

Lesson 1

personality, part one

TODAY'S WORDS

greedy, to want more and more

nonchalant / indifferent, acting as if something is not very important; not caring

conceited / vain, overly confident; to have too high an opinion of yourself *

gullible, to easily believe what people tell you

skeptical, to doubt; not easily believe

* "vain" is especially used for someone's appearance, whereas "conceited" is more general

common word forms

noun (thing)	noun (person)	adjective	adverb
greed		greedy	greedily
nonchalance		nonchalant	nonchalantly
indifference		indifferent	indifferently
conceit		conceited	conceitedly
vanity		vain	vainly
skepticism	skeptic	skeptical	skeptically

fill in the blank *Fill in the blanks below with a word from the list above. Be sure to use the correct form of the word.*

1. The model was so _____ that when someone said she was beautiful, she replied "Of course!"
2. The _____ didn't believe the earth was round, even when he saw photographs from outer space!
3. When he proposed to his longtime girlfriend by saying "Well, do you want to get married or something this week?" She was offended at his _____ attitude.
4. "I have 35 serious girlfriends, and 10 casual girlfriends, but I want even more. I guess I am _____!"

5. The _____ girl agreed to buy her classmate's ring for \$10, after she was told it was made of real gold and diamonds.

quick check

1. What might a **skeptical** person say?
 - "I believe you!"
 - "I'm beautiful"
 - "No way!"
 - "I forgot"

2. What might a **greedy** person say?
 - "I don't believe it!"
 - "You're pretty"
 - "I want more!"
 - "Who cares?"

3. What might a **nonchalant** or **indifferent** person say?
 - "I'm good at math!"
 - "So what?"
 - "I love you passionately!"
 - "I'm ugly"

4. What might a **conceited** or **vain** person say?
 - "Everyone loves me!"
 - "You're beautiful"
 - "I don't know"
 - "I forgot my lunch"

5. What might a **gullible** person say?
 - "I'm going to bed!"
 - "Really? You are from another planet?"
 - "I don't think so!"
 - "Kiss me"

reading

Jimmy was **greedy** when it came to romance. He had several girlfriends, but he wanted more! In fact, Jimmy had a new girlfriend every week. Of course, it didn't help that he was very attractive—and he knew it, too! In fact, if no one noticed, he often told the girls how good looking, strong and athletic he was! He was very **conceited**, but what bothered the girls the most was Jimmy's **nonchalant** attitude. When a girl fell in love with him—which happened quite often—she might ask him if he thought the two of them would ever get married. His answer was usually something like “Uh... maybe....someday....who knows?”

As Jimmy had more girlfriends, however, it became more difficult for him to find a new girlfriend. It is true that his ex-girlfriends were very **gullible**. It is true that many of them believed his affectionate words. However, many of his new girlfriends had already heard that Jimmy was a playboy. They were very **skeptical** when he asked them to go out with him. They knew he didn't care about anyone but himself.

Finally, Jimmy couldn't find anyone who wanted to date him. He couldn't believe it, he thought, as he **vainly** looked in the mirror, absolutely certain that he was still as handsome as ever! Every girl was a **skeptic**. They didn't trust Jimmy or believe anything that he said. Finally, Jimmy was left all alone, with only his dog and his goldfish for friends.

reading comprehension

1. What was it about Jimmy that the girls didn't like?

- *he was gullible*
- *he was skeptical*
- *he was nonchalant*
- *he was romantic*

2. At the beginning, how many new girlfriends did Jimmy have each month?

- *one*
- *two*
- *three*
- *four*

3. What's the main difference between the girls that he started going out with, and those he dated later?

- *their indifference*
- *their skepticism*
- *their greediness*
- *their sincerity*

4. How many girlfriends did Jimmy have at the end?

- *one*
- *two*
- *three*
- *none*
- *countless*

questions for discussion

skeptic *Are you skeptical? If so, if so, what are you skeptical about? Why do you think people become skeptics? Who do you know who is a skeptic and why?*

vain *What part of your body or face are you (or someone you know) vain about?*

nonchalant *When do you think a nonchalant attitude is acceptable? When would it not be appropriate? (for example, at a funeral, or when you're having pizza with your friends)*

conceited *Can you think of a time when someone was conceited? What did they say or do? What is your attitude toward conceited people? Why do you think some people are conceited?*

gullible *Have you, or anyone you know, ever been gullible about anything? Why do you think some people are gullible? Is there anything good about being gullible?*

greedy *Describe a time you (or someone you know) were greedy. Is there anything good about being greedy?*

finish that sentence

1. If a woman is **vain** about her appearance, she might _____,
(base verb)
whereas, if a man is **vain** about his appearance, he is more likely to _____.
(base verb)
2. The most **gullible** people are usually children, because they _____.
3. You should never act **nonchalant**, or **indifferent**, during _____ or when
(an event)
you _____
(base verb)
4. You would probably be **skeptical** if your friend said that she just _____.
(past tense verb)
5. "My dog is really **greedy!**" Every time I _____, she _____!"

Spelling corner "i before e"

The most common spelling rule in English is probably "i before e, except after c" which works sometimes, meaning that when an "i" and "e" are together, the i usually comes first unless it's followed by a "c". Here are some examples

RECEIVE

CEILING

THIEF

NIECE

BELIEVE

RELIEVE

Word Structure introduction

Many words in English come from the Latin or Greek. If you can understand the meanings of these separate parts (prefixes, suffixes and roots), it will be easy for you to figure out the meaning of unfamiliar words. There are three main parts:

1. **Root** -- This has the main meaning of the word, such as **spect** (look/see) as in the word **spectator**, a person who watches.
2. **Prefix** – This is the word part that comes before the root and changes or adds to the meaning of the root, such as **in**. If you combine the prefix **in** and the root **spect**, you get **inspect** (meaning to look inside)
3. **Suffix** – This is the word part that comes after the root and changes the part of speech, such as **-or**, meaning “a person who does something,” when combined with the word **inspect** (verb), you get **inspector** (noun), someone who inspects.

In each lesson, we will briefly examine some of these word parts, with examples of each.