

Compliments and Responses

Watch the clips and take notes on the compliment and compliment response.

English examples:

Clip 1: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IHBqsN9Blsc> (0-0:6 seconds)

1. What was the compliment?
2. How did the person who received the compliment respond to the compliment?

Clip 2:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ednP1njw4J0&index=35&list=PL4VjYMnxdYuWo2h3TUlaxOaW9m9Y8CPrr> (0:33-0:53)

1. What was the compliment?
2. How did the person who received the compliment respond to the compliment?

Clip 3: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iMgilwS2wSE> (0:29-0:36)

1. What was the compliment?
2. How did the person who received the compliment respond to the compliment?

Spanish examples:

Clip 4: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pwyc248e4I4> (23:37- 23:49)

1. What was the compliment?
2. How did the person who received the compliment respond to the compliment?

Clip 5: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9WbZUjCcLdU> (8:59-9:05)

1. What was the compliment?
2. How did the person who received the compliment respond to the compliment?



Analysis

Now identify the function or strategy for each compliment in the examples above, and then compare your answers with a partner.

Functions and strategies for complimenting:

1. Express admiration or approval of someone's work/appearance/taste
2. Establish/confirm/maintain solidarity (solidary= unity/accord)
3. Serve as an alternative to greetings/gratitude/apologies/congratulations
4. Soften face-threatening acts such as apologies, requests, and criticism
5. Open and sustain conversation/ice breaker/social lubricant
6. Reinforce desired behavior
7. Sarcasm/Positive Irony/Opposite of what they mean
8. Using a construction starting with "how....!" (How beautiful you are!)

Now identify the function or strategy for each compliment in the examples above, and then compare your answers with a partner.

Strategies for responding to compliments:

1. Accept
 - Token of appreciation (Thank you)
 - Acceptance by means of a comment (Yeah, it's my favorite, too.)
 - Upgrading the compliment by self-praise (Yeah, I can play other sports.)
2. Mitigate
 - Comment about history (I bought it for the trip to Arizona.)
 - Shifting the credit (My brother gave it to me.)
 - Questioning or requesting reassurance or repetition (Do you really like them?)
 - Reciprocating (So's yours!)
 - Reciprocal actions
3. Reject
 - Disagreement (A: You look good and healthy. B: I feel fat)
4. No response.
5. Request interpretation
 - Addressee interprets the compliment as a request (You wanna borrow this one too?)

