

Q1.5

Bohemian

You're most likely to hear **bohemian** used to describe fashion these days, but in addition to dress-up *bohemians*, there are also real *Bohemians*—people who come from the *Bohemian* region of the Czech Republic.

However, *bohemian* is also used to describe a philosophy or lifestyle that is now disconnected from the Bohemia region. The French, believing Gypsies (Romani) came to their country through Bohemia, were the first to use *bohemian* to describe Gypsy-like behavior—being carefree, unrooted, poor, and artistic, and generally embracing an unconventional or loose lifestyle. The word has since been applied to many different lifestyles and artistic communities that have some or all of these vague attributes.

Everything everybody does is so—I don't know—not wrong, or even mean, or even stupid necessarily. But just so tiny and meaningless and—sad-making. And the worst part is, if you go bohemian or something crazy like that, you're conforming just as much only in a different way.

—*Franny and Zooey* by J. D. Salinger