

# Becoming an adult

## 1 Showing it

- a) Look at photo 1.  
What is this young man trying to show or say?  
What do you think?
- b) Now look at photos 2 and 3.  
What do you think these body marks show?



- c) Now read the text. Were you right?

In many societies, when a child becomes an adult, he or she is marked in some way to show that they are now a full member of that society. (Today this is often done with paint, so that the mark is not lifelong.)

- d) Sometimes becoming an adult is marked by a party, or special presents – or even an ad in the local newspaper. Look at the ad on the right. Do you think this is a good idea? Why/Why not?

### COMING OF AGE

**TOM BARNET-JONES**

18 today!!!

Happy Birthday  
Tom!  
Have a great day!



- e) What do young people in your country do when they become adults?

 **2** **Becoming an adult in Japan**

- a) *Read the text and explain what is happening in the photo to a partner.*

In Japan young people are not allowed to vote, drink or smoke under the age of 20.

Every year on the second Monday in January it is *Seijin Shiki* (Adults' Day), which is a national holiday. The young people who become 20 years old that year take part in an important ceremony. For this ceremony many of them wear traditional Japanese clothes. The ceremony takes place at a school or other state building. There are speeches about the rights and duties of adults, and at the end the new adults are given a small present. Then they often have a party with their family.



- b) *Imagine you can take part in the ceremony. What would you wear? Do you think you would enjoy the ceremony? Why/Why not? Talk about it to your partner.*
- c) *As well as having rights, being an adult means having duties, being responsible for things. What examples can you think of?*

## Lösungen

### Lösungsvorschläge Seite 1

**1**

- a) The young man probably thinks he is cool. He wants to show what sort of music, or which group of people, he likes.
- b) These body marks show what tribe of people they come from. In picture 2 the marks are also meant to scare an enemy.
- c), d), e) *Individuelle Schülerlösungen*

### Lösungsvorschläge Seite 2

**2**

- a) The young people in the picture are going to an 'Adults' Day' ceremony in Japan. On this special day many of them dress in beautiful traditional Japanese clothes.
- b) I would wear the traditional clothes: It is nice to wear them for a special ceremony. I think I would enjoy it, because it marks a special day and all your friends of the same age are doing it, too. / I don't think I would enjoy it. You don't need a ceremony like that and if you don't wear traditional clothes on any other day, why would you want to wear them on that day?
- c) what you are responsible for as an adult: decisions about career, your own money, your partner, your family, your health, etc.