

Lesson 10: People and Personalities – Part 2

Lesson Objective

By the end of this lesson, you will be able to:

- ✓ dealing with different personalities;
- ✓ idiomatic expressions;
- ✓ use expressions relating to discussion

In the previous chapter, we have discussed about describing personalities using certain adjectives. In fact, people with their personalities are complex. Someone usually has more than one characteristic of personalities. These are some idioms you can use to describe someone's complexness of personalities.

Idiom	Meaning
a people person	an outgoing person who gets along with people really well and is a good listener
armchair critic	a person who makes comments and criticisms about a situation that they are not actually doing anything to help fix the problem
big mouth	someone who is not able to keep a secret
behind the times / a fuddy-duddy	a person who is old-fashioned and has not adopted certain modern customs, beliefs, or behaviours
Busybody	a person who expresses great interest in other people's private lives
Chatterbox	a person who talks a lot
clock-watcher	someone who has no interest on the current activity, and keeps watching the time

cold fish	someone who has very little emotions, who is regarded as hard-hearted and unfeeling
couch potato	a lazy person who spends a lot of time sitting down or lying down, watching tv, playing video games, or doing some other activity that doesn't involve physical activity
crank / oddball / weirdo	a person whose behaviour or way of life is regarded as strange.
creep	a nasty person, someone who is trying to impress higher authority
dark horse	someone who has greater abilities than he shows or than other people are aware of
Daydreamer	someone who is having dreamlike thoughts when they should be focusing on the present
down-to-earth	someone who is practical and close to reality and who accepts other people as equals
early bird	a person who wakes up, arrives to work, etc. before the usual time
golden boy	a winning person that everyone is fond of
goody-goody / goody two shoes	a person who always acts good, follows the rules perfectly and never do anything bad or rebellious
happy camper	a person who is always happy and satisfied
have a screw loose	someone who is slightly mad or eccentric
know-it-all	a person who thinks they know everything, and that their opinions and ideas are the best
life and soul of the party	someone who is energetic, and good fun during social occasions
lone wolf / lone bird	someone who prefers his own company and does not like socialising.

man of his word / woman of her word	a person you can trust because they tell the truth and keep promises
moaning minnie	a person who complains a lot about insignificant things
mover and shaker	an active person who helps their company, organization, or group make progress
nerd	someone who is very interested in science or technology, particularly in computers
pain in the neck	an irritating, annoying person
party animal	someone who likes to attend parties often
rolling stone	a person who moves from place to place, job to job, without staying anywhere long
rough diamond	someone who seems impolite or is not well-educated, but who has a kind heart and good character
slave driver	someone who makes other people to work really hard
smart cookie	somebody who has got a strong personality or who is quite smart
Tearaway	a person who behaves in a stupid or wild manner, and frequently gets into trouble.
wet blanket	a person who ruins other people's fun by staying pessimistic and complaining all the time
wimp	a weak person, someone who lacks confidence

It is understood that the personality of each person tends to be unique and different from one another. It cannot be denied that people with different (even contradictory) personalities will have the possibility to conflict as personality differences give rise to different perceptions. The conflicts due to differences in perceptions can involve family, friends, and colleagues but the most challenging of all is a conflict at work. Why is that?

In fact, many people spend as much as a third of their life at work. Full-time workers probably spend more time with their colleagues than with friends and family. Another fact that most workplaces are made up of a variety of [different personality](#) types, which is great for diversity so that personal conflicts in the workplace cannot be avoided. Thus, learning the skills to cope with many different personality types can help us navigate challenging situations that may arise.



Here are some points you can highlight in order to deal with conflicts in a workplace.

1. Don't take it personally

If your co-workers tend to be negative or unpleasant you, don't take it personally. Take a few minutes to step back and assess the situation fully. You must be able to see that all conflicts in the workplace are a matter of professional work.

2. Try to understand the personality types of others

If you want to be understood, try to understand first. Your understanding of other people's personalities determines your strategies for communicating with them. This allows you to have better quality interactions where you can engage on the right wavelength with people.

3. It's okay to disagree

The rainbow looks beautiful because it consists of different colours. A difference isn't always bad. Differences of opinion in a team can enrich views to find the best solution of a problem. Open eyes to differences make you more relaxed in dealing with friction in the workplace. The best thing you can do to deal with differences of opinion is to have discussions in order to reach a consensus.

Here are some expressions you can use to build a discussion with your co-workers.

Asking for discussion

Let's discuss about...

We should discuss ...

Let me start with...

Let's begin with....

It seems necessary to discuss about this problem and decide which is the most and the least....

Making consideration

On the one hand,... and on the other hand....

Some people say that..., others believe that...

It is said that.... However,....

Showing disagreement politely

You're right in certain a extend, but ...

That might be true but ...

I'm afraid we cannot accept that ...