

The word *appearance* refers to the way that somebody or something looks to others. When something presents an attractive appearance, it is often judged in a positive way. Appearances, however, can be misleading. Two traditional sayings that warn against judging something only by its appearance are "You can't tell a book by its cover" and "All that glitters is not gold." The words in this lesson describe many ways in which people and things can appear.

## WORD LIST

becoming  
chic  
debonair  
disheveled  
dowdy  
drab  
garb  
rumpled  
unsightly  
veneer

## DEFINITIONS

After you have studied the definitions and example for each word, write the vocabulary word on the line to the right.

1. **becoming** (bĭ-kŭm'ing) *adjective* Attractive; suitable; pleasing to the eye.

**Related Word** *becomingly* *adverb*

**Example** People like to wear colors that are *becoming*.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. **chic** (shĕk) *adjective* a. Stylish; fashionable. b. Fashionably dressed.  
*noun* Elegance; sophistication.

**Related Word** *chicly* *adverb*

**Example** The *chic* restaurant attracted the most sophisticated people in town.

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. **debonair** (děb'ə-nâr') *adjective* Sophisticated in a lively, gracious manner. (From the Old French phrase *de bonne aire*, meaning "of good disposition")

**Example** The *debonair* guide took us to the most famous sites in Europe.

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. **disheveled** (dĭ-shĕv'əld) *adjective* Untidy, messy. (From the Old French word *descheveler*, meaning "to disarrange the hair")

**Related Word** *dishevelment* *noun*

**Example** The child's clothes became *disheveled* while he played on the gym equipment.

4. \_\_\_\_\_  
See *rumpled*.

5. **dowdy** (dou'dē) *adjective* Shabby and lacking in style.

5. \_\_\_\_\_

**Related Words** **dowdily** *adverb*; **dowdiness** *noun*

**Example** Dowdy clothes are out of place at elegant parties.

6. **drab** (drăb) *adjective* Faded and dull in appearance; uninteresting.

6. \_\_\_\_\_

**Related Words** **drably** *adverb*; **drabness** *noun*

**Example** The gray clouds and cold drizzle made the day seem *drab*.

7. **garb** (gärb) *noun* Clothing, especially clothing for a particular job or occasion.

7. \_\_\_\_\_

**Example** People in many countries have distinctive national *garb*.

8. **rumpled** (rum'pəld) *adjective* Wrinkled or creased.

8. \_\_\_\_\_

**Related Word** **rumple** *verb*

**Example** Clothing that is not carefully folded or hung on hangers becomes *rumpled*.

USAGE NOTE: *Rumpled* means wrinkled or creased; *disheveled* means in disorder or wind-blown.

9. **unsightly** (ūn-sīt'lē) *adjective* Ugly; unpleasant to look at.

9. \_\_\_\_\_

**Related Word** **unsightliness** *noun*

**Example** The essay was well written, but Terri crossed out so many words that the pages were *unsightly*.

10. **veneer** (vē-nîr') *noun* **a.** An appearance that gives a favorable, though false, impression: *a veneer of friendliness*. **b.** A layer of material, such as wood, covering another, usually inferior, material.

10. \_\_\_\_\_

**Example** He hid his unhappiness beneath a cheerful *veneer*.



NAME \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

**EXERCISE 1 WRITING CORRECT WORDS**

On the answer line, write the word from the vocabulary list that fits each definition.

1. Faded and dull in appearance
2. Wrinkled or creased
3. An appearance giving a favorable but false impression
4. Untidy; messy
5. Old-fashioned in appearance; unstylish
6. Sophisticated in a lively manner
7. Unpleasant to look at
8. Stylish
9. Clothing for a particular job or occasion
10. Pleasant to look at; suitable

**EXERCISE 2 USING WORDS CORRECTLY**

Each of the following statements contains an italicized vocabulary word. Decide whether the sentence is true or false, and write *True* or *False* on the answer line.

1. A *debonair* person is ill at ease with other people.
2. A cheerful *veneer* might disguise unhappiness.
3. A *chic* woman does not keep up with the latest fashion trends.
4. A *becoming* suit adds to one's appearance.
5. *Rumpled* sheets should be smoothed and straightened when a bed is made.
6. A person with untidy hair and rumpled clothing looks *disheveled*.
7. A well-tended garden is *unsightly* all summer long.
8. Violet, bright yellow, and scarlet are all *drab* colors.
9. The *garb* of a ballerina includes a leotard and toe shoes.
10. Someone wearing an old moth-eaten sweater, torn stockings, and worn-out shoes would look *dowdy*.

### EXERCISE 3 CHOOSING THE BEST DEFINITION

For each italicized vocabulary word in the following sentences, write the letter of the best definition on the answer line.

1. The spilled paint left an *unsightly* splotch on the rug.  
a. indelible      b. indistinct      c. dark      d. ugly
2. The campers looked *disheveled* after hiking through the underbrush.  
a. dirty      b. exhausted      c. messy      d. confused
3. The hospital corridors were painted a *drab* green.  
a. dull      b. bright      c. dark      d. ugly
4. The acrobat hid his fear beneath a *veneer* of calm.  
a. feeling      b. reaction      c. pretense      d. performance
5. Kim's blue dress is *becoming* because it emphasizes her beautiful eyes.  
a. attractive      b. sensible      c. striking      d. dull
6. Louise looked very trim in her fire-fighting *garb*.  
a. helmet      b. clothes      c. boots      d. truck
7. The hotel had *dowdy* old sofas in the lobby.  
a. soft      b. big      c. antique      d. unfashionable
8. Many *debonair* young men and women attended the movie star's garden party.  
a. hopeful      b. sophisticated      c. rich      d. happy
9. Nick's clothes were so *rumpled* that we thought he had slept in them.  
a. wrinkled      b. messy      c. torn      d. unsightly
10. Cristobal Balenciaga made very *chic* clothes.  
a. lovely      b. short      c. bizarre      d. stylish

### EXERCISE 4 USING DIFFERENT FORMS OF WORDS

Each sentence contains an italicized vocabulary word in a form that does not fit the sentence. On the answer line, write the form of that word that does fit the sentence.

1. The *dowdy* of the apartment made it very unpleasant to live in.
2. The *unsightly* of the school yard led the students to sponsor a clean-up day.
3. Though it belonged to her sister, the child's dress fit her quite *becoming*.
4. A bright wall hanging can sometimes lessen the *drab* of a room.
5. Catherine is always very *chic* dressed.
6. The clown's clothes were in a permanent state of *disheveled*.
7. One should not dress *drab* when planning to dance the tango.
8. Roman likes to *rumpled* his pillows when he goes to sleep.
9. My uncle was dressed *dowdy* in an old bathrobe when we arrived.
10. By *rumpled* paper, you can throw it farther.