

Podcast Questions – What’s in a tattoo?

1. What is the topic of the podcast today?

The topic of today’s podcast is tattoos and what’s in the ink.

2. How many people have a tattoo in America?

About one third of all Americans have them and about 40% of people between 18 to 34.

3. How long have tattoos been around for?

They have been around for thousands of years.

4. What is the name of the tattoo studio the researcher visited?

The tattoo studio is called Tattoo Paradise in D.C.

5. How did the tattoo artists test their ink?

Tattoo artists test the ink on themselves.

6. Who regulates the tattoo industry in the USA?

The tattoo industry in the USA is self-regulated.

7. Scientists asked 300 people in Central Park if they had ever had an allergic reaction to a tattoo. What did those people say?

Those people said that they mostly hadn’t experienced any negative reactions but some people said that they had had allergic reactions, and itchy skin.

8. What color creates the most allergic reactions?

The red color.

9. What chemicals are regulated in the European Union?

Chemicals that are thought to cause cancer or damage DNA or cause allergies.

10. Where can the metal in the skin come from?

The metal can come from broken pieces of the needles in tattoo machines.

11. What happens to the lymph nodes of tattooed people?

Their lymph nodes become dyed and change color.

12. Can researchers find any connection between diseases and tattoos?

Not yet. They don’t have enough organized data.

13. Do people who get tattoos pay attention to the inks used?

No, they do not. Usually, they do not ask any questions about the ink used.

14. Why are scientists studying tattoo and the ink used?

They are just trying to understand which chemicals are safe and which chemicals aren't.

Extra Discussion Questions

1. Have you got any tattoos?
2. Would you like to get a tattoo? Why?
3. Are tattoos popular in your country?
4. Why do you think a lot of people are getting tattoos nowadays?