

ESL Conversation Club: Appearances

Idiom of the Week:



Be a fly on the wall.

Warm-up:

I have got a date at a quarter to eight;
I'll see you at the gate, so don't be late.

Conversation Questions in Groups of 2 People:

- Describe a book you judged by its cover and were surprised by the story inside. How did this experience change your perspective on judging appearances?
- Do you believe in making a good first impression? Share a story where first impressions surprised you, good or bad.
- How do beauty standards differ in your cultures?
- Is there a hidden talent or passion people wouldn't guess about you based on your appearance?
- Tell us about a personal object that might seem ordinary to some people but holds hidden stories and personal meaning to you.
- Have you ever been judged based on your clothing or style?
- What qualities in others truly shine beyond their appearances?
- Have you ever challenged a stereotype about yourself or another person based on your/their appearance?
- Do you feel comfortable with labels like "introvert" or "extrovert" based on your appearance?

- What makes you feel confident and empowered, even if it doesn't fit traditional beauty standards?
- In your culture, do traditional clothing hold special meaning or represent cultural identity?
- How does cultural background influence clothing choices and fashion trends?
- Do you use your appearance to blend in or stand out?
- Describe a time when someone's kindness, humor, or intelligence surprised you based on their initial appearance.
- How do you navigate and accept physical imperfections in yourself and others?
- How do perceptions of beauty and aging differ across cultures?
- Do you sometimes feel like you wear different "masks" or have different personalities in different situations?
- What advice would you give someone struggling with judging themselves or others based on appearances?
- Imagine a world where appearances don't matter as much. How would this impact self-expression, relationships, and social interactions?



Vocabulary to Practice

- judge a book by its cover: (verb phrase) To decide something is good or bad based on how it looks, without knowing more about it.
- making a good first impression: (verb phrase) Creating a positive and memorable initial interaction with someone.
- beauty standards: (noun phrase) Ideas about what is considered physically attractive in a society or culture.
- hidden talent: (noun phrase) A skill or ability someone has that others might not know about or expect.
- personal object: (noun phrase) An item that has special meaning or value to you, beyond its monetary worth.
- shine: (verb) To be clearly visible and impressive, like someone's personality or qualities.
- stereotype: (noun) An oversimplified and often inaccurate generalization about a group of people.
- introvert: (noun) Someone who gains energy from spending time alone and may prefer quieter situations.
- extrovert: (noun) Someone who gains energy from being around others and enjoys social interaction.
- confident: (adjective) Feeling sure of yourself and your abilities, comfortable in your own skin.
- empowered: (adjective) Feeling strong, capable, and in control of your own life.
- traditional clothing: (noun phrase) Clothing worn by a specific group of people, often reflecting their culture or history.
- cultural identity: (noun phrase) The sense of belonging to a particular cultural group, shaped by shared traditions, values, and experiences.
- cultural background: (noun phrase) The culture, traditions, and customs you come from, influencing your beliefs and way of life.
- blend in: (verb phrase) To fit in with others and not attract attention.
- stand out: (verb phrase) To be different from others in a noticeable way.
- initial appearance: (noun phrase) The way someone looks when you first meet them.
- physical imperfections: (noun phrase) Features or qualities on someone's body that are not considered "perfect" by some standards.
- differ: (verb) To be unlike something else, to have different characteristics.
- self-expression: (noun phrase) Showing your true personality and individuality through your words, actions, and choices.
- social interactions: (noun phrase) Conversations, activities, and connections you have with other people.

