ESL BRAINS

First impressions matter

1. **Look at the list below and say how important these things are when making a first impression. Give examples of how each thing can make a good or a bad impression.**

   EXAMPLE: *Appearance – if someone looks neat, they usually make a good impression. If they have dirty hair or clothes, they might make a bad impression.*

   - the way someone speaks
   - body language
   - information someone shares
   - using a phone
   - manners

2. **Think about the last time you met a new person. Try to remember the things from ex. 1 about that person. Did they help them make a good impression?**

3. **Read a piece of advice and decide what situation it is about.**

   > It might be challenging, but try to be confident. Be yourself. Have a system to remember people's names. You should understand and learn about the people around you.

4. **Look at some ideas for making a first impression at work and discuss if you agree with them.**

   a) Your appearance matters almost as much as your <u>way of thinking</u>.

   b) Try not to <u>take the initiative</u> too often because people will expect too much from you.

   c) Be careful not to show that you are <u>ready</u> to work overtime.

   d) First impressions are almost impossible to change: if you create a certain image at the beginning, you have to <u>continue to follow it</u>.

   e) Being <u>curious</u> is good so don't be shy about asking a lot of questions.

5. **Look at the sentences in ex. 4 again and replace the underlined phrases with the words in the box.**

> attitude be proactive inquisitive keep it up willing

6. **Watch a video [https://youtu.be/eeWKvIr2yPo?t=28] (from 00:28) and say which tip from ex. 4 is mentioned.**

7. **Watch the video again and write down three more tips that you hear.**

    ………
    ………
    ………
    ………
    ………

8. **Discuss the questions.**
    *   What other tips about making a good first impression would you add?
    *   Is it hard to make a good impression at work?
    *   Do you remember your first working day in your current job? How was it?
    *   Have you had colleagues who made a negative impression on their first day? What did they do? Did you change your opinion about them later?
    *   How do you introduce yourself to your new team? What might you say to make a good impression?

9. **Read two self-introductions and discuss which of them is best and why. Say what is wrong with the other self-introduction.**

    SELF-INTRODUCTION A

    > Hello everyone! I am a new web designer. Before joining the company, I worked for a cryptocurrency fund. I love pets. I look forward to working with you. I'm good at HTML and CSS. Oh, and my name is Mark. Nice to meet everyone. I hope this team is more friendly than my previous one.

SELF-INTRODUCTION B

> Hi, I'm Mark. I'm a new web designer. I know a lot about visual design and effective UX. I think I'm good at optimizing sites. Outside of work, I'm into active pastimes and outdoor activities. Also, I have a dog named Mae and a cat named Boris. I'm really excited about joining your team.

10. **Look at the topics and decide which of them should not be included when introducing yourself to your team on your first day.**
    a) name and position
    b) previous experience
    c) skills and strengths
    d) speaking about colleagues from a previous job
    e) family
    f) pet peeves[1]
    g) hobbies
    h) showing you are happy to be working in the company

11. **Look at the phrases and choose the option that does not fit. Decide which topics (one or two) from ex. 10 the phrases are connected to.**
    a) I'm into **solving complex problems/working with you/camping**.
    b) I'm looking forward to **working with you/getting to know you/help you**.
    c) I'm good at **my previous job/improving my performance/taking photos**.
    d) Outside of work, I enjoy **spending time with my kids/solving complex problems/writing music**.
    e) I am excited **about getting to know you/to be part of this team/by programming**.
    f) Before joining the company, I **worked in banking/was looking for a job/was self-employed**.

12. **Prepare your own self-introduction and share it with the class. Use the phrases from ex. 11.**

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[1] pet peeve: behaviour or action that annoys you