

Avatars - Elementary

Let's discuss

A Read the text and answer the questions.

- Ask students to read the text and discuss the questions in pairs. Elicit some answers and discuss as a class.

What is an avatar? Extra information

An avatar is a graphical representation of a person or a character. It can be used to represent yourself or any other person, animal or animated character.

Avatars can be made to exaggerate certain physical characteristics and to find the humour in these traits (big eyes, huge nose, little ears, etc.).

Many computer-users create avatars to use on social networking sites such as Twitter™ and Facebook™, or on their personal blogs. Some people prefer to use avatars instead of their real photo as it can hide their identity.

Talking avatars can be used to foster communicative skills and can therefore be used to describe things or create narratives. A self-recorded or robot-generated voice can be added to a talking avatar. A still avatar does not have any movement but some avatars can move.

Key

- 1 *He's got short hair, big eyes, a large nose and a big smile.*
 - 2 *She has got big eyes and a very small mouth. She has got make-up on her eyes. She has also got a handbag.*
 - 3 *Students' own answers.*
 - 4 *Suggested answer —some people prefer not to use a photo because they feel self-conscious and it can hide their identity.*
- Go online and type keywords to find websites for making avatars. Show students how to find safe sites.
 - Try making a group avatar using suggestions from the class. Ask students what they would like the class avatar to look like and make the changes on screen.

Let's do it!

- This can be completed in class or as homework.
- Ask students to make an avatar of themselves or another person.
- Once you have all the links to the avatars, use one lesson to view them all as a class. Students can vote for their favourites and choose the best three.

Key

- 1 *It is a graphical representation of a person or a character.*
- 2 *Students' own answers.*

Let's analyse

A Look at two different avatars. Answer the questions in groups.

- Ask students to look at the avatars and discuss the questions in groups of three or four. Elicit some answers and discuss as a class.