

Complimenting Others

Month: Dec.

Week #: 15

Day: e. Fri. Time: 20 minutes

Qualifiers, Smalifiers!!

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Objectives/Aims

The students will: recognize that attaching a qualifier to a compliment can negate the positive qualities of that compliment

Materials

none

Illustration

Once again Jamal is thinking really hard to think of a good compliment. If you were Leila, which of these two compliments would you like to receive?

With Qualifier
 "Leila, you are a really nice person except when you get mad and yell at me!"



Without Qualifier
 "Leila you are a really nice person that goes out of your way to help me."

Background

In giving a compliment, students need to understand that if they attach a negative comment to the compliment, it can ruin the positive effects of the compliment. Sometimes, due to a person's poor self-image, a person tends to focus on the negative more than the positive.

Group Activity

1. Review with the students what they have learned during the past few days about compliments.

2. Say to 'Ike' the invisible kid sitting in the middle of the circle, "Hey Ike, I'm really impressed with how you go out of your way to help your fellow students, but your shoes smell like horse manure!" To the students in the circle say, "Here's another example. Listen carefully to what I say. I will say something that will negate, or ruin, the compliment I give to Ike." To Ike say, "Wow, Ike, you really gave it your all in that soccer game... too bad you're such a lousy shot!" Ask the students what ruined the compliments to Ike in the two examples. *A: A negative comment was paired with the compliment that ruined the compliment.* Say to the students, "We call that negative comment added to a compliment either a 'qualifier' or a 'smalifier.' A qualifier can effectively negate what would ordinarily be a very positive compliment. A smalifier is a made-up word based on the word 'small' meaning that it can make a positive compliment small and insignificant.

3. Invite the students to demonstrate giving compliments to Ike with a negative qualifier attached.

Group Discussion Questions

1. How would you feel if you were Ike and someone gave you a compliment with a negative qualifier or smalifier attached?

A: Probably sad or let down.

Conclusion

Say, "If your intent is to make somebody feel good and build up their self-esteem, remember that a negative qualifier or smalifier can negate your intentions and ruin that perfectly good compliment!"

With Qualifier
“Leila, you are a really nice person except when you get mad and yell at me!”



Without Qualifier
“Leila you are a really nice person that goes out of your way to help me.”

Once again Jamal is thinking really hard to think of a good compliment. If you were Leila, which of these two compliments would you like to receive?