Unit 23
Character and Personality.
Describing People

In preparation for our school reunion of 2002, we would like to collect some information from you. Your responses on the topic of “My Favourite Professor” will be printed and handed out at the reunion.

Favourite Professor Survey Responses

My Favourite Professor …

Our college experience is memorable for many reasons. We remember where we studied, our favourite courses, our least favourite courses, our professors and mentors. Some of them caused us headaches, but some of them walked us through our college experience and showed us the way.

My favourite Professor was Dr. Robert Davies, a wonderful teacher - knowledgeable and witty!

I first met Professor Davies as a freshman. In his mid-forties, tall and slim, he always entered the room with a smile on his face. His warm blue eyes gave us comfort and confidence and we could easily forget the boundaries and talk. He was one of those teachers who could also listen. He was truly able to relate to his students and bring himself to the level of those he taught. His lecture style was captivating and motivating. He was the one who challenged us to think differently, because we were taught not only the content of the syllabus, but also how to apply the learned content to life.

Speech Acts

Questions about people

APPEARANCE
What does Robert look like?
He’s tall and slim with blue eyes and fair hair.

PERSONALITY
What is she like? (What’s she like?)
She is calm, generous and caring.

Qualities which students value most in professors:
Knowledgeable
Clear
Funny
Caring
Encouraging
Approachable
Interesting
Good lecturer

Info File
A survey may refer to a questionnaire which consists of a series of questions used to gather information from respondents.

The questionnaire was invented by Sir Francis Galton.

Vocabulary

appearance = înfăţişare
approachable = accesibil, afabil
caring = grijuliu
clear = clar, limpede
to collect = a aduna, a colecta
content = conţinut
encouraging = încurajator
freshman = student în anul I, boboc
to gather = a strânge, a aduna
to hand out = a înmâna
domestic = domnesc
handsome = chipeş, frumos
knowledgeable = priceput, informat
lecturer = conferenţiar
memorable = memorabil
mentor = mentor, dascăl
mid = din mijloc
questionnaire = chestionar
to refer to = a se referi la
to relate = a fi în legătură
respondent = persoana chestionată
series = serie
slim = subţirel
survey = sondaj de opinie
syllabus = programă analitică, plan de învăţământ
talkative = vorbăreţ
to value = a aprecia
witty = spiritual, amuzant
wonderful = minunat

Phrases

to bring oneself to the level = a (se) coborî la nivelul

to walk someone through = a conduce, a ghida

Opposites

beautiful ≠ ugly
slim ≠ fat

REMEMBER!

beautiful (women only)
handsome (men only)
pretty (girls only)
good looking men, women, boys
ugly men, women
attractive men, women, girls, boys
### A. Passive Voice (G. VIII)
Structure: **TO BE** *(am, are, is, was, were, has been, have been, had been, will be, being)* + Past Participle

*We say:* Bell invented the telephone, because we are talking about Bell. (ACTIVE)

*We say:* The telephone was invented by Bell, because we are talking about the phone. (PASSIVE)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Agent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bell</td>
<td>invented</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The telephone</td>
<td>was invented</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NEVER change the tense when turning an Active sentence into a Passive one.

### B. Verbs with two objects (G. VIII. 1):
Some English verbs, such as *buy, give, lend, make, pay, promise, sell, send, teach,* can be followed by two objects: a direct object and an indirect object. Usually the first object (the indirect object) is a person and the second object (the direct object) is a thing. When we want to reverse the order of the two objects, we must put *to* or *for* in front of the indirect object.

*Example:* 1. The Chemistry teacher gave the students a lecture on nuclear reaction.
2. The Chemistry teacher gave a lecture on nuclear reaction to the students.

When there are two possible active sentences, there are also two possible passive sentences as well.

*Example:* 1. The students were explained the reaction (by the Chemistry teacher).
2. The reaction was explained to the students (by the Chemistry teacher).

#### 1. Turn the following active sentences into passive:
- a. The rescue teams saved many people from the flood.
  - Many people were rescued from the flood.
- b. He challenged us to think differently.
  - We were challenged to think differently.
- c. We take the dog out every evening.
  - The dog is taken out every evening.
- d. The cat has chased the mouse all morning.
  - The mouse has been chased by the cat all morning.
- e. She had placed the ad before we arrived.
  - The ad had been placed before we arrived.
- f. They will fill in the forms at the university.
  - The forms will be filled in at the university.
- g. The manager is interviewing Sue.
  - Sue is being interviewed by the manager.

#### 2. The following active sentences contain verbs with two objects. Turn them into passive:
- a. He taught us the content of the syllabus.
  - We were taught the content of the syllabus.
- b. John buys Mary flowers every week.
  - Mary is bought flowers by John every week.
- c. Jane has sent Kelly a beautiful letter.
  - A beautiful letter has been sent to Kelly by Jane.
- d. Tom will give them the registration form.
  - The registration form will be given to them by Tom.
- e. The teacher is explaining to the students the exercise.
  - The students are being explained the exercise by the teacher.
Writing informal letters vs. formal letters

Dearest Rose,

It’s been ages since I last wrote a letter to you. Actually this is the first one since e-mail was invented, isn’t it? Are you all fine? It’s horrible what a storm can do! Anyway it meant a reason to write a letter… I couldn’t wait for them to re-established the Internet connection! You might have guessed by now that this letter has a special purpose. So, be prepared to read the big news: Mr. Right exists! I had a blind date last week, can you imagine that? He’s tall and handsome with dark hair and big brown eyes… He’s calm and caring, generous and sensitive. I was given flowers on my first date… It’s so romantic that I do wonder if this is really happening to me! You must come to London to meet him! Give all my best wishes to Alex and Kim, your parents and all our friends.

Love,
Carrie

Formal Letter Style and Format

Your name and address must be written in the right upper corner.

The address of the person to whom you are writing should be written on the left starting below your address.

The greeting:

a. if you do not know the name, it’s Dear Sir or Madam
b. if you know the name, it’s Dear Mr./Ms./Mrs./Miss/Dr./Grey

Signing off:

- if you do not know the name, write: Yours faithfully.
- if you know the name, write: Yours sincerely.

Always write your name under your signature.

Vocabulary

absent-minded = distrat, uituc below = sub, dedesubt charming = încântător, fermecător complaint = plângere, reclamaţie cute = isteţ, nostim daring = îndrăzneţ determined = hotărât, ferm greedy = lacom to guess = a ghici intent = intenţie jolly = vesel mischievous = rău, ticălos nagging = cicălitor neat = curat, de bun gust quick-tempered = irascibil, reasonable = chibzuit, raţional reference = referinţă resignation = demisie selfish = egoist sensitive = sensibil to sign off = a încheia stubborn = încăpăţânat trusting = de încredere unfriendly = neprietenos wise = înţelept to wonder = a se întreba, a se mira

Phrases

it’s been ages = e o veşnicie to have a blind date = întâlnire romantică cu o persoană necunoscăută

Some types of letters:

- Application letter
- Business letter
- Cover letter
- Letter of complaint
- Letter of intent
- Letter of resignation
- Love letter
- Recommendation letter
- Reference letter
- Thank you letter
Language Use  Practice

C. Adjectives for character traits (G.IV)
absent-minded ambitious brave calm charming clever courageous cruel daring determined forgiving friendly generous greedy hard-working helpful intelligent jolly kind lazy loyal mischievous nagging neat organized patient polite quiet-tempered quiet reasonable relaxed self-centred selfish sensitive serious stubborn suspicious talkative trusting understanding unfriendly unkind wise witty

3. Make a list of the adjectives that describe your character traits

4. Match the adjectives in column A with their definitions in column B
A.  
1. absent-minded  
2. jolly  
3. stubborn  
4. nagging  
5. greedy  
B.  
a. determined not to change your mind  
b. always complaining  
c. always wanting more money, food, etc.  
d. happy  
e. forgetful

D. Adjectives for appearance
attractive beautiful black blonde big brown clean cute dark dirty fair fat grey handsome heavy large light little long old pretty short slim small tall thin ugly young etc.

5. Use some of the adjectives in the charts above to describe the characters in the image:

6. Give the opposites of the following adjectives:
dark ≠ … ; slim ≠ … ; large ≠ … ; young ≠ … ; short ≠ … ; handsome ≠ … ; little ≠ … ; clean ≠ … ; beautiful ≠ … ; heavy ≠ …

7. Write a short letter to your best friend telling him/her about your favourite course in college:

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