

Unit 1 - The Guy with Green Hair / April 1 (Sample Notebook Entry)

First Impressions and New Ideas from the Textbook

The story in the textbook is about company directors discussing a job applicant. The applicant has green hair, and the directors can't decide how to deal with him. Each has a different opinion about what to do.

In Japan, we have very strict guidelines about how to look when looking for a job, so this seems unusual to me. Still, I like having my own style and dressing the way I like.

The textbook seemed very easy.

NEW WORDS AND EXPRESSIONS FROM THE TEXTBOOK

company director 会社役員 applicant 出願人

conformity 適合 peer pressure 仲間からの圧力

Discussion questions and other information online

Study Guides: (<http://tonysensei.net/>)

Download page: (<http://tony-silva.com/download>)

STUDY GUIDE:

I The Guy with Green Hair

- conformity
- compromise
- individuality
- selfish - incorrect usage in Japan
- self-expression
- stick out
- blend in
- fit in
- point of view
- perspective
- consequences
- appearance
- image
- nerd
- geek
- What should the company do?
- Your advice for "Mr. Green?"
- What do you think it means when someone chooses to look or act differently from everyone around him?
- Examples of acceptable/unacceptable appearance for teachers, students, doctors, etc.
- How important is it for you to blend in or stick out?
- How do you express your own individuality?
- What famous people, present or past, have failed to "fit in?" Bill Gates and Albert Einstein are two, for starters.
- Textbook questions and examples.
- Other experiences, stories, research...
- Related:

Edward Scissorhands

http://www.impactseries.com/Issues_new/issues_personal_opi.html

Revenge of the Nerds

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Revenge_of_the_nerds

Download page: <http://tony-silva.com/download>

Extra Material: http://www.impactseries.com/Issues_new/issues_link.html

Video (opinions): http://www.impactseries.com/Issues_new/issues_personal_opi.html

MY RESEARCH

PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS



45% - 40% - The Tattoo Divide

The public is divided about the impact of more people getting tattoos; 45% say it has not made much difference, 40% think it has been a change for the worse and only 7% say this has been a change for the better. As might be expected, older Americans are far more likely to view this trend negatively: 64% of those ages 65 and older and 51% of those ages 50-64 say more people getting tattoos has been a change for the worse. A majority of those under age 50 (56%) say the tattoo trend has not made much of a difference. The age differences are larger among women than men. About six-in-ten (61%) women ages 50 and older say more people getting tattoos have been a change for the worse compared with 27% of younger women. A majority (56%) of white evangelical Protestants say that more people getting tattoos has been a change for the worse; white mainline Protestants and white Catholics are more divided in their opinions. By comparison, 57% of those who are religiously unaffiliated say that more people getting tattoos has not made much difference. [Read more](#)

	Change for the better %	Change for the worse %	No difference %	Don't know %
Total	7	40	45	8=100
18-29	15	22	61	1=100
30-49	6	32	53	8=100
50-64	3	51	39	8=100
65+	4	64	19	13=100
Men	6	38	47	9=100
18-49	7	30	56	6=100
50+	3	51	33	13=100
Women	8	42	43	7=100
18-49	12	27	56	5=100
50+	3	61	28	8=100
Wh. Evangelical	2	56	37	5=100
Wh. Mainline	6	38	46	10=100
Wh. Catholic	6	41	48	4=100
Unaffiliated	11	26	57	6=100

Q44F1. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

View more Daily Numbers
Go to PewResearch.org homepage

<http://changingminds.org/explanations/needs/conformity.htm>

The need for: Conformity

[Explanations](#) > [Needs](#) > Conformity

[What is it?](#) | [Different groups, different rules](#) | [So what?](#)

Have you ever suddenly noticed when you were in a group of people where they all were doing or saying something different to you? Did you feel uncomfortable about this? Did you feel an unspoken pressure to go along with the rest of the group? If so, you were simply complying with your need to conform.

What is it?

The need for conformity is the desire to go along with the norms of a group of people, so you will be accepted as an in-group person (and not rejected as an out-group undesirable person).

We are a tribal animal, which leads us to have a deep need to [belong](#) to a group of some sort. Conforming to group norms is

a signal to the other group members that 'I am like you. I am following our rules. I am not a threat.' This signal indicates your **consistency** of behavior, allowing the other people to **predict** what you will do. It is also a step along the way to increasing your **esteem** within the group.

Different groups different rules

Different groups have different norms or rules to which group members conform. This can be to do with behavior, attitude, dress, language, etc. The degree to which other people conform to the rules indicates their desire to be a group member.

In-group members who conform strongly are core group members who are asserting the identity of the group, or peripheral members who are trying to impress the core members, perhaps to be accepted into the 'inner circle' (which is in fact another group-within-the-group). Further out, people outside the group may similarly emulate group members either to seek admission to the group or to form an admiring group who are seeking to gain some reflected glory. An example is pop fans who dress like their idols.

Conformists and non-conformists

The strength of desire to conform is a personality trait whereby some people will try to conform to whatever group they are in at the time, whilst other 'non-conformists' will go in the other direction, deliberately asserting their individuality by rejecting all but a very few sets of norms. Teenagers come to mind, as they reject their parents, being non-conformists in the family, whilst desperately conforming with peer-group norms as they seek acceptance by the cliques and gangs of the schoolyard.

Some groups are mutually exclusive, where the rules of one group are that you are not a member of specific other groups. Gangs and families are an example, as are political parties and different religions.

So what?

If you want to persuade someone, it helps a great deal to gain their **trust** by being in the same group as them. An approach that can help this is to conform with their group rules.

Strict conformity to others' rules can be seen as an invasion or ridiculing. For example a senior manager going down to a factory floor may well be viewed with anger if he changed into a set of overalls and plastered grease on his face. In such cases, going some way toward the other's norms can be effective. For example the senior manager may remove his jacket and tie and roll up his shirt sleeves.

You can also be in the reverse situation, where you set the rules and the other person has to conform to your rules in order to gain admission to your group and the other benefits that this will confer. Once within the group, the threat of expulsion will then keep them conforming. Cults, religions, companies and many other groups use this to coerce people into all sorts of peculiar behaviors.

NEW WORDS AND IDEAS FROM MY RESEARCH

evangelical 福音 (un)affiliated 無党派

norms 規範 consistency 一貫性

esteem 自尊心 tribe / tribal 部族

assert(ing) アサート peripheral 周辺

mutually exclusive 相互に排他的

coerce 強いる peculiar 変わった、変

Notes, new ideas, and questions from lecture

individual freedom vs. society needs

need for self-expression

responsibility to oneself vs. responsibility to others (family, school, friends, job)

It's more important to "fit in" in Japan than it is in western cultures.

I was shocked at some of the extreme body piercings people had.

The teacher doesn't wear a tie - is that too casual?

What is job hunting like in the U.S.?

The teacher talks very quickly.

The textbook was easy, but the research, lecture, and discussion were much more difficult. However, the new ideas were very interesting and my classmates had some very interesting ideas.

Notes and new ideas from discussion

One of our classmates has purple hair; I think that's ok, but other students had some negative things to say.

Some people think we should have freedom to look the way we want, other people think rules about appearance are important.

Our grades (the class will vote together on grades next week):

Participation (attendance and speaking in class)	XX%
Notebooks (2)	XX%
Speaking tests (2)	XX%
Written reports	XX%
Total	100%

Important information:

Tony Silva: tonysensei@mac.com

Main Portal Page: <http://tonysensei.net/>

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