Level: B1

Focus: Vocabulary

Theme: Describing people

Activity: Describe and identify

DOGS AND OWNERS
_____

This is a sample class activity from lesson 7A of *English Result Intermediate* by Hancock and McDonald (Oxford University Press).
You will need to be able to project the picture of dogs and their owners for this lesson, or else have good quality printouts of the picture. It would also be useful to have a bank of extra portrait photos of people for the final speaking activity.

PROCEDURE

1. Ask students if they have any pets, and if so, to give more information about them.

2. Give out the worksheet. Point to the title and ask the class if they think it's true that dogs look like their owners.

3. Ask students to read the summary sentences, and then read the text and decide which sentence best summarises it and why. (answer = c)

4. Ask students to answer the true-false questions in 2. Key: a -true, b - false, c - false, d - true, e - false, f - true

5. Project the image of dogs and their owners and challenge students to match them. There is no 'correct' answer here, but most of the class will probably reach the same conclusions!

6. Elicit the meanings of the *Vocabulary for describing people* at the bottom of the worksheet. Use the image of dogs and their owners to help. For example, ask *Who's got ginger hair? Who looks aggressive?* etc.

7. Read out the following text and ask the students to identify which person is being described in the picture.
    She looks generous. She doesn't look aggressive. She's got wavy hair. She's probably in her early sixties. She looks like my grandmother...

8. Ask students to work in pairs or groups. One student describes one of the people and the others listen and have to identify which one. If you have collected some more magazine photos, or portraits off the internet, you could use them for this activity.

1 Read *Does your dog look like you?* quickly. What is the text about? Choose the best answer.
a Different types of dogs.
b People who try to look like dogs.
c Research on the appearance of dogs and their owners.
d People and their dogs in California.

DOES YOUR DOG LOOK LIKE YOU?

  You often hear people say that dogs look like their owners. It sounds like a crazy idea, but a new study from California suggests that it's true - but only in certain circumstances.

  Researchers wanted to find out if people really do look like their dogs, and just how this happens. First of all, they took photos of 45 dogs and their owners. They mixed the photos up and asked a group of people to match them.

  The people who took part in the research were able to match most of the owners with their dogs if they were pure-bred - dogs whose parents are both the same type of dog. However, they weren't able to do the matching for mongrels - dogs with parents of two different types. The researchers have suggested that this may be because people choose dogs which look like themselves, and people who want pure-bred dogs choose their pets more carefully.

  The researchers say it isn't clear how the people in their study were able to do the matching. They didn't simply match hairy dogs with hairy people or big dogs with big people. It seems that they used a more complicated method, such as matching friendly looking dogs with friendly looking people.

---

2 Read the text again and decide if these sentences are true or false.
 a The researchers mixed up the photos of the dogs and their owners.
 b They asked the dog owners to find their dogs.
 c All dogs look like their owners.
 d People are more careful when they choose pure-bred dogs.
 e People simply matched hairy dogs with hairy people.
 f Maybe people matched friendly looking people and dogs.

----------------------**VOCABULARY FOR DESCRIBING PEOPLE**---------------------------
CHARACTER - He/she looks...
        active a**ggress**ive am**bit**ious ar**tis**tic   calm **con**fident **gener**ous
        i**mag**inative   kind **live**ly **ner**vous out**go**ing **qui**et shy un**friend**ly
LOOKS - He/she's got...
        a bald head   a shaved head   a clean **sha**ven face a round face **freck**les
        curly hair   **ging**er hair   straight hair   **wav**y hair
AGE - He/she is...
        in her teens   in his late twenties   in his mid thirties   around forty
        in her early sixties