

## Sky News (YouTube Channel), "Inside The \$5bn Industry Of Child Beauty Pageants"

### Introduction

Look at the images below. What can you see in the pictures? What do you think is happening? Use the Grammar Spot section to describe the people you see.



### Grammar Spot, Verbs of the Senses

Look at the rules governing the verbs of the senses (*look, seem, taste, sound, smell* etc.)

1. *look* etc. + adjective.  
"You seem sad", "It smells good!"
2. *look* etc. + *like* + noun.  
"That sounded like a bomb", "You look like my brother"
3. *look* etc. + *as if* + clause.  
"It looks as if he hasn't slept a wink."



Photo credits: Sky News

### Vocabulary

Can you improve your descriptions of the pictures above with the following vocabulary? Which pictures would you associate the words with?

- a spray-tan
- to be glitized (not in dictionary)
- to apply make-up
- a tribute to America outfit
- grumpy
- weird
- an eating disorder
- a trophy
- a ball gown
- false lashes
- the spotlight

## Video

Watch the video for the first time. Answer the questions below as you watch.

- How old is Mahayle?
- How long has she been taking part in pageants?
- Why does Shari want her daughter to take part in pageants?
- What is the problem with the "Tribute to America" outfit?
- How many children compete in pageants in the USA each year?
- What is the critics' opinion of the events?
- How much do parents spend on their child's "look"?
- Why is Mahayle upset with her trophy?
- Which city is the pageant in the film taking place in?

Discuss your answers and watch for a second time if necessary.

## Opinion

Read the following quotes from the video. Do you agree with what is being said?

"It gives [young girls] confidence..."

"Appearance isn't everything."

"This simply isn't healthy for young girls...the long-term impact of what this means psychologically for kids...the over-reliance on how you look..."

"...in the teen years this might turn into an eating disorder."

"If you think being Miley Cyrus or Britney Spears or someone like that is a goal and that's your way to a better life, then this is a great training ground."

## Grammar, Conditionals

Compare the three sentences below. Cross out the words to form the rules for the three conditionals, the first column has been done for you.

"If you think being Miley Cyrus is a goal and that is your way to a better life, then this is a great training ground."	"If children compete in pageants, they will probably develop an eating disorder later in life."	"If my daughter didn't compete in pageants, she wouldn't be as confident."
If + present/ <del>past/future</del> , present/ <del>future/would</del> .	If + present/past/future, present/future/would.	If + present/past/future, present/future/would.
Zero/ <del>First/Second</del> conditional	Zero/First/Second conditional	Zero/First/Second conditional
Real/ <del>Hypothetical</del>	Real/Hypothetical	Real/Hypothetical
Refers to present/ <del>future</del>	Refers to present/future	Refers to present/future

## Hypothetically Speaking

When talking about hypothetical (not real/imaginary) situations in the present, we often use the past tense (sometimes called 'the unreal past'). The most common example of this is the second conditional:

**If I had shorter hair, I wouldn't need to spend so much time washing it.**

You can use *would*, *could* (=would be possible), and *might* (=maybe) with the second conditional:

**If I had shorter hair, I might look better but it could be a disaster!**

Another example of the past tense being used to describe an imaginary situation is with the construction *I wish...* and *If only...*:

**If only I could afford an expensive haircut.  
I wish I had enough money to go to a top hair stylist.**

Another useful construction that follows this rule is *It's time...* to express that you want a change to take place:

**It's time I got a better job!  
It's time you had a haircut!**

One rule you may see with the second conditional (especially in older grammar books) is the use of *were* with the third and first person.

**If I were a boy, I'd shave all my hair off.**

This is a formal way of speaking that is becoming less and less common but is still correct. Always check with your exam board which form to use if you are taking a test which will feature the second conditional!

## Conversation

Look at the following four statements about appearance. Mark them ✓ × and ? according to your opinion. Discuss what you have written, remember to use the constructions above.

If I had a lot of money to spare, I'd change my appearance in some way...

What if we all started changing our appearance? We'd all be walking around like Barbie dolls!

It's time people changed their attitudes to beauty; everybody gets surgery of some sort these days.

I wish the media was more responsible. They have caused this obsession with image.

## Extended Activity: HOW WOULD YOUR LIFE BE DIFFERENT IF...?

### Teachers Note:

The objective of this exercise is to practice the hypothetical constructions in this worksheet.

1. Cut out the cards below.
2. There are two sets of cards. The first continues the theme of appearance and the second is random. The second is much easier than the first. Decide which is best for your students or use the second but give more advanced students the harder cards.
3. Distribute through the class.
4. Tell students to read their situation(s) but to keep them a secret.
5. Students must write clues as to their situation. Tell students this and encourage them to keep this in mind; the objective of the exercise is that others may eventually guess the situation, it shouldn't be too hard or easy!
6. Model the example below to the class to ensure they understand what they are to do.
7. Circulate as the students compile their clues, make sure they are using the forms in the grammar section.
8. Remind the students that the exercise is not serious and meant to be fun! Tell them it doesn't matter if they write something "stupid" as long as they are practicing the grammar.
9. Remind students not to give their situation away in the clues.
10. Students read out their clues one by one. Encourage others to offer suggestions/ask questions.
11. Repeat for all students. If you wish to extend the exercise further, you can a) have the students discuss the situations in pairs in greater detail, b) write all the situations on the board as you go through them and at the end in pairs Ss give more fast paced clues and their partner has to guess which of the situations they are referring to.

**\*\*\*ALWAYS read the cards first and remove any that you think could trigger sensitivities in the class\*\*\***

### Example:

If you had two left feet...

- I wouldn't be able to dance as well.
- My shoes wouldn't fit properly.
- I couldn't play football.
- I couldn't walk in a straight line.
- People wouldn't look at my face when they spoke to me.

Set One: Appearance, V. HARD!

If you hair was naturally green.	If you only had one leg.	If you had webbed feet.
If you had a unicorn horn.	If your skin went blue in the sun.	If your face was covered in tattoos.
If you couldn't afford glasses but you had bad eyesight.	If contact lenses made your eyes sore but you were short sighted.	If eating gluten made you ridiculously fat.
If all your teeth were made of gold.	If your lips ballooned when you ate spicy food.	If your face turned bright pink every time you laughed.
If all your fingers were permanently stuck together.	If you were an identical twin.	If sugar made your teeth turn green.
If you had smoke for breath.	If you had three arms.	If your feet were child-sized.
If you had a tattoo of an ex-partner's name.	If you looked exactly like the president of the USA.	If your hands were as long as your legs.

Set Two: Random, Easier!

If you had ten children.	If you couldn't eat fruit.	If you lived in Australia.
If you were banned from driving.	If your house was full of pets.	If Donald Trump was the president of your country.
If you had really bad hay fever.	If you lived on the 20th floor.	If you lived in a place without electricity.
If you lived in a place where it never stopped raining.	If you didn't have a mobile phone.	If you had a really noisy neighbour.
If you grew a third arm.	If you were a Hollywood star.	If you lived by the sea.
If you had a robot who did all your housework.	If you couldn't use a pen or pencil.	If you moved to a country where you didn't speak the language.
If you worked down a mine.	If you had to work all weekend.	If you got promoted in your job.
If you were left handed.	If you lived in the woods.	If you were six feet five.