

Attributes - T&L

Attributes - T&L are to identify student learning experiences, as expressed in their comments. They are further categorized into positive, negative, neutral, and ambiguous subcategories. The current BTA Teaching and Learning Dictionary identifies 54 T&L Attributes.

Positive Attributes

A subcategory within the **Attributes - T&L** category, themes within are intended to identify the good traits of a teacher or a course that were mentioned in individual student comments. There are 28 common themes identified as **Positive Attributes** in the BTA Teaching and Learning Dictionary.

Themes	Definition	Example Keywords	Focus	Example Comment
Accurate (inaccurate)	Correct in details	Accurate, precise	instructor, materials, textbook	The syllabus was always accurate. The instructor gave clear, precise instruction.
Approachable (unapproachable)	Easy to meet or converse with.	approachable, easy to talk to, good-natured, is open to, open minded, relaxed	behavior of instructor and/or staff. ability to access instructor and/or staff.	The TA was easy to talk to. The instructor was approachable to ask questions.
Available (unavailable)	Not busy or otherwise committed. Ready to help.	accessible, always around, always available	behavior of instructor and/or staff. ability to access instructor and/or staff, easy access to classroom resources	She was always around and willing to help me out with any questions I had. The lecture notes were always available online to help doing assignments.
Clear (unclear)	Readily apparent. Free from doubt.	accurate, clear, exact, explicit, precise, straightforward	explanation of material, delivery of material by instructor. nature of material delivered by instructor. student's ability to intake material.	I found her lectures to be straightforward. The instructor's delivery of the lecture was clear
Comprehensive (superficial)	Including all or everything. Broad in scope.	complete, comprehensive, detailed, exhaustive, extensive, great depth, thorough	depth of coverage of material, lectures, exams, etc.	The course lectures were extremely detailed and provided great coverage of the topics. He delivered a very comprehensive overview of every aspect of a topic.
Dedicated	Devoted to a cause or purpose.	Committed, dedicated, devoted	personal characteristics of the instructor. student's personal	I found her a really attentive and a dedicated Lecturer. We learned from

Themes	Definition	Example Keywords	Focus	Example Comment
			feelings towards the course or instructor.	a very dedicated lecturer who knows what student must learn.
Easy (difficult)	Posing no difficulty. Requiring little effort.	easy, effortless, manageable, simple, smooth	nature of the material or course. can broadly refer to the entire course or more specific assignments, projects, etc.	The homework was pretty manageable. Even the final project was smooth going. The lecture slides were easy to follow
Engaging (not_engaging)	Attracting or appealing. Able to hold attention.	appealing, captivating, eloquent, communicative, enchanting, grabs your attention, keen, motivated, motivating	instructor or materials	When the teacher got really interested in a topic he gave some captivating lectures.
Enjoyable (stressful)	Affording satisfaction or pleasure.	agreeable, appreciate, delightful, enjoyed, entertained, entertaining, gratifying, a pleasure, impressive, pleasant, satisfied	instructor or materials.	I enjoyed having him as my teacher. Both of the lecturers made content fun and easy to understand.
Enthusiastic	Having or showing great excitement and interest.	ardent, committed, eager, enthusiastic, exuberant, fervor, passionate	personal characteristics of the instructor. student's personal feelings towards the course.	The teacher was so enthusiastic about some of the topics that I couldn't help but enjoy myself. The tutor was passionate about the course which was shown through her teaching style.
Experienced	Having knowledge or skill in a particular field	Experienced, years of experience, real life experience	relates to the knowledge and comfort level the instructor has regarding the material being taught.	It was cool to have the guest speakers who are experienced in different topics. Lecturers were experienced professionals with an actual background in their specific fields.
Fair (unfair)	Free from favoritism or self-interest or bias or deception. Not excessive or extreme.	equitable, fair, good faith, impartial, integrity, is honest, objective, principled, unbiased	characteristics of the instructor. opinions about the course material, exams, volume of work, etc.	She always graded assignments with an impartial eye.
Funny/Entertaining (disrespectful/rude)	Agreeably diverting. Provoking laughter	amusing, cheerful, comical, entertaining, fun, hilarious, jokes, laughs, playful	the delivery style of the instructor or the course material.	She always had entertaining stories to tell. Humorous lecturer creates the happy atmosphere for every lecture

Themes	Definition	Example Keywords	Focus	Example Comment
Helpful/Supportive	Providing assistance or serving a useful function. Providing support.	accommodating, constructive, encouraging, assists, cooperative, facilitates, flexible, fosters, great assistance, help was always there, willing to help, helpful, patient, provides assistance, reinforces, supportive	characteristics of the instructor. opinions about the course material.	The instructor was encouraging throughout the term and always assisted me when I was having problems.
High_Quality (Poor_quality)	Superior performance	of a high caliber, good quality, quality of instruction was great/good	instructor or materials.	The textbook was pretty good quality and covered all the important topics.
Important (not worthwhile)	Of great significance or value.	crucial, essential, important, indispensable, important,	the value of the course material, including lectures, reading, exams, etc.	Reading the textbook was crucial if you wanted to have any chance of doing well on the exam.
Instructive/Informative	Serving to instruct or enlighten or inform. Increasing knowledge or dissipating ignorance.	added to my knowledge, educational, enlightening, informative, instructive, learned a lot	instructor or materials. outcomes of the course.	The lectures were informative. I learned a lot.
Interesting (boring)	Excite the curiosity of; engage the interest of. Be of importance or consequence.	absorbing, exciting, fascinating, interesting, inspiring, riveting, stimulating	instructor or materials. feelings and actions/outcomes.	The case studies were fascinating. They brought up some really intriguing concepts.
Knowledgeable (lacking_knowledge)	Highly educated. Having extensive information or understanding. Thoroughly acquainted through study or experience.	accomplished, articulate, brilliant, bright, clever, competent, cultivated, experienced, expert, intelligent, professional, savvy, sharp, skilful, smart, specialist, well-versed, wise	instructor's ability to teach or knowledge of the subject.	The professor is a brilliant researcher in this subject.
Organized (disorganized)	Methodical and efficient in arrangement or function.	concise, coordinated, good structure, methodical, orderly, organized, structured, systematic, well-structured	instructor's approach to teaching or explanation of the subject matter. the student's need to be efficient and organized.	The instructor was very methodical, he always worked from very simple concepts gradually building up to complex ones.
Pleasant/Safe (unpleasant)	Considerate and helpful nature. Agreeable.	adorable, affable, amiable, authentic, caring, considerate, cordial, courteous, friendly, genuine, jovial, good manners, easy going, kind, likeable, polite, sweet, well mannered	personality of instructor. not self or classmates.	The teacher was considerate to my needs when I was struggling in the middle of the term. I felt comfortable speaking up.

Themes	Definition	Example Keywords	Focus	Example Comment
Professional	Competent or skillful	Professional, professionalism	instructor	this is the true and a professional way to teach students. The guest lecturer showed practical experience as a professional
Relevant	Having a bearing on or connection with the subject at issue.	Relevant, pertinent, applicable, germane	materials, course	Topics were not only interesting but also relevant to students.
Responsive	Readily reacting or replying to people or events.	answer my questions, quick to reply, happy to answer, open to questions, receptive, responds to emails, responsive, very prompt, very timely	behavior of instructor. actions of instructor. not behavior of classmates or self.	No matter how many questions I asked, the teacher was always happy to answer me.
Right amount	What was provided was the correct amount.	Did not overload, sufficient, good amount, no overload, not too little, not too much, not too many, reasonable amount	course work	The reading is always a reasonable amount
Well Delivered (Poorly delivered)	Expressed readily, clearly, effectively.	good at teaching, instructed well, made sense, taught well, well presented, well delivered	course material and delivery style of instructor.	The teacher's examples he used during his lectures really made sense to me. A lot of content to cover in a short time but delivered well
Worthwhile (not worthwhile)	Worth the effort.	beneficial, invaluable, rewarding, useful, valuable, worthwhile, worthy	course	Every minute of every class was packed with learning. I learned so much.
Unspecific favorable	Used to capture sentiments that are positive but do not have enough information to qualify for another teaching and learning attribute	Awesome, adored, amazing, cool, appreciated, fantastic, outstanding	any	"AWESOME", "AMAZING", "BEST INSTRUCTOR EVER!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!", "This instructor is absolutely amazing and deserves a raise."

Negative Attributes

A subcategory within the **Attributes - T&L** category, themes within are intended to identify the less than appealing traits of a teacher or a course that were mentioned in individual student comments. There are 20 common themes identified as **Negative Attributes** in the BTA Teaching and Learning Dictionary.

BTA Teaching and Learning Dictionary - Negative Attributes Definitions				
Themes	Definition	Example Keywords	Focus	Example Comment
Boring (interesting)	Lacking in interest as to cause mental weariness.	Boring, depressing, doze, drowsy, dry, dull, fell asleep, flat, humdrum, irksome, lethargic, mundane, soporific, tedious, uninteresting, yawn	instructor or material. Feelings and actions about the course.	What a dull teacher. The class is so boring, the lectures made students feel sleepy. On the plus side my insomnia is much better.
Difficult (easy)	Not easy to hear or see clearly, not easy to get along with, hard to deal with.	Arduous, complex, complicated, cumbersome, daunting, difficult, hard, heavy intense, intricate, laborious, not absorb, onerous, perplexed, rambling, struggled, tough, unbearable	instructor, focused on difficult as a negative trait (does not include challenging items which are classified as ambiguous because it can be positive or negative, depending on the context, and thus we recommend the visual, human investigation.)	It was difficult to hear the instructor from the back of the classroom, he should really speak up more.
Disorganized (organized)	Lacking order or methodical arrangement or function.	all over the place, chaotic, cluttered, confused, contradictory, disarray, fumbled, illogical, incoherent, inconsistent, ill-prepared, messy, mishmash, muddle, scatterbrained	instructor's approach to teaching or explanation of the subject matter. student's inefficiency in completing the course.	The professor is a little scatterbrained, he was all over the place.
Disrespectful/Rude (funny/entertaining)	Exhibiting lack of respect. Rude and discourteous.	abrupt, abusive, authoritarian, asshole, bitch, bully, contempt, cynical, degrading, demean, derogatory, disdain, disrespectful, flippant, grumpy, humiliating, hurtful, impolite, inconsiderate, insulting, irreverent, is mean, mock, not polite, not nice, offending, patronizing, rude, sarcasm, snippy, turgid, vicious	personality of the instructor.	Dude is seriously grumpy. Needs a girlfriend or something.
Expensive	Useless or profitless activity. Using or	a lot of money, costly, expensive, overpriced, pricy, waste of money	instructor or material. outcomes or descriptions.	New revision of the textbook is way overpriced.

BTA Teaching and Learning Dictionary - Negative Attributes Definitions

Themes	Definition	Example Keywords	Focus	Example Comment
	expending or consuming thoughtlessly.			
Inaccurate	Incorrect, wrong, providing false or misleading information.	Not accurate, inaccurate, not so accurate	material provided for the course or statements made by the instructor.	The syllabus was not always accurate. The online tasks were often not accurate.
Lacking_Knowledge (knowledgeable)	Lacking intellectual acuity.	amateur, dumb, idiotic, ignorant, ill-qualified, imbecile, incompetent, incapable, ineffective, inefficient, inept, inexperienced, nitwit, not able to teach, not bright, not capable, not qualified, not professional, not savvy, not smart, stupid, unable to answer, unskilled, unprofessional, unfit, unprofessionalism, unsuitable	instructor's approach to teaching or explanation of the subject matter.	The TA was kind of a nitwit. I knew more than she did.
Not_Engaging (engaging)	Unappealing or unattractive demotivating.	daft, dense, dim, disconnected, disengaged, does not stimulate, fail to engage, hardly lively, insipid, lacks excitement, lack of passing, lose interest, lost interest, not eager, no passion, not excited, not fun, not stimulating, no enthusiasm, sluggish, too slow, wearisome	instructor or material specifically with respect to presentation. outcomes or descriptions.	The teacher completely disconnected during his lectures and would drone on and on without any concern for the students.
Not Worthwhile (important/relevant)	Lacking in usefulness or value.	antiquated, complete waste, did not seem useful, garbage, hardly worth, inapplicable, inappropriate, insignificant, irrelevant, junk, laughable, ludicrous, a farce, nonsense, not applicable, not beneficial, not important, not relevant, not useful, not worth, obsolete, pointless, rubbish, trivial, unhelpful, unnecessary, useless, valueless, waste of time, worthless, zero relevance	the value of the course material, including lectures, reading or exams.	Total rubbish. I can't believe that was supposed to be a sophomore level course.
Poorly delivered (well_delivered)	Lacked proper skills to deliver engaging course	Badly delivered, executed horribly, goes off on tangent, isn't good at teaching, too fast paced, yelling, too much memorization,	the delivery style of the instructor.	Lectures were rushed. the poor delivery of the course content. Lectures just

BTA Teaching and Learning Dictionary - Negative Attributes Definitions

Themes	Definition	Example Keywords	Focus	Example Comment
	material in an engaging manner.	parrot, endlessly regurgitating, rehashed, repetitive		rehashed what was in the book.
Poor_Quality (high_quality)	Undesirable or negative in quality.	horrible, awful, awkward, dreadful, bullshit, horrible, poor, sucked, terrible	instructor or course.	The paper given as a reading assignment really sucked. It's from like 1972.
Stressful (enjoyable)	Extremely irritating to the nerves. Nerve-wracking.	burdensome, distressed, lots of pressure, much pressure, strain, stress, stressful, tension	course material, exams. reaction to the instructor pressuring students.	Exams were way stressful since they consisted of the entirety of our grade.
Superficial (comprehensive)	Concerned with or comprehending only what is apparent or obvious. Not deep or penetrating intellectually.	didn't learn a lot, lack of depth, lacked depth, not as detailed, not comprehensive, scratched the surface, superficial	a lack of depth of coverage of the material.	Seems like the course barely scratched the surface. I thought we would go more in depth with topics.
Too much or too little	An improper amount of time spent on topics throughout the course.	Excessive amount, insufficient amount, never good enough, overwhelm, so little, need more	the time allotted to a topic by the instructor.	The lack of class time spent on solving these types of problems made it a struggle to gain a solid grasp on information
Unapproachable (approachable)	Discouraging interaction or reserved.	aloof, chilly, detached, didn't care, distant, frigid, haughty, heartless, indifferent, intimidating, not easy to talk, overbearing, standoffish, stuck up, taciturn, too formal, unapproachable, unresponsive, unsympathetic	behavior of instructor. ability to access instructor.	What a heartless dude. He wouldn't budge an inch.
Unavailable (available)	Not available or accessible or nearby for consultation or access.	few hours available, inaccessible, never available, lack of assistance, not accessible, not available, no office hours, never at office hours, not easily reachable, unavailable, unreachable, zero assistance	behavior of instructor. ability to access instructor.	Never once saw him in his office during office hours.
Unclear (clear)	Poorly stated or described. Not clear to the mind.	ambiguity, ambiguous, baffled, confusing, bewildered, blur, cryptic, enigmatic, vague, foggy, fuzzy, hazy, illegible, imprecise, in the dark, incomprehensible, inconsistent, lack of	explanation of material. delivery of information or nature of material delivered by instructor.	His explanations were incomprehensible most of the time.

BTA Teaching and Learning Dictionary - Negative Attributes Definitions

Themes	Definition	Example Keywords	Focus	Example Comment
		clarity, lost, muddy, not detailed, not explicit, obscure, opaque, puzzled, unclear, not well described		
Unfair (fair)	Not fair. Marked by injustice or partiality or deception.	arbitrary, bias, discriminated, unfair, dishonest, favoritism, hypocritical, inequity, injustice, is partial, lack of honesty, one-sided, partisan, played favorite, prejudice, showed favorites, tricky, unethical, unequal, unfair, unjust, unwarranted	the characteristics of the instructor. opinions about course material, exams, volume of work.	She's got something against guys and definitely played favorites.
Unhelpful/unsupportive (Helpful/supportive)	Assistance provided to solve a problem was not appropriate and did not improve the situation.	No help, irrelevant, not supportive, hardly helped, lack support	the ability of the instructor to respond to issues encountered by the students.	teachers aren't supportive enough to students like myself who work full time or in rural areas.
Unpleasant/unsafe (Pleasant/safe)	Lacking kindness. Offensive or disagreeable. Causing discomfort or unhappiness.	abrasive, affront, aggressive, antagonism, arrogant, bad attitude, belittling, big ego, brutal, condescending, cruel, disagreeable, disgust, ego-driven, get over himself, harsh, hatred, horrid, hostile, impatient, judgmental, nasty, not nice, not caring, not kind, not friendly, obnoxious, offensive, outrageous, patronizing, pompous, presumptuous, pretentious, repulsive, rudely, shocking, sour, tasteless, threatening, too strict, unpleasant, verbal abuse, make me feel stupid	personality of instructor.	He's a repulsive, arrogant SOB. TA explains in a way that would make students feel stupid
Unresponsive	Does not respond to external stimuli.	Not prompt, didn't answer, fails to respond, no answer, rarely respond	the ability of the instructor to respond to students	Very disappointed in the lack of response regarding the TA and lack of the school addressing the issue of the TA
Unspecific unfavorable	Used to capture sentiments that are negative but do not have	Absurd, appalling, awkward, bad, disappointing, disliked, not nice, wasn't fantastic	attributes of the course or instructor	"It was absurd.", "Appalling bad and terrible, the worst ever.", "Depressing."

BTA Teaching and Learning Dictionary - Negative Attributes Definitions

Themes	Definition	Example Keywords	Focus	Example Comment
	enough information to qualify for another teaching and learning attribute			

Neutral Attributes

A subcategory within the **Attributes - T&L** category, themes within are intended to identify feedback that is neither positive nor negative but is simply neutral. Only one theme is provided to capture neutral comments. It is expected that the majority of the comments will be more appropriately placed in a positive or negative theme.

BTA Teaching and Learning Dictionary - Neutral Attributes Definitions

Themes	Definition	Example Keywords	Focus	Example Comment
Neutral	Not having any markedly negative or positive characteristics or features	cant improve, no complaints, keep as is, nothing to recommend, wouldn't change a thing	materials, instructor, resources	The class was fine, I have no complaints about it.

Ambiguous T&L Attributes

A subcategory within the **Attributes - T&L** category, themes within cannot be identified as either positive or negative due to the nuance of language. Comments classified in ambiguous themes should be examined manually to determine their true meaning.

BTA Teaching and Learning Dictionary - Ambiguous Attributes Definitions

Themes	Definition	Example Keywords	Focus	Example Comment
Challenging	Higher level of difficulty that is difficult to master, advanced concepts to fully grasp. Intellectually demanding, invitingly provocative	Challenging, challenging enough	material or coursework	Challenging and interesting class: I learned the most from him this semester.
Complex	Complicated with many details.	Complex, difficult concept, difficult materials, complexity	material or coursework	It is a really good way to learn a difficult material.