



Social Skills

Tact

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Tact

Tact requires putting yourself in someone else's shoes and seeing things from his or her perspective. This handout works directly on the ability to understand others' points of view, to evaluate statements' properties of offensiveness, bragging, inappropriateness, over-generalization and prejudice. Students are presented with a list of nineteen statements to use for discussion regarding the tactless elements of each, and, more specifically, how each statement could make another person feel. Includes an answer key.

Name _____

Date _____

Being Tactful

Directions: What is insensitive about each of the following statements?

1. I would never put one of my parents in a nursing home.
2. Are you scared to walk around your neighborhood?
3. Our president is an idiot!
4. If I ended up being a waiter I would feel like a total failure.
5. My parents just bought a new projector for our theater room.
6. Women are the worst drivers.
7. Are you going to Amy's party this Saturday?
8. Halloween is for babies.
9. You thought that test was hard??
10. Jesus Christ is my personal savior.
11. After my cruise to the Bahamas, I'm going skiing in Switzerland.
12. If my boss asks me one more stupid question I'm going to strangle him.
13. I'm so glad I'm not crippled.
14. I would never take medication for depression.
15. People can't understand what I'm saying because of my high intelligence.
16. I usually hang with college kids.
17. That test was so easy!
18. There are a lot of Jews moving into my neighborhood.
19. Did you hear that Danny's mom is gay?



Being Tactful — Answer Key

Directions: What is insensitive about each of the following statements?

1. I would never put one of my parents in a nursing home.

Implies that someone who has done this is uncaring.

2. Are you scared to walk around your neighborhood?

Implies that the person you are talking to lives in a “bad” neighborhood.

3. Our president is an idiot!

You usually shouldn’t discuss politics, religion, or sex.

4. If I ended up being a waiter I would feel like a total failure.

What if the person you are talking to or one of his or her loved ones is a waiter or waitress?

5. My parents just bought a new projector for our theater room.

You are bragging about your or your family’s wealth.

6. Women are the worst drivers.

You just insulted half the population.

7. Are you going to Amy’s party this Saturday?

What if the person you are talking to wasn’t invited?

8. Halloween is for babies.

What if the person you are talking to enjoys Halloween?

You just implied that he or she is immature.

9. You thought that test was hard??

You just implied that the person you are talking to is dumb.

10. Jesus Christ is my personal savior.

See number three.



- 11.** After my cruise to the Bahamas, I'm going skiing in Switzerland.
Again, sounds like bragging about your wealth. Also, this can make someone feel bad if he or she cannot afford to go anywhere.
- 12.** If my boss asks me one more stupid question I'm going to strangle him.
It is very unprofessional to badmouth anyone at your job, and you should never verbalize a threat, even when joking.
- 13.** I'm so glad I'm not crippled.
What if the person you are talking to has a loved one who is disabled?
- 14.** I would never take medication for depression.
Implies that someone who takes medication for depression is weak or misguided.
- 15.** People can't understand what I'm saying because of my high intelligence.
Bragging about your intelligence while insulting others' intelligence is pretty obnoxious!
- 16.** I usually hang with college kids.
Implies that the person you are talking to is not mature enough for you.
- 17.** That test was so easy!
This statement is bragging and also could make anyone who didn't find the test easy feel dumb.
- 18.** There are a lot of Jews moving into my neighborhood.
Even if it's true, why are you mentioning it? This statement implies anti-Semitism.
- 19.** Did you hear that Danny's mom is gay?
Even if it's true, why are you gossiping? Also, this statement implies that there's something wrong with, or at the very least noteworthy about, being gay.