

Memories



Past continuous

Reading: First impressions

1 When you meet someone for the first time, what can these things tell you about them? Which of these things make a strong impression on you? Why?

- their voice
- their handshake
- the way they stand
- the way they're dressed
- their eyes
- their smile
- whether they have a beard or not
- something else (what?)

2 Read about two people who made a powerful impression on each other when they first met. Look at the photo. Do you know who they are? Find out if you are right.

3 Find words in the article that mean the same as these phrases.

- 1 after a long time/in the end
- 2 looking at someone for a long time without moving your eyes
- 3 carry/communicate/express

4 Answer these questions about the article.

- 1 Where and when did Hillary and Bill meet?
- 2 What was he doing? What was she doing?
- 3 How long do people take to form first impressions?
- 4 Why do you think ...
 - a Bill and Hillary kept staring at each other?
 - b Bill says he couldn't remember his name?

You have three seconds –

SMILE!



They first met in the law library at Yale University in 1971. She was studying and he was talking to a friend. But when their eyes met, they couldn't stop looking at each other. Eventually she got up and walked over to him. She said, 'Look, if you're going to keep staring at me, and I'm going to keep staring back, we should introduce ourselves. I'm Hillary Rodham. What's your name?' Bill Clinton says he couldn't remember his name.

First impressions are very important and researchers have found they can convey a lot of information fast. Little things like having a pleasant voice, your handshake, and how you stand are all important. But probably the most important is a smile. A smile tells us we can expect a positive response, but we have to smile back fast. Researchers say we form an impression about new acquaintances in just three seconds.