

Ejercicios resueltos > Complete the sentences

Skin Art

Prehistoric man was thought to have practised tattooing, that is, puncturing the skin with tools dipped in pigment that left a permanent mark. And mummies with decorative tattoos have been discovered in many parts of the world. Yet for nearly as long as there has been tattooing, there has been condemnation. The Romans considered decorative tattooing barbaric, which is still evident in the Latin word for tattoo, stigma, and used tattoos to mark slaves and criminals. Despite its deep roots in ancient cultures, tattooing had fallen out of practice in Europe by the time Britain's Captain Cook set sail for the Polynesian Islands in 1768.

Though Cook and his men were not the first Europeans to encounter Oceanic tattooing, they were the first to record the practice systematically. Cook also introduced to the English language the word tattoo, taken from the Tahitian. Cook's men did not fully understand the significance of tattooing among the Oceanic people, for whom the designs were symbolic protection against earthly enemies. Yet the sailors were fascinated and eager to be marked themselves. They adopted the practice with gusto, designing mariner motifs of their own. A turtle meant a sailor had crossed the equator, and an anchor that he had sailed the Atlantic. Crucifixion scenes were also popular motifs --a vain attempt to avoid being beaten, as it was hoped no one would dare hit the image of Christ.

Today, all types of people get tattooed. Though the art was adopted from distant cultures and adapted to suit Western tastes, the attraction of tattooing has changed very little.

Complete the following sentences. Use the appropriate form of the words in brackets when given.

a) Before becoming (become) King of England, George V had a dragon tattooed on his arm.

Ayuda: Después de una preposición (*before*) el verbo debe estar en gerundio. *His* es un adjetivo posesivo cuyo antecedente es George V (por lo tanto *his* y no otro posesivo).

b) "What does the word stigma mean?" It means a mark or sign of shame

Ayuda: En una pregunta, delante del auxiliar (*does*) sólo puede utilizarse un pronombre interrogativo (*when, why, who,...*). En este caso, *what* (= qué) es el único posible. Entre el verbo (*means*) y el sustantivo (*mark*) no puede haber ni otro verbo ni otro nombre, sólo un elemento que funcione como determinante en el grupo nominal. *a* es un artículo indefinido.

c) Winston's Churchill's mother, whose wrist was tattooed with a serpent, tried to cover it with a bracelet when in public.

Ayuda: *Whose* es un pronombre relativo que introduce la oración de relativo (*whose wrist was tattooed with a serpent*). *Whose* indica posesión (significa "cuya") y su antecedente es *Winston's Churchill's mother*. El verbo *cover* es un verbo transitivo que requiere un complemento directo. El pronombre *it* funciona como complemento directo; su antecedente es *a serpent*.

d) In the past, tattoos were linked to criminals, but today the tattoo is worn proudly by celebrities.

Ayuda: La estructura de estas dos oraciones requiere el uso de pasiva. La primera oración carece de agente (persona que realiza la acción). La expresión temporal (*In the past*) nos indica que debemos utilizar el pasado simple (*was/were* + participio pasado). En la segunda oración el agente se indica empleando *by* y la expresión *today* nos indica que debemos utilizar el presente simple (*is/are* + *past participle*).