UHB14

Basic clipper cutting

techniques for men’s hair

Learner name:

Learner number:
Through this unit you will learn how to cut men’s hair using basic clipper techniques. You will learn to use clippers with grades to carry out a uniform cut all over the hair. You will learn how grades on clippers produce different lengths on the hair and how to hold and use clippers correctly.
What you must know & do

How to achieve this unit

On completion of this unit you will:

Learning outcome 1

Know how to cut men’s hair using basic clipper techniques

a. Describe the effects that clipper cutting has on hair
b. Present a collection of men's clipper cuts
c. Describe the safety considerations for cutting men’s hair

Learning outcome 2

Be able to cut men’s hair using basic clipper techniques

a. Prepare yourself, the client and your work area to cut men's hair
b. Identify any problems that may affect the service
c. Carry out a consultation and plan for the service
d. Select products, tools and equipment to cut men’s hair
e. Use hygienic and safe methods of working
f. Cut men's hair using basic clipper techniques
g. Give aftercare advice
What you must learn

This section provides you with guidance on the recommended knowledge and skills required to achieve this unit.

Learning outcome 1

Know how to cut men’s hair using basic clipper techniques

Describe the effects that clipper cutting has on hair

Effects of clipper cutting hair: To remove length, uniformed looks and for short graduated styles, can be used with or without grades to produce a haircut where the hair is the same length all over, grades vary from 0.5mm to 12mm – ensure you are using the correct one.

Clipper attachments: Interchangeable attachments (vary in depth, 8 grades).

Grade 8 (largest) – leaves hair 25mm in length.
Grade 7 – leaves hair 22mm long.
Grade 6 – leaves hair 19mm long.
Grade 5 – leaves hair 16mm long.
Grade 4 – leaves hair 13mm long.
Grade 3 – leaves hair 10mm long.
Grade 2 – leaves hair 6mm long.
Grade 1 (smallest) – leaves hair 3mm in length.

Clipper technique: Buzz cut (uniform layer cut using clippers all over hair with no varying grades in finished hair cut).

Present a collection of men’s clipper cuts

Present different clipper looks: Presentation software, collage, poster, leaflet.

What to include: Different lengths achieved using clippers on a variety of coloured hair.
Describe the safety considerations for cutting men’s hair

**Something that may happen before, during or after the process:**

Slippery surface – water, products, mop up immediately.

Cut client – follow first aid guidelines and wear gloves when dealing with blood.

Clippers – ensure blades are fully aligned and well oiled, clippers are held firmly for full control throughout cutting.

Grades – ensure correct size grade is on clippers and is firmly in place.

Sterilisation – sterilised equipment free of loose hair (avoid cross-infection).

Gowning up – towel and gown to protect clothing, towel dry hair prior to sitting at section from basin.

Client Position – seated correctly in chair at correct height for stylist (to prevent back injuries), legs uncrossed.

Hair Clippings – brush away and dispose of hair clippings correctly after cutting.

Never switch the clipper off whilst in the hair – may knot in the hair or pull hair out.

The clipper will work most efficiently when cutting through the hair at its own speed – never force through the hair.

**Electricity at work:** Visual check of equipment, no trailing wires, portable appliance testing, check temperature gauge, avoid winding wires tightly around electrical equipment, allow heated styling equipment to cool before storing.
What you must learn

Learning outcome 2

Be able to cut men’s hair using basic clipper techniques

Prepare yourself, the client and your work area to cut men’s hair

**Prepare yourself:** Clothes (salon requirements for uniform/dress code, clean/ironed clothes, not too tight, closed-in low heel shoes), hair (clean, smart/styled, off face), personal hygiene (clean body, clean teeth, fresh breath), clean nails (workable length), deodorant (no overpowering perfume/aftershave), personal protective equipment (gloves, apron), prevent dermatitis (minimal jewellery), positive attitude, ready to meet and greet clients.

**Prepare your client:** Remove your client’s outer clothing to protect against damage, use a clean gown and towel, ensure your client is relaxed and comfortable, be aware of your clients jewellery and remove if necessary (to avoid damage to jewellery and skin), check for hearing aids.

**Prepare your work area:** Work area clean and hygienic, no obstructions, tools and equipment in a safe working position, chair, trolley, work station, equipment cleaned and disinfected/sterilised, visual check of electrical equipment, portable appliance test (PAT), select height of chair.

**Prepare tools:** Cutting combs, clippers, clipper grades, neck brush.

**Prepare equipment:** Towels, gown, cutting collar, trolley/work surface.

Identify any problems that may affect the service

**Deal with yourself:**

Hair damp – dry hair completely before using clippers as they should be used on dry hair.

Growth patterns – change direction of clippers to ensure they are working against the direction of hair growth.

**Ask for help:**

Hair too long and thick for clippers – hair may need length removing prior to using clippers.

If there is a threat to health e.g. cut client’s skin.

Clippers not cutting hair – oil may be needed on clipper blades or blades may need re-aligning.

Scalp condition (non-contagious) – cuts and abrasions.

Scalp condition (contagious) – head lice/nits.

**If in doubt always seek help.**
Carry out a consultation and plan for the service

Questioning methods:
Open questions – your client cannot say yes or no, they will have to provide a full answer to a question.

Closed question – your client can only answer yes or no to your questions.

The hair structure: The cuticle (protective layer around the hair), the cortex (internal structure of the hair), the medulla (central core of hair).

Identify the following to help you decide what to use:

- Hair type – hair classifications type 1, 2, 3 or 4 (using table) to identify degree of curl/straightness and texture/thickness of hair.
- Hair condition – chemically treated, normal, dry, oily.
- Hair length – above, below shoulder.
- Hair texture/thickness – how thick one hair is (diameter), fine/thin, medium, thick, use hair classifications table.
- Density – amount of hair on head (fine/thin, medium, thick).

Thin/fine hair – will need less product to clean hair.

Medium hair – use manufacturer’s instructions for use.

Thick hair – may need more products to clean hair.

Consultation form/sheet: Client detail’s, client’s hair type, factors, length, previous history, planning for service, results.

Requirements: Agree a plan with your client and confirm their requirements.

### Hair Classifications

**It’s Just Hair...**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type 1: Straight hair</th>
<th>Type 2: Wavy hair</th>
<th>Type 3: Curly hair</th>
<th>Type 4: Very curly hair</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1a Fine/Thin Straight</td>
<td>2a Fine/Thin ‘S’ pattern</td>
<td>3a Fine/Thin Soft curl</td>
<td>4a Fine/Thin Tight coiled curl pattern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1b Medium Straight with volume</td>
<td>2b Medium Frizzy ‘S’ pattern</td>
<td>3b Medium Loose curl</td>
<td>4b Medium ‘Z’ pattern and spring curl</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1c Coarse Straight difficult hair</td>
<td>2c Coarse Very frizzy ‘S’ pattern</td>
<td>3c Coarse Tight curl</td>
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</table>
What you must learn

Select products, tools and equipment to cut men’s hair

Follow manufacturer’s instructions when using products, tools and equipment.

**Products:** Generally there are no products used for clipper cutting hair, you may need to shampoo prior to clipper cutting if your client has product build up or excessively oily hair.

**Tools:**
- Cutting comb – to detangle and control hair whilst using clippers.
- Clippers – are driven by an electric motor which makes the blades move from side to side which cut the hair.
- Clipper grades – grades put on clippers to allow the hair to be cut to requested length.
- Neck brush – brush used to help remove hair from clients neck and shoulders after cutting.

**Equipment:**
- Towels – placed around the shoulders for protection if needed.
- Gown – placed around the client for protection.
- Cutting collar – placed over the shoulders for protection.
- Trolley/work surface – to lay out tools for ease of use.
- Personal protective equipment for yourself or client – gown, plastic cape, towel.

Use hygienic and safe methods of working

Follow safe methods of working: Carry out service without causing danger or damage to yourself, the client or your work area intentionally or by accident, follow health and safety policies for working safely.

**Preparation:** Ensure everything is ready before starting, place products, tools and equipment close at hand on a trolley or work surface, check all electrical equipment is PAT tested and fit to be used.

**Follow COSHH (Control of Substances Hazardous to Health):** Store, handle, use, dispose of products correctly.

**How to work hygienically:** Use clean towels, sterilised tools and equipment when working on a client.

**Avoid contact dermatitis:** Wash product from hands, dry hands, use moisturising/barrier cream, wear gloves.

**Hazards and risks:** Clean up spillages, trailing and frayed wires.

**Leave work area clean and tidy after use:** Remove towels, store equipment, clean equipment, remove client’s gown.
Cut men's hair using basic clipper techniques

Techniques:
Cross-checking – ensures an even balanced and accurate hair cut.
Guidelines – followed throughout haircut for an accurate finish.
Sectioning – ensures clean lines and ability to see clear guidelines.
Tension – hold hair firmly to avoid an uneven haircut.
Tools – importance of holding scissors correctly and ensuring they are sharp.

Cut men's hair using basic clippers:
1. Check client positioning, height of chair, legs uncrossed and client seated centrally.
2. Check clippers have correct grade, are clean and well oiled.
3. Ensure you have good posture and good balance with both feet firmly on floor.
4. Hold the clipper against the hair. The teeth of the comb guide should be pointing upwards and flat against the head.
5. Move the clipper upwards and outwards through the hair, a little at a time, against the direction of hair growth.
6. Change position around the client to ensure the accuracy of the cut.
7. Make a final visual check of hair to ensure finished cut is accurate.
8. Use neck brush to remove hair from neck and shoulders.

Always follow manufacture’s instructions for tools.

Give aftercare advice

General aftercare advice:
General aftercare advice – confirm client’s satisfaction with the finished result.
Preserve the style/service.
Return visits – time frame for a return to maintain the look.
Achieving your grade

To achieve a Pass:
You must achieve all criteria in the What you must know & do sections of this unit.

To achieve a Merit:
You must achieve all criteria in the What you must know & do sections of this unit
AND achieve 2 of the 3 additional performance standards.

To achieve a Distinction:
You must achieve all criteria in the What you must know & do sections of this unit
AND achieve all 3 additional performance standards.

Additional Performance Standards:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Work skills</th>
<th>Communication</th>
<th>Attention to detail</th>
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Possible examples:

**Work skills**
- You arrived ahead of time to prepare yourself and your work area.
- You arrived for the service dressed appropriately and well groomed.
- You prepared the work area so it was clean and well-ordered.
- You maintained a safe work area before, during and after the service.
- You ensured that all tools were clean and free from hair before and after the service.
- You laid out the products and tools in order of use placing them close to hand.
- You used cost effective and eco-friendly methods.
- You adjusted the chair to accommodate your client’s height.

**Communication**
- You professionally welcomed your client.
- You communicated clearly and confidently.
- You held a professional conversation with your client to explain the planned clipper cutting service.
- You avoided the use of technical language/jargon.
- You used verbal communication skills in a respectful manner.
- You checked regularly to ensure that your client is comfortable.
- You used a wide variety of positive non-verbal communication skills.
- You ensured that your client is happy with their finished service.

**Attention to detail**
- You used PPE appropriately for the service.
- You used images to clarify the length required and grade to be used.
- You regularly checked with your client to ensure they remained comfortable.
- You positioned yourself around the head to cut hair evenly throughout.
- You have taken into account the client’s growth patterns and adjusted the direction of the clippers to accommodate hair growth.
- You demonstrated complete control over the tools and equipment used.
**Learning outcome 1**

**Know how to cut men’s hair using basic clipper techniques**

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**Unit Sign off**

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Date
Assessor initials
Learner signature
IQA signature (if sampled)