

- 7) who never used to be fit;
- 8) who used to copy a celebrity;
- 9) whose dad or grandpa used to have a beard.

b) What do you think the typical mistake people make writing questions with *used to* is? Check your questions for this mistake.

c) Walk around and ask the questions you have written. Take notes.

d) Prepare to report on your findings. Then report to the class.

LESSON 8.

True beauty

Communicative area: discussing the idea of beauty

Active vocabulary: beauty

- 1. Work in pairs. Brainstorm any ideas about what makes a person beautiful.**
- 2. Read what Marcia thinks about beauty. How has her idea of beauty changed? Were your ideas in ex. 1 close to Marcia's opinion?**

True Beauty

When most people think of the word “beautiful”, they think of models and movie stars. I must admit I used to be one of them. I used to wish I were skinnier, had fuller lips, or eyes that were a vivid shade of blue. My friends and I used to talk for hours about how we wanted to be tall, beautiful women with airbrushed skin like models. Now my ideas have changed.



The day that I discovered what true beauty really is, I was with my parents and little brothers at McDonald's. Since MD's only has tables with four chairs, I'm always the one to get booted to a nearby table to sit by myself. Usually, I'm a little annoyed, but this time, it worked out perfectly.

As I was studying the people around, I suddenly saw a woman. She was sitting at a table two tables away and I could look at her without her knowing. The half-dozen children (all about the same age) were what first caught my eye. As I continued to watch the mother with her children, I just couldn't take my eyes off them. I could tell that in her youth she had been very good-looking, not the traditional beautiful, but a warm, inviting one. Her skin was light brown, and soft-looking, she had fine lines around her eyes. Her thick dark-brown hair, glossy and graying slightly, was pulled back in a ponytail. She was wearing casual clothes, but none of this was why she was so beautiful to me.

When she smiled, it was like all the good things in the world came into being. It was full of love and light and happiness. When her children spoke to her, she listened as if nothing else in the world mattered more than hearing about the game they had just played. The two-year old smeared ice cream all over her face, and the mother just kissed her nose, ice cream and all. She didn't yell, or get angry when her daughter got ice cream on her nice clothes. The love and warmth of this woman shook my world and all my understanding of beauty. She generated warmth like the sun, and her children were little planets circling around her, bathing in her warmth.

She made me realize what the models in the magazines really are. Their photos are not beautiful. They

are cold, empty bodies of women who make us believe the image photographers have created. The only reason we want to be like them, really, is that we can't be, no matter how hard we try.

The truly beautiful women are the ones like this Mexican mother. Instead of wishing to be like the skinny model, I now wish to be like that mother – full of light and happiness. She makes a difference in her children's lives. Instead of making them feel bad about themselves, she makes them feel great about everything. That is true beauty: to make a positive difference in another person's life through warmth, love and care. She made my life different too.

3. a) Find in the story:

1) what Marcia wanted to change about herself; 2) some facts from the woman's life; 3) the lines that describe the woman's appearance; 4) the lines that describe the woman's character; 5) the comparison Marcia makes to show us the woman's nature; 6) what makes a person really beautiful.

b) Discuss the questions.

1. What did Marcia use to think about beauty? What did she use to think about the way she looked? What made her change her mind? 2. Where did Marcia meet the woman? Is it an unusual place? 3. Did Marcia think the woman's appearance was unusual? 4. Why did Marcia think the woman was different? Was her behaviour typical for a woman with kids? 5. What made the woman beautiful in Marcia's eyes? 6. How did this woman change Marcia's mood that day? 7. What Marcia thinks the true beauty is?

c) Have you ever noticed beautiful people outside? What kind of people were they?

4. a) You are going to describe someone you think is beautiful.

Brainstorm what you could say about this person's face, eyes, nose, mouth, hair, body, clothes, moves, character or interests.

Think what exactly you would like to talk about.

b) Take notes to plan your writing.

LESSON 9. Fishing for a compliment

Communicative area: saying compliments, small talk

Active vocabulary: compliment

1. Read the definition below. Then discuss the questions in pairs.

*To say a **compliment** is to say something nice to people, usually about their appearance or something they do.*

1. How often do you say compliments? 2. How often do you hear compliments? 3. What do you answer when someone says something nice to you?

2. a) Listen to the small talk at a party and follow in the book. How many people are talking?

- A.** – Barbara! Look at you! Your hair looks fantastic! Have you been to the hairdresser's?
– Thank you, Tina! Your party is great!
- B.** – You look so handsome, Brian! I haven't seen you wearing a jacket before!
– Thanks, Barbara! Have you seen Paul anywhere?