

ARTICLE REWRITING SAMPLE

Original text: 291 words

Tattoos have been around for thousands of years and are more popular today than at any time in recorded history. Some studies show that around 35 percent of Americans aged 18-30 have tattoos. To most people tattoos represent a form of self expression and they view them as some sort of statement of their individuality. Most adults also feel sexier with tattoos.

So what exactly is a Tattoo? It's a design or pattern made by inserting pigment (ink) into the second layer of the skin. Scientifically - tattooing is micro pigment implantation. A tattoo is produced by puncturing the skin with special needles dipped in indelible inks. A needle injects ink into the cells of the dermis - the second layer of the skin.

Our skin consists of three layers: the epidermis, dermis and subcutaneous tissues. The outer layer that acts as a protective barrier and contains no blood vessels is called the Epidermis. Below that is a thicker layer called dermis and that is where tattoos go.

Because epidermis is constantly being replenished (we continue to produce and shed the top layer of the skin throughout lifetime), the tattooist pushes ink through the epidermis and leaves it in the dermis. The dermis stays pretty much the same for our entire life and this is why tattoos stay permanent while many other things done to the skin don't.

If tattoo is done too deeply, into the third layer of the skin called subcutaneous layer, it can cause unnecessary pain and bleeding. It can also look blurred even as soon as it's healed, because you have to look deeper (through more layers of the skin) to see it. If any less than a millimeter, it might leave scratches and simply wear off.

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35% of Americans aged between eighteen and thirty admit they have at least one tattoo. But what's the attraction?

The impulse isn't new. People have been decorating their bodies with permanent images and using their bodies to tell stories for millennia. Tattoos in all patterns and colours. Whole-body and discreetly hidden. Tattoos used purely for personal decoration. For ceremonial, religious, political, tribal and cultural reasons. To attract a mate, to use as camouflage, or designed to scare off the enemy.

Today, tattooing - or 'micro pigment implantation' - is more popular than at any time in modern history. In a homogenised world, people seem to be using tattoos to shout out their individuality, making a strong visual statement. Some even feel it makes them more sexy.

So how's it done?

Our bodies constantly replace old skin with new. Our skin's epidermis, the outer layer, just acts as a protective barrier. It doesn't contain any blood vessels. Because it is always being renewed, the epidermis won't stay tattooed for long. Any tattooing shallower than a millimetre will probably wear off in no time.

To make a tattoo stick, you need to get the ink into the skin's thicker second layer, the dermis. A specialist ink-loaded needle is used to insert indelible pigment under the epidermis and into the dermis. Because the dermis stays pretty much the same throughout our lives, the tattoo becomes a permanent fixture.

The third and deepest layer of skin, the subcutaneous layer, is a no go area. If your tattooist digs too deep you risk extra pain and bleeding. And the tattoo will probably look blurred the minute it heals - a deterioration that usually takes years - because the ink is buried under a whole load of thick layers.

