

Before we begin



- What is your brightest childhood memory?
- What is the best environment for a child to grow up in?
- How does it influence one's future?
- How difficult is it to choose a career?
- Do you know people who regret their choice?
- Is it easy to change your job after the age of 30?

Before we turn to the text and the video, let's make sure you are familiar with these words. Fill out the table with the meanings or the synonyms of the given words



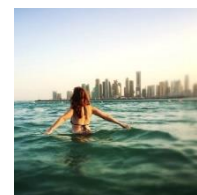
abandoned	
promoted	
executive	
backstabbing	
menial	
apartheid	
frequently	
constantly	
competitive	
afford	
end up	
tribe	
indigenous	
ink	
scarification	
remote	
body modification	
healing	
acupuncture	
die out	





Here is Maellyn from South Africa. Put the paragraphs into the right order to discover her story.

- a) I traveled as much as I could on my waitressing wages and even lived in Australia for a year. I still wasn't sure what I wanted to do and tried fashion styling and did some work experience at fashion magazines, but none of this was very exciting.
- b) For a short time, we moved to Wales and ended up living in an old, abandoned Dukes' castle. This was the first time I ever saw snow, and it was a surreal experience.
I always dreamed of traveling and seeing as many exotic places as I could. I remember as a teenager cycling to the airport and watching the planes go by, dreaming that one day I would be looking down from one instead of up at it.
- c) After a while, I took a job as a receptionist in a PR (public relations) agency and was quickly promoted to work as a PR executive. The company also paid for me to study journalism while I worked. I spent almost four years in PR, but the corporate world, full of backstabbing and dirty office politics was not what I wanted.
- d) A car accident I got into meant that I had to give up dancing, and I began to waitress to pay the rent and bills. I moved to Cape Town for a year and worked at a cocktail bar overlooking the sea before heading to London.
- e) I slowly taught myself how to use a camera, how to direct and edit videos, while doing various menial temp jobs to pay the rent. At first I did free work, making videos for friends and slowly began to earn money from it.
At every opportunity, I took courses in various aspects of film-making. It took about four years to become a full-time freelance filmmaker, and I did many different jobs along the way. I filmed weddings and events and made corporate videos.
- f) As most young people, I didn't know what I wanted to do, so I dreamed of being a pop star (even though I was shy and didn't sing!), of being a fashion designer, and various other glamorous jobs. I joined a dance company at 18 because my best friend was a dancer, and we both dreamed of dancing in the Rio carnival in Brazil. (Strangely I am writing this from Colombia and I will head to Brazil tomorrow for the first time.)
- g) I grew up in South Africa during the apartheid years. My parents moved so frequently that by the time I was 18 and it was time for me to leave home, I had lived in at least 38 places.
I remember as a young child living in remote places surrounded by forests and streams and living in caravans. It was a paradise.
- h) I am also researching the connection between tattoo images and the images that shamans see in their visions. Tomorrow I travel by boat up the mighty Amazon River to film with the Mayoruna tribe, who are tattooed to look like jaguars.
I know there will be many more adventures, and I am now constantly looking down through the clouds as I fly remembering the days I looked up.
- i) The older I get, the more interested I am in a way of living that is closer to nature, the way I grew up. I've become interested in the knowledge of indigenous tribes around the world. At the moment, I am filming a series of documentaries that look at tattooing as part of indigenous culture. There are many reasons, but I'm focusing on the tattoos that are done for healing, some placed on acupuncture points and others with healing plants in the tattoo ink.
- j) I realized that this world had killed my creativity and joy in life, and I left it for good. I did a lot of soul-searching and decided that I wanted to be a filmmaker. This seemed like a huge challenge, as I was almost 30 by this stage, and it is a very competitive career choice.
- k) I have now filmed in many places, and the journey continues. I moved to Dubai at the beginning of 2014 as there were more opportunities there, and the sun shines every day, unlike in the UK. It has been a great adventure, and I am finally able to afford to travel and make the documentaries that I want to. There are so many stories to be told.



1 __ 2 __ 3 __ 4 __ 5 __ 6 __ 7 __ 8 __ 9 __ 10 __ 11 __



Task #1

In pairs, think of a name for the story. Vote for the best one in class.



Task #2

Answer the questions:



- 1) Why did Maellyn move so often as a kid?
- 2) Why didn't she become a pop star?
- 3) What jobs has Maellyn had?
- 4) What made her quit the PR business?
- 5) At what age did she start the career of a filmmaker?
- 6) How long did it take her to become confident in filmmaking?
- 7) What interests Maellyn the most in tattooing?

Task #3

True or false?

- a) Maellyn can't bike.
- b) She has never seen snow.
- c) Maellyn quit dancing because of her health.
- d) She is in Brazil now to dance at the Rio Carnival.
- e) Maellyn thinks that climate in Dubai is better than in the UK.
- f) She hated being in nature when she was a kid.
- g) Maellyn has been to at least 4 continents.



Let's watch the trailer to Maellyn's documentary series.

Before you watch:

- What do you think about tattoos?
- Do you have one?
- What can a tattoo mean for a person?
- Do you know the history of tattooing?
- What other body modifications can you name?
- Are they good or bad for you? Why?
- What is scarification?
- Are body modifications mainstream nowadays?



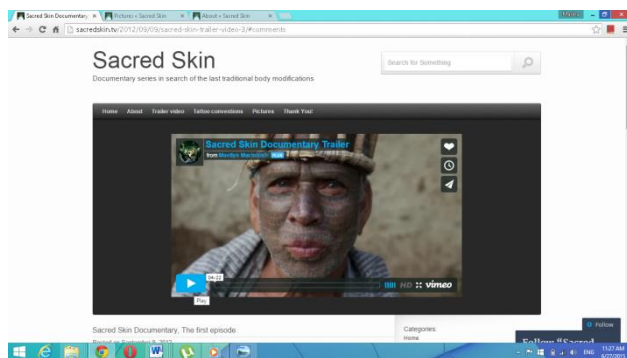
In a remote part of Central India the gentle semi-nomadic Ramnami tribe celebrate their religion by tattooing the name of the Brahmin God Ram across their faces and bodies.

Watch the video:

Sacred Skin

Documentary series in search of the last traditional body modifications

<http://sacredskin.tv/2012/09/09/sacred-skin-trailer-video-3/>



- What reasons for tattooing are mentioned in this video?
- What is the main goal of the documentary?
- Where is the first episode filmed?
- Why is it important to make this series now?

Your project

- Think of an interesting topic that is not talked about enough.
- Write a plan for a documentary about it.
- Make a script for the trailer that would get people excited and involved.
- Give a 1-2 minutes speech on the topic to engage your classmates.

P.S. you can learn more about Maellyn's project on <http://sacredskin.tv/> & <https://www.facebook.com/SacredSkinDocumentary>

Find **Maellyn Macintosh** on youtube.com and vimeo.com to see more of her works.

P.S.S. 1 g, 2 b, 3 f, 4 d, 5 a, 6 c, 7 j, 8 e, 9 k, 10 i, 11 h.

