

# Lesson 2: How to Give Compliments to Tutees



## Introduction

When correctly used, compliments can motivate people to do their best. This lesson shows peer tutors how to use compliments as motivational tools during tutoring. Remember that paying compliments is not a habit that comes naturally to most children in the primary or intermediate grades. It is a skill that must be taught and practiced!

## Estimated Time

- 30-40 minutes

## Materials Needed

- Poster: *What is a Compliment?*
- Poster: *Examples of Compliments*
- *Peer Tutoring Examples: Give a Compliment!* worksheet (1 copy for group leader)
- *Peer Tutoring: How Would You Give a Compliment to This Student?* worksheet (copies for each student-pair)
- YES/NO Signs to be posted on the wall
- Colorful, assorted small stickers

## Training Steps

1. **Compliment tutors.** Begin this lesson by paying several compliments to student tutors. Your positive comments can be directed at individuals or to the whole group. You might vary these compliments to focus on appearance (e.g., "Those sneakers look neat, Raphael!"), behavior (e.g., "Thanks, Karen, for helping me to set up the room today for our lesson."), and effort (e.g., "Jared, you always work hard and pay attention during these lessons. I really like that.").
2. **Introduce the concept of a 'compliment.'** Define the term 'compliment' for students. You can use the following definition from the *What is a Compliment?* poster:

*"Today we are going to talk about compliments. You pay a compliment to someone when you say something nice about him or her. People like to hear comments about their good behavior, how hard they are working, or their appearance. When we compliment others, we should always be positive and always mean what we say."*

Ask students to come up with positive statements that they would like hear others say about them. Also, tell students that compliments do not always have to be spoken. Positive gestures such as a 'thumbs up' or 'high five' are good examples of non-verbal compliments when they are used to acknowledge a 'job well done'.

3. **Present sample 'compliment' statements.** Show students the *Examples of Compliments* poster. Tell students that we can use statements like those on the poster to compliment others. Read through the items on the poster. Call on students to give complete examples of any incomplete items from the poster. Encourage discussion about when students might use these statements.
  - I really like the way that you...
  - Thank you for...
  - Great work today!
  - You look nice this morning!
  - You did a very good job of...
  - It was great that you...
  - I can tell that you are trying really hard. Thanks!
4. **Practice giving compliments.** Read items from the *Peer Tutoring Example: Give a Compliment!* worksheet aloud. For each example, call on a different student to come up with a possible compliment appropriate to the scenario. Be sure to *compliment* students on their statements and—if necessary— offer supportive feedback on how to improve these statements.
5. **Have student pairs develop their own 'compliment' statements.** Divide the peer tutoring group into pairs. Be sure that each pair has a copy of the *Peer Tutoring: How Would You Give a Compliment to This Student?* handout and a pencil. Read through the scenario aloud. Then tell students that they are to write down at least 3 compliments that they might give to the tutee in the scenario. Each 'compliment' statement should be based on some aspect of the scenario.

Ask the student pairs to read their compliment-statements to the group. Be sure to *praise* students on their statements and—if necessary— to give supportive feedback for improving these statements.

At the end of this exercise, tell students that you expect them to give compliments to their tutees *at least 5 times during each tutoring session!*

6. **Give 'Is This a Compliment?' Quiz.** Post the YES and NO signs on the wall in opposite corners of the room. Read the *Is This a Compliment?* statements (below) to the group. If a statement *is* an example of a compliment, students should point to the YES sign. Otherwise, they point to the **NO** sign. If there is disagreement about any item, take a moment to discuss with the group why the statement should or should not be considered a compliment.

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**Is This a Compliment [or positive statement]?**

- "You should walk quietly when you are in the hall." (NO)
- "I am really glad that you are always ready when I come by to pick you up for tutoring." (YES)
- "Please turn to page 8 in your book." (NO)
- [Giving the student a 'high five' when he or she reads a tough word correctly.] (YES)
- "Thank you for remembering to bring your reading book today." (YES)

- “You worked really hard today. Good job!” (YES)
  - “What time do you have to be back in your classroom today?” (NO)
  - “I’ll bet that you have a lot of homework to do in your class.” (NO)
  - “You always choose interesting books for tutoring. They are the kind of books that I would like to read.” (YES)
  - “Are you happy that tomorrow is Saturday?” (NO)
  - “When I listen to you read, I can tell that you have become a much better reader.” (YES)
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7. **Hand out peer tutoring badges and award stickers.** To show tutors that they have done a good job during this lesson, hand out their peer tutoring badges. Allow tutors to select and affix a sticker to their badges, signifying that they have successfully completed the lesson. Then collect the badges.

## Evidence of Student Mastery: “Look-fors”

Students who have mastered the *How to Give Compliments to Tutees* lesson can:

- distinguish statements that *are* compliments from those that *are not*.
- independently pick out positive tutee behaviors to compliment when given a written scenario.
- come up with appropriate wording to create compliments on their own.

# What Is a Compliment?

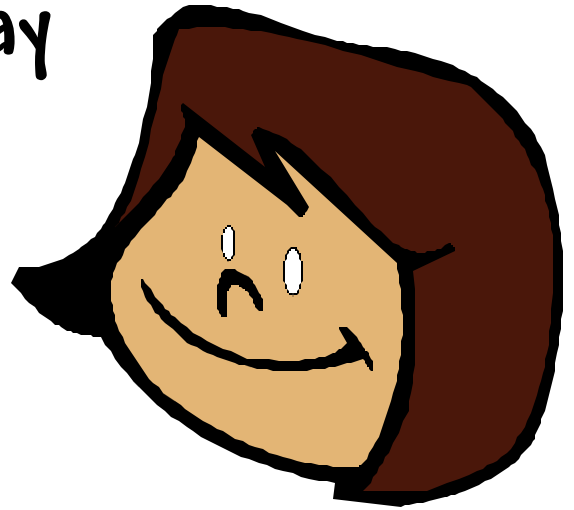
- A compliment is when you say something nice about someone.
- People like to hear comments about their good behavior, how hard they are working, or their appearance.
- When we give compliments, we should always be positive and always mean what we say.



Peer Tutoring: What Is a Compliment?

# Examples of Compliments:

- I really like the way that you...
- Thank you for...
- Great work today!
- You look nice this morning!
- You did a very good job of...
- It was great that you...
- I can tell that you are trying really hard. Thanks!



## *Peer Tutoring Examples: Give a Compliment!*

**Directions:** Read each scenario aloud and have students create a compliment that matches the situation.

1. *You pick up the student that you are tutoring and walk down to the tutoring place. As you walk through the halls, a class of first-graders walk by. They are quite noisy and are fooling around. But your student is quiet and well-behaved, and ignores kids in the hallway who try to get his attention. Once you get to the tutoring place, you say to your student...*
2. *The student that you are tutoring tries extra hard to read her best for you out of her reading book. Just before you take the student back to the classroom at the end of tutoring, you say to her...*
3. *When you go to the classroom to pick up your student, the class is just finishing up a math lesson. The teacher tells you to wait just a few minutes until the lesson is over. Your student looks up and sees you across the room. But he shows good behavior and does not wave at you, yell out, or draw attention to himself. Later, during tutoring, you say to this student...*
4. *When you listen to your student reading out loud one afternoon, you notice that she is reading harder words now...and doesn't seem to need your help as much. You say to the student...*
5. *You notice one day that your student is wearing a new pair of pants and new sneakers that look pretty sharp. You say to the student...*
6. *During tutoring one day, your student pulls a paper out of her reading book. The paper is a drawing that she has made of her favorite pet, a dog named Zolo. You look at the drawing and say...*
7. *While you are tutoring in the school library, there is a fire drill. You and your student file out of the building with the librarian and her class. The fire drill lasts 10 minutes, but your student listens to your directions and is very well-behaved. You say to the student...*
8. *The student brings a book to tutoring that he brought from home. The book looks interesting and has cool pictures of dinosaurs. Your student seems very proud of the book. You say to the student...*

## Peer Tutoring: How Would You Give a Compliment to This Student?

Directions: Read this story about what might happen one day when you are tutoring a student. Then answer the questions at the bottom of the page.

*You pick up the student that you are tutoring and walk upstairs to the library, where your tutoring always takes place.*

*The student goes quietly through the hallway with you, as he usually does.*

*When you get to the library, you have to wait for two minutes until the class already in the room leaves. Your student and you talk quietly by the door until the class goes out.*

*As you begin reading with your student, you suddenly realize that he has a new sweater. It looks really warm and is a nice yellow color.*

*The story that you and your student are reading has a couple of tough words. But your student still tries pretty hard to read words, even when he doesn't know them. He seems really happy to read out loud with you.*

*At the end of tutoring, you are ready to take your student back to his classroom. As you are about to leave the library, your student notices that you forgot your pencil, which is still on the table. He tells you. You take the student back to his classroom where you drop him off. He waves goodbye.*



Write down 3 ways that you would give a compliment to this student. Try to write them just as you would say them:

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

\_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_

**Directions:** Post the YES sign prominently in one corner of the room and the NO sign in another corner. For each item of the *'Is This a Compliment?'* quiz activity, have students point as a group to the sign that correctly answers the item.

YES

NO