



Coffee personality

Lesson code: 1392-71QE-V67E

Pre-intermediate (A2-B1)

 American English

1 Warm up

Do you drink coffee? Why/why not? What kind of coffee do you like?

2 Character traits

Study the following adjectives. Find their meaning in a dictionary and describe each person below.

confident
impatient
moody

demanding
impulsive
rude

health-conscious
laid-back
sensitive

1. Nicola never says things like "please", "thank you", "good morning."
2. Paul goes running every morning, and he never eats junk food.
3. Anna is not afraid to speak in public.
4. Be careful what you say in front of Michael. He doesn't like it when people criticize him.
5. Joe is never stressed.
6. Katrina wants everything to be perfect all the time.
7. Alan often does things without thinking.
8. John doesn't like waiting. If I am 5 minutes late, he goes crazy.
9. At the moment, Kate is very friendly, but in one minute she can become angry or depressed.

3 Predict the answers

You are going to read about a study of coffee drinkers and their character traits. In the sentences below, put 'latte', 'cappuccino', 'black coffee', 'instant coffee', and 'cold and sweet coffee'. Then read the text to check your answers.

1. People who drink _____ can sometimes be rude and impatient.
2. _____ drinkers can be a little moody.
3. People who drink _____ tend to be confident but sometimes impulsive.
4. _____ drinkers tend to be very demanding and health-conscious.
5. People who drink _____ tend to be laid-back.



THE
INDEPENDENT

What does your coffee say about you?

A new study reveals the personality traits of caffeine lovers.

Every morning in the U.K., caffeine lovers drink 70 million cups of coffee.

However, drinking coffee doesn't just give you energy in the morning. The type of coffee which you like to drink can also reveal a lot about your personality, according to a new study.

Clinical psychologist Dr. Ramani Durvasula analyzed 1000 coffee lovers and looked at common character traits, for example patience, perfectionism, friendliness, sensitivity, and social confidence.

In her results, Dr. Durvasula found that people who prefer black coffee have a tendency to prefer the simple life. However, they can also sometimes be ruder and more impatient than the other groups. Also, they dislike changes.

In contrast, latte drinkers typically want to please

other people, but they can also be slightly moodier than black coffee drinkers.

'Perfectionist' cappuccino drinkers seem to have the most demanding personalities. According to Dr. Durvasula's research, they tend to be more controlling and obsessive than the other groups. They also tend to be the most sensitive group, and they can be very health-conscious.

Instant coffee drinkers seem to be much more laid-back than the other groups. They often delay things that they need to do.

Finally, the people who prefer their coffee cold and sweet were considered socially confident 'trend-setters' who are sometimes impulsive.

Adapted from The Independent, by Heather Saul Friday, September 20th, 2013

4 Word families

Find the noun forms of each of the adjectives below:

1. confident (*adjective*) - confidence (*noun*)
2. patient (*adjective*) - _____ (*noun*)
3. sensitive (*adjective*) - _____ (*noun*)
4. friendly (*adjective*) - _____ (*noun*)

5 Talking point

What do you think of the information in the article? Is it true? Think about yourself and your friends or coworkers.



6 Comparative and superlative adjectives

Look at these two sentences from the text:

'Perfectionist' cappuccino drinkers seem to have the most demanding personalities.

Instant coffee drinkers seem to be much more laid-back than the other groups.

'More laid-back' and 'the most demanding' are the comparative and superlative forms of 'laid-back' and 'demanding'. How do we form the comparative and superlative forms of adjectives? Study the table below:

	Comparative form	Superlative form
words with one syllable	Add -er (or -r) cheap --> cheaper nice --> nicer _____ --> _____	Add -est (or -st) cheap --> cheapest nice --> nicest
two-syllable words ending in -y	-y --> -ier early --> earlier lucky --> luckier _____ --> _____	-y --> -iest early --> earliest lucky --> luckiest
two or more syllables	Use more ... expensive --> more expensive boring --> more boring _____ --> _____ _____ --> _____ _____ --> _____	Use most ... expensive --> most expensive boring --> most boring _____ --> _____ _____ --> _____

Important points

1) After comparatives, use **than**:

The bus is cheaper **than** the train.

2) Before comparative forms, you can use **much / a lot / a bit / a little / slightly**:

Plane tickets are **much** more expensive than train tickets.

The United States is **a lot** bigger than Mexico.

3) We usually use **the** before superlative forms:

The plane is **the fastest** option. He is one of **the most interesting** people I know.

4) These adjectives have irregular forms:

good - **better** - **best** bad - **worse** - **worst** far - **further/farther** - **furthest**

Find examples of comparative and superlative adjectives in the text and add them to the table.



7 Practice 1

Complete each sentence using a comparative form with 'much', 'a lot', 'slightly', or 'a little'. More than one answer is possible.



	Smart car	SUV
Price	\$16,000	\$17,000
Maximum speed	80 km/h	200 km/h

- The SUV is much faster than the Smart car. (fast)
- The Smart car is _____ than the SUV. (slow)
- The SUV is _____ than the Smart car. (expensive)
- The SUV is _____ than the Smart car. (big)
- The Smart car is _____ than the SUV. (cheap)
- The Smart car is _____ than the SUV. (small)

8 Practice 2

Complete each sentence with a comparative or superlative form of the verb in parenthesis.

- Honey is sweeter than bread. (sweet)
- This is the worst weather we've had in years. (bad)
- Italian is much _____ to learn than Chinese. (easy)
- Chinese is much _____ to learn than Italian. (difficult)
- The town square is a lot _____ than I thought. (far)
- This is one of _____ dishes I've ever eaten! (delicious)
- Joe is _____ member of his family. (young) His two brothers are much _____ than him. (old)
- Microsoft is one of _____ companies in the world. (big)
- Old telephones were much _____ than modern smartphones. (heavy)
- Michael is a professional singer. He's a lot _____ than his brother. (talented)
- This is _____ month of the year, so I need to buy some sweaters. (cold)



2 Character traits

Have students look up the meaning of the words or try to demonstrate their meaning. Students can work individually and check in pairs. Go through the answers.

- | | | | | |
|--------------|---------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1. rude | 2. health-conscious | 3. confident | 4. sensitive | 5. laid-back |
| 6. demanding | 7. impulsive | 8. impatient | 9. moody | |

3 Predict the answers

Go through the sentences. Make sure the phrase 'tend to..' is understood. Students read the text and check their answers.

1. black coffee
2. Latte
3. cold and sweet coffee
4. Cappuccino
5. instant coffee

4 Word families

- | | | |
|-------------|----------------|-----------------|
| 2. patience | 3. sensitivity | 4. friendliness |
|-------------|----------------|-----------------|

6 Comparative and superlative adjectives

Review the comparative and superlative forms. Students read the text again to find more examples. Answers:

- rude - ruder (add -er/-r to one-syllable adjectives)
 moody - moodier (change -y --> -ier)
 impatient --> more impatient (more + two or more syllables)
 controlling --> more controlling (more + two or more syllables)
 laid-back --> more laid-back (more + two or more syllables)
 demanding --> most demanding (most + two or more syllables)
 sensitive --> most sensitive (most + two or more syllables)

7 Practice 1

2. much/a lot slower
3. slightly/a little more expensive
4. much/a lot bigger
5. slightly/a bit cheaper
6. much/a lot smaller

8 Practice 2

- | | | | |
|------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| 3. easier | 4. more difficult | 5. further/farther | 6. the most delicious |
| 7. the youngest; older | 8. the biggest | 9. heavier | 10. more talented |
| 11. the coldest | | | |

