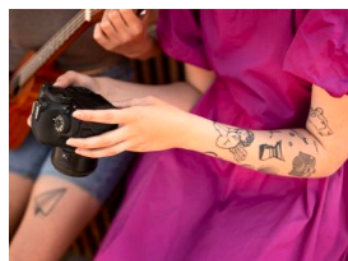
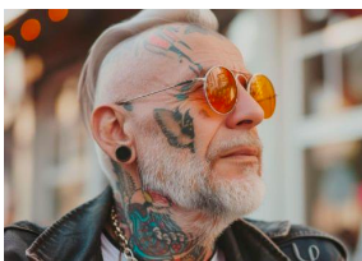


WHAT DOES YOUR TATTOO MEAN ?

In your own words, explain the meaning of the phrases in bold. Then, choose two sentences and say if you know anyone who fits the description.

- A. She likes to **make a bold statement** with her look instead of simply following trends.
- B. Her unusual hairstyle makes her **come across as** creative and unafraid to take risks.
- C. He's always had an **edgy style** that makes him stand out wherever he goes.
- D. She often **marks a turning point** in her life by changing something about her appearance.
- E. He prefers to keep it simple with his clothes and **blend in** rather than attract attention.
- F. All his tattoos are a **tribute to** someone or something meaningful to him.
- G. Sometimes she wears quirky accessories **just for kicks** rather than to send any message.

1. Look at the photos and say why the people might have got their tattoos. Brainstorm other reasons why people get tattoos.



2. Discuss the questions.

- Are you into tattoos? Why/Why not?
- What tattoos do people usually get and why?
- Where on their bodies do people often get tattoos and why?
- What's your view on using tattoos as a form of self-expression? What about other forms of self-expression (e.g. dyed hair, body piercings, clothing)?
- Are tattoos more widely accepted in some cultures or countries than in others? What might explain this difference?
- Can tattoos be a problem in specific professional industries? Why? Are there any professions that you think are more suited or less suited to a tattooed appearance?
- How do media and pop culture influence tattoo trends?
- Are there any well-known people whose tattoos you find inspiring? Who and why?



3. You're going to watch a video where Ed Sheeran, a British singer, shows and talks about his tattoos and what they mean to him. Before you watch, look at some of the things he has tattooed and think about what they might symbolize.

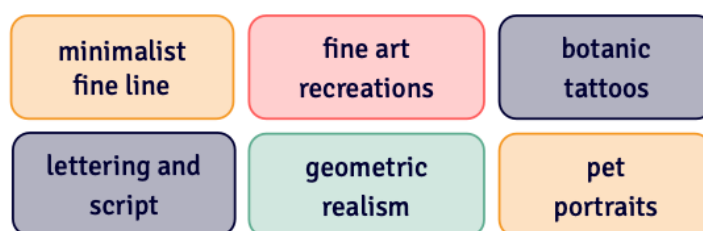
- an orca
- three boxing gloves
- the word *Red*
- a paw print
- a bunny rabbit
- children's footprints

4. Watch part of the [video](https://youtu.be/k9srEazFVbE) [https://youtu.be/k9srEazFVbE] (to 03:06) and say if the meaning behind the tattoos surprised you. Then, give your opinion on them.

5. Comment on the ideas in these statements.

- Collecting tattoos is like curating your own personal art gallery.
- You can get a tattoo just for kicks – it doesn't have to mean anything special.
- Getting a tattoo isn't such a big deal because you can always get it removed or covered up.
- Tattoo artists should be taken as seriously as conventional artists.
- People should get a temporary tattoo to try it out before making it permanent.
- The pain of getting a tattoo is part of what makes it meaningful.

6. Use the link below to see examples of tattoos for the styles in the boxes. Then, discuss the points.



Examples of tattoos: [Byrdie](https://www.byrdie.com/tattoo-ideas-2025-trends-8787772) [https://www.byrdie.com/tattoo-ideas-2025-trends-8787772]

- Say:
 - whether you've seen these trends on people around you.
 - what other trends you know of.
 - which style you would choose if you decided to get a meaningful tattoo and what it would look like.
 - which tattoo styles you wouldn't get yourself.

WHAT DOES YOUR TATTOO MEAN ?

7. Read each scenario and say what you would do in each case. Then, discuss the follow-up questions.

You are interviewing candidates for a client relations manager role. One candidate is perfect for the job: experienced and highly recommended. However, they have a large face tattoo.

- Do you think visible tattoos affect how others perceive someone's professionalism?
- Have you ever caught yourself judging someone for their tattoos, or felt judged because of your appearance?
- What do you think could help reduce this kind of bias?

You got a tattoo as a teenager just because you liked how it looked. Years later, you find out it's actually used by a criminal gang in another country to show membership.

- Why do some people get tattoo designs without properly researching their meaning?
- Should there be stricter age limits or other conditions for getting a tattoo?

You and your partner decided to get matching tattoos with each other's initials. Some time later, you break up.

- How carefully should someone consider their decision before getting a tattoo?
- Would it bother you if your partner had a tattoo that symbolizes a past relationship?