

Lesson 13

Human Behavior

All the words in this lesson are attributes that may describe human behavior.

- amenable** ADJ. open; flexible; willing to yield or cooperate (The baseball player was *amenable* to criticism aimed at improving his flawed swing.)
- bellicose** ADJ. warlike; inclined to start quarrels or fights (Fred's *bellicose* manner frightened his friends.)
- cantankerous** ADJ. ill-tempered; difficult to deal with (The patient's *cantankerous* comments kept the nurses on edge.)
- capricious** ADJ. subject to whim; springing from unclear, unpredictable motives (The instructor's *capricious* dressing habits made us wonder what he would wear next.)
- compassionate** ADJ. sympathetic; able to share another's feelings (After a difficult day, I talk with my *compassionate* friend, and I feel better.)
- conscientious** ADJ. paying close attention to detail; thorough (We hired Maureen because of her reputation for *conscientious* work.)
- crotchety** ADJ. subject to irritable whim or crankiness (Our *crotchety* neighbor sits on the porch and grumbles when we say hello.)
- cynical** ADJ. scornful or distrustful of goodness in anything or anyone (Mrs. Weintraub does not vote because she is *cynical* of the political process.)
- discreet** ADJ. showing good judgment and thoughtful reserve in conduct and speech (Because Ned is *discreet*, he is entrusted with confidential information.)
- dynamic** ADJ. full of energy; forceful (The new employee's *dynamic* personality caused everyone else to work more briskly and efficiently.)
- foolhardy** ADJ. foolishly adventurous with little or no regard to good sense (The child's *foolhardy* attempts to fly by flapping her arms brought laughter from the gathering crowd.)
- fractious** ADJ. quarrelsome; having a fighting attitude (The deliberations were prolonged due to one juror's *fractious* remarks.)
- gullible** ADJ. easily fooled or deceived (I was so *gullible* that I believed everything the salesperson told me.)
- meticulous** ADJ. extremely orderly, careful, and precise concerning details (Always careful, Clark became *meticulous* when taking an exam.)
- naive** ADJ. innocent; lacking worldly wisdom (I was *naive* when I began college, but I soon learned all about my new situation.)
- personable** ADJ. having a nature that pleases others (All applicants must be *personable* since this job entails working closely with people.)
- pretentious** ADJ. having to do with an unjustified appearance of importance (Being in the public eye causes many people in the acting business to become *pretentious*.)
- prudent** ADJ. cautiously wise; having good judgment (Andrew is a *prudent* accountant, but he is extravagant in his personal life.)
- versatile** ADJ. flexible; able to do a variety of things (Because she was such a *versatile* athlete, she was offered a number of scholarships.)
- wayward** ADJ. willful; uncontrollable; unpredictable (Greg's *wayward* behavior caused him to clash frequently with his disciplinary relatives.)