

Culture Unit 4

Why do we love selfies?

1 Match words 1–5 to definitions a–e.

- 1 fascinating ____
- 2 flattering ____
- 3 empowering ____
- 4 confident ____
- 5 connection ____

- a feeling sure of your own abilities and good qualities
- b a shared feeling of affection and understanding
- c very interesting and attractive
- d making someone feel stronger and more sure about their abilities
- e making you look good or feel better about yourself

2 Read the text on the right. Does the writer think it's good to take selfies?

3 Read the text again and answer the questions. Write Yes or No.

- 1 Do people take fewer photos today than they did in the past? ____
- 2 Do children create self-portraits? ____
- 3 Do humans notice faces before anything else? ____
- 4 Do we look at the profile photo first when we see a Facebook page? ____
- 5 Do photos without faces get more likes than selfies on Instagram? ____
- 6 Do selfies make most teenage girls feel more confident? ____

4 Do you love selfies? Think about these questions. Write in your notebook.

- How often do you take selfies?
- How often do you post selfies online?
- How do you feel when you see other people's selfies online?

Selfie time



Thanks to digital cameras, smartphones and tablets, people are taking more photos than ever before. Many of those photos are selfies. Look at any social media website and you will find millions of selfies. But why do we love taking and viewing selfies so much?

People love creating self-portraits. Artists paint them, children draw them, and teenagers take them with their phones. Self-portraits are the perfect way to show other people the idea we have of ourselves. Selfies also give us control. When we photograph ourselves, we can create the image we want, we can choose the most flattering photo, and we can change it if we don't like it.

We love looking at selfies because humans find faces fascinating. We notice faces first, and we pay more attention to faces than to anything else. When we look at someone's Facebook page, the first place our eyes move to is the profile photo. On Instagram, photos with human faces receive a lot more likes and comments than photos with no faces. When we look at photos of someone's face, we feel that we know that person better, and we feel a connection with them.

For teenagers, selfies can be empowering. In a recent survey, 65% of teenage girls said that seeing their selfies on social media made them feel more confident and 40% of all teens said that social media helped them to 'present their best face to the world'. Selfies make people feel good, and that's a great reason to love them.

