

# at·ti·tude S2 W1 AC

/ˈætᵻtjuːd \$ -tuːd/

noun

- 1 [uncountable and countable] ATTITUDE the opinions and feelings that you usually have about something, especially when this is shown in your behaviour:

*As soon as they found out I was a doctor, their whole attitude changed.*

**attitude to/towards**

*The people have a very positive attitude to life.*

- 2 [uncountable] (informal) UNUSUAL a style of dressing, behaving etc that shows you have the confidence to do unusual and exciting things without caring what other people think:

**with attitude**

*a coat with attitude*

— **attitudinal** /ˌætᵻtjuːd nəl \$ -tuː- adjective

## COLLOCATIONSense 1

### adjectives

good/ bad *a lazy student with a bad attitude*

positive/ negative *A positive attitude is essential if you want to be successful. |*

*Many teenagers have a very negative attitude towards cooking.*

relaxed *On Bali, there is a healthier, more relaxed attitude to life.*

favourable (= having a good opinion of something or someone) *Older people tend to have a favourable attitude to the police.*

critical (= showing you disagree with or disapprove of someone or something) *People's attitude towards US foreign policy has*

*become increasingly critical.*

ambivalent (= not sure if you approve of something) *The public have a rather ambivalent attitude towards science.*

cavalier (= very careless, especially about something serious or important) *his cavalier attitude to the truth*

patronizing/condescending (= showing that you think you are more important or intelligent than someone) *complaints about patronising attitudes towards women*

aggressive/hostile (= showing anger) *Their attitude suddenly became more aggressive.*

public attitudes/people's attitudes *Public attitudes have changed.*

political attitudes *a survey of people's political attitudes*

mental attitude *There is a strong connection between health and mental attitude.*

somebody's whole attitude *His whole attitude seemed different.*

the general attitude *His general attitude to our situation was unsympathetic.*

## verbs

have/take/adopt an attitude *Not everyone takes a positive attitude towards modern art.*

somebody's attitude changes *As you get older, your attitude changes.*

an attitude exists *This attitude no longer exists in the church.*

somebody's attitude hardens (= they feel less sympathy and they want to be stricter or firmer) *People's attitudes towards sex offenders have hardened.*

## phrases

an attitude of mind (**BrE**) (= a way of thinking) *Being young is simply an attitude of mind.*

somebody has an attitude problem (= someone is not helpful or pleasant to be with) *Some of the male students have a real attitude problem.*

**Word origin**

**Date:** 1600–1700

**Language:** French

**Origin:** Late Latin *aptitudo* 'fitness', from Latin *aptus*; → APT

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