



**At the end of the lesson, the student will be able to:**

- \*discuss the factors of being optimistic and pessimistic.
- \*point out the benefits of being an optimist and the drawback of being a pessimist.



### Dialogue:

Ralph: Are you an **optimist** or a **pessimist**?

Eddie: Well, I think we live in the best of all possible worlds.

Ralph: So, you're an optimist.

Eddie: Not necessarily. Maybe I think that things are really bad, and that they can't ever get better.

Ralph: Oh. But which are you?

Eddie: I would describe myself as a realist, I guess.

Ralph: What do you mean by that?

Eddie: I think that I have some opportunity to control what happens, I can avoid doing things that will probably have bad consequences, and I can engage in activities that should produce good results. And to a certain extent I can prepare for likely bad accidents, by taking out insurance for instance. But I also know that some things happen that are completely unexpected; some are good, and some are bad. And, ultimately, we cannot be in complete control of our lives.

Ralph: And?

Eddie: And if things turn out better than we plan, we should be grateful. And if worse, not bitter. There are no guarantees. We should just do as well as we can and hope for the best.

Ralph: Okay, you've given me your **philosophical** answer. Now answer my question: are you a pessimist or an optimist?

Eddie: You sure are persistent, aren't you?

Ralph: Don't change the subject. Which one are you? Would you say your glass is half full or half empty?

Eddie: I'd say that it depends on the glass. If you pour the water in a smaller container, you could fill it up; if you put it in a larger one, it will seem emptier. But it's still the same amount of water.

Ralph: So. You aren't going to give a straight answer to my question, are you?

Eddie: Don't be so pessimistic-I might!



### Let's Talk:

1. Explain the half-full or half empty analogy.
2. Is it implied that realists can't be optimists?
3. Can they be pessimist?



### Express Yourself:

1. Do you expect to live longer than the national average life expectancy?
2. Do you think you will be reasonably healthy until you die?
3. Do you believe you will make enough money so that after you retire you can continue to lead a comfortable life?
4. Do you think Korea will be reunited in the future?
5. Do you think a cure for cancer is within reach? Hepatitis? AIDS?
6. Is social and sexual equality a reality that can be achieved?
7. How do you describe yourself, as an optimist or a pessimist?
8. Are most of your friends optimist or pessimist?
9. What are the biggest advantages enjoyed by an optimist? By a pessimist?
10. What are the biggest drawbacks to being optimistic? Pessimistic?