

What does the colour of your clothes say about you?

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Age: Teenagers
Level: Intermediate–Upper-intermediate
Time: 40–45 minutes
Objectives: To generate useful vocabulary to describe personality
Key skills: Speaking
Materials: One copy of the worksheet per student

Note

This lesson can be used at any point in a course. It also serves as an excellent ice-breaker lesson for the beginning of a school year.

Procedure

1. Ask students to think of at least ten different personality traits they know the words for in English – for example, *confident*, *conscientious*. After one or two minutes, ask students for their ideas and write them up on the board, creating a mini-dictionary of vocabulary describing personality.
2. Ask students to write a short description of their personality. They should write three to five full sentences.
3. Distribute the worksheet. Students should think which colour, or which two colours, they most like to wear and then read the corresponding section(s) of the worksheet.
4. Ask students to compare the personality description associated with their chosen colour(s) from the worksheet with the description they wrote of their own personality. Each student (or just selected students, if you prefer) presents their comparison to the rest of the class.
5. Ask the class questions like:
 - *Does the description on the worksheet accurately describe you?*
 - *Is the description you wrote similar to the description for your chosen colour on the worksheet?*

- *What symbolic meanings do you think the colours hold? (For example, red can symbolize danger; white symbolizes peace.)*
- *Are the colours of the clothes we wear important? Why? Why not?*

6. Divide the students into small groups. Ask them to match one clothes colour with each of the following situations:

- a job interview
- a blind date
- dinner at a fancy restaurant
- a school yearbook photo
- your best friend's birthday party
- the first meeting with your fiancé(e)'s parents.

Each group presents and justifies their choices.

Extensions

- During the next lesson, students can write a short pop quiz based on the personality words presented on the worksheet.
- During the next lesson, students can practise describing people's personalities looking at different pictures or photos

What colour(s) do you most like to wear? Choose either one or two colours. Read what your chosen colour(s) symbolize(s).

Colour	What is its meaning?
	Black is the colour of power and authority. Most people who wear it are seen as unapproachable and hostile. The colour black also indicates that you are secretive. It creates an air of mystery. People wearing this colour are treated seriously.
	Grey shows you have a sense of style and self-confidence. It helps when communicating because it doesn't distract the person you're talking to: when people see grey clothes, they focus more on you and what you're saying. It is also the colour of compromise and acceptance. It represents balance and harmony.
	Blue is the colour of the sky and of oceans. It shows that you're creative and imaginative. This colour is also the symbol of loyalty and restraint. Blue is the colour of trust and peace. It can suggest devotion and integrity, as well as conservatism and frigidity.
	Green is the colour of nature and harmony. It calms people down and refreshes their minds. Green is associated with masculinity, conservatism and good health. It's also the colour of growth and balance. People wearing this colour are seen as communicative and helpful.
	Red is the colour of passion and love. It's always associated with strong emotions and sometimes with aggression. Red is the colour that everybody notices and it always grabs people's attention. Many people associate it with being a hothead. It symbolizes strength and shows that you are ready to take action.
	Pink is associated with immaturity and girlish behaviour. People wearing pink are seen as optimistic but also silly and naive. It's often associated with romanticism and femininity. It rarely appears in nature – that's why it's perceived as artificial.
	Brown is the colour of the earth and it's seen as very natural. It symbolizes constancy and security. People wearing brown are thought to be stable and open. They are also seen as good workers and patient friends. The colour brown is a down-to-earth colour that people associate with protection and material wealth.
	Yellow , the colour of sun, is associated with being cheerful and fun. People who like yellow are seen as materialistic and valuing money. If it used too often, it indicates bad taste. Yellow is also the colour of the mind and intellect. It is very optimistic. However, it can also suggest impatience, criticism and cowardice.
	White is a very bright colour symbolizing purity and innocence. Wearing white shows the world that you appreciate simplicity and cleanliness. White is also a symbol of perfection and order. The colour represents wholeness and completion.