

2.1 Impressions

Aim: Practice using vocabulary and expressions from Unit 2

Preparation: Make one copy of Worksheet 2.1 for every two Ss.

Comment: Use after the vocabulary on page 16.

- Ss work in groups of four. Give each group two handouts.
- Explain the task. Elicit how to use the vocabulary given at the bottom of the handout. Write some of the expressions on the board.
- Model the task with one S for the reading “The Stranger.”

T: What’s your impression of the other passenger?

S: I tend to think . . .
- Ss read each paragraph and then debate their answers to the questions using the vocabulary on the bottom of the worksheet.
- After Ss debate the questions with their groups, ask each group to share their opinions with the class.

The Stranger

When Matt sat down next to another passenger, the first thing he noticed was the man's eyes. One was golden brown. The other was emerald green. Later, when he got up and walked down the aisle, Matt noticed the man wasn't wearing matching socks. The man kept glancing at Matt during the flight, but he never introduced himself. When the plane landed, he helped Matt take down his suitcase.

1. What's your impression of the other passenger?
2. Is this man trying to make a statement with his clothes?
3. What do you usually notice first when you sit next to a stranger?

The Neighbor

Ms. Swenson, who was my neighbor when I was growing up, had the funniest hairstyle. It always stood on end, and it must have been harder than a rock. Her outfits were as colorful as a rainbow, and she wore the strangest jewelry. Once, she wore a ring so large and flashy, I could see it from across a parking lot. But regardless of her fashion sense, she was the friendliest neighbor I've ever had.

1. What's your impression of Ms. Swenson?
2. What do you tend to think of people who dress colorfully?
3. What's more important: appearance or character?

The Actor

Recently, I spent an evening with an Oscar-winning actor at his home in Hollywood. When I arrived, he and his wife greeted me and invited me to watch his latest movie in their movie theater. I sat there quietly for two hours while he shouted and screamed at himself on screen. At dinner, he made jokes – most of them were terrible! Whenever his wife or children spoke, he'd roll his eyes and shake his head. In his films, he seemed like such a nice guy.

1. What's your impression of this actor?
2. Why was the person's first impression wrong?
3. How do you think the actor's wife felt at dinner?

The Doctor

During a business trip, Shelly got sick with the flu, so she made an appointment to see a local doctor. Dr. Dinks greeted her wearing old jeans and a T-shirt. After asking a few routine questions, she asked Shelly to lie down on the examination table. Then she put a hot, wet towel over Shelly's face and began to read poetry to her. Afterwards, Dr. Dinks recommended Shelly take some flu medicine and told her to go to sleep early. The next morning, Shelly felt a whole lot better.

1. What's your impression of Dr. Dinks?
2. Do you think going to this doctor would be a mistake? Why or why not?
3. Do you think Dr. Dinks was making a statement with her clothes and procedure? Why or why not?

Useful vocabulary

advise chic eccentric intense permit require sloppy stylish
allow conservative encourage not mind quirky seem smug tend

"I tend to think that people who don't introduce themselves are usually quite conservative and shy . . ."