

## What does the colour of your clothes say about you? by Monika Szalwinska-Garbaruk

**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