinds of foods that help her get fat. She also drinks a lot of water.

In the fattening room, the girl does not move very much. She can only eat, sleep and get fatter. Her only visitors are women who teach her how to sit, walk, and talk in front of her future husband. They also give her advice about cleaning, sewing, and cooking. It is boring to be in the fattening room for so long with nothing to do, but the girl doesn't mind. She knows that it is important for her.

In southeastern Nigeria, brides go to a fattening room or a fattening farm before they get married. They can not leave the farm for many weeks. At the end of this time, but before the wedding, the brides walk through the village so everyone can admire their big bodies. After a woman is married, she can also go to a fattening room. She may go several times because it is important for her to stay fat. A man wants his wife to be fat so other people will think that the man is rich and that he is a responsible man.

If their parents do not send their daughter to a fattening room, their friends and relatives may laugh at them. They will say that they are not doing their duty. In the old days, girls stayed in the fattening room for two years. Today, some families cannot afford more than a few months. Also, fattening rooms are not very popular in cities now. In cities, health education and Western culture have a big effect on people's ideas. But in villages, this traditional custom continues.

In Niger, they have a festival to celebrate the heaviest woman. Here, women have a contest to see who is the fattest. On the morning of the contest, the women eat enormous amounts of food and drink lots of water. The fattest woman is the winner. She gets a prize- more food.

Write the correct words in the blank

enormous slim afford contest admire responsible mat limit future

1. In North America and Europe, women don't want to be fat; they want to be
2. In some parts of Africa, women like to be fat. There is no ... to how fat woman can be.
3. In the fattening room, a girl sits on a ... on the floor when she eats

4. Women teach her how to act in front of the man she is going to marry. She learns how to act for her husband
5. People in the village like the big bodies of the women very much. They the women.
6. When a woman is fat, people think her husband is a ... man because he takes care of her.
7. Some families cannot ... to keep a girl in a fattening room for a long time because it is expensive
8. In Niger, many women want to be the fattest woman, so they have a ...
9. Women eat ... amounts of food to get fat

Exercise 2

Choose the right answer

1. In some parts of Africa, people think a slim girl
 - A is healthy
 - B will have many babies
 - C is not healthy
 - D is gorgeous
2. A girl goes to a fattening room
 - A only to learn to sew and cook
 - B to become a woman
 - C for one week only
 - D to be alone and think
3. Nowadays, fattening rooms
 - A are still well-known in villages
 - B are not popular anymore
 - C are popular in countrysides and big cities
 - D are only popular with very wealthy families

Exercise 3

1. What kind of things do people do to change their bodies? Which of these can be bad for their health?
2. What makes a man attractive in your country?
3. A person's size is not important, but in some societies, people still think it is important. How can we change our society to accept people of different sizes?
4. Do you think skin color affects whether a person is regarded as beautiful or not?
5. Is it better to be physically attractive or intelligent?
6. Is it better to be physically attractive or wealthy?
7. How much time should be spent on making yourself look better each day?
8. Is there someone famous that is considered beautiful, that you think is not?