

12 Describing character

1 Positive or negative comments

Mark the following P (positive) or N (negative):

1. She's got so much personality.
2. She's a bit difficult at times.
3. She isn't easy to get on with.
4. She's got a great sense of humour.
5. She's a bit of a pain sometimes.
6. She's great fun.
7. She can be a pain in the neck.
8. She's my kind of person.

Can you think of people you know who fit these descriptions?

2 He's always doing that

Match the first part of these descriptions with the second parts below:

1. Tony isn't very sensitive.
 2. Mark's so aggressive.
 3. Simon's very thoughtful.
 4. He's so absent-minded.
 5. Joe isn't very self-confident.
 6. He's so vain.
- a. He's always buying me little presents.
 - b. He's always looking in the mirror.
 - c. He's always worrying about what people think of him.
 - d. He's always saying the wrong thing.
 - e. He keeps forgetting where he's put things.
 - f. He keeps getting into fights.

4 Opposites

Match the adjectives in sentences 1 – 5 with the opposites in sentences a – e:

1. Tom's really generous. He bought everyone in the pub a drink last night.
 2. Claire's very hard-working. She never leaves the office until after six o'clock.
 3. Tina's very outgoing. She's made friends with everybody else in the class already.
 4. Brian's a very easy-going sort of guy. Nothing seems to worry him.
 5. Jack's such a cheerful little boy. I've never seen him in a bad mood.
- a. Bruno's so shy. I don't think he's spoken to any of the other students yet.
 - b. I don't understand why he's so miserable. He never stops complaining.
 - c. Lucy's very tense. She's always worrying about something or other.
 - d. Don't expect Tom to put any money in the collection. He's much too mean.
 - e. I can't believe Emma's husband's so lazy. He just sits and watches TV all evening.

In British English informal words for men are: guy, bloke and lad; lad is only used for young men.

3 He's far too modest

Complete the following dialogues with the following expressions:

far too modest	far too sensible
much too shy	much too proud
much too loyal	far too honest

1. I think Mark took some money from my bag while we were out.
> No, he's to do a thing like that.
2. I'm still waiting for Lisa to say sorry for sending that fax to the wrong address.
> You'll wait a long time! Lisa's to admit anything's her fault.
3. Jenny left a window open when she went out this morning. Anybody could've got in.
> Are you sure it was Jenny. She's to do anything like that.
4. Apparently, Amy asked Tom if he'd like to go out tomorrow night.
> I don't believe you. She's to ask a boy out!
5. Julie got the highest mark in the class, but she didn't say a word.
> No, she wouldn't. She's to say anything about it.
6. I thought Martin was a good friend but he's been telling everybody that I'm boring.
> Are you sure? Martin's to say something like that behind your back.

5 She can be a bit moody

Complete the following dialogues with the words and phrases below:

moody	amusing	stubborn
arrogant	selfish	silly

- Lucy never thinks about anyone but herself.
> Yes, she can be a bit sometimes.
- Oh, Laura's impossible. One minute life is wonderful and the next minute she's in her room crying.
> Yes, she can be a bit, can't she?
- I really don't like Bob. He seems to think that he's more important than anybody else.
> He certainly can be very
- Martin's such good fun. He's got a great sense of humour.
> Yes, he can be very at times.
- I wish Joe would stop playing practical jokes all the time. It gets very tiring.
> Yes, he can be really at times. I wish he'd grow up and behave like an adult.
- I told Emma that she shouldn't leave university but she never listens to me.
> No, she really can be very when she wants, can't she?

6 Don't be so nosey

Complete the dialogues below with these adjectives:

bossy	sensitive	fussy	nosey
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- How much do you earn in your new job?
> That's a bit of you!
- You can do the washing up while I'm out.
> You can be so at times!
- Jenny's really upset about what you said.
> She's too
- I can't eat these vegetables. They've been cooked in oil.
> Oh, don't be so

Now go back and add these expressions to the end of the responses:

- I was only joking!
- I'm not your slave!
- It's none of your business, actually.
- All you ever do is complain!

7 Types of people

Here are 8 different kinds of people. Use them in the sentences below:

a gossip	a big-head
an extrovert	a laugh
a couch potato	a snob
a coward	a liar

- You shouldn't believe a word Justin says. He's a terrible
- Maria's a terrible She's always talking about everybody else in the office.
- Roberto's quite an, isn't he? He's got hundreds of friends!
- Martin's such a He never stops telling people how wonderful he is.
- You can't keep running away from your responsibilities. You're such a
- Just because Dave didn't go to university doesn't mean he's any less intelligent than you. Don't be such a
- Emma's husband's such a He just sits around all day watching TV.
- Billy knows hundreds of jokes. He's such a !

8 Negative prefixes

Change these words into their opposites by adding un, dis, in, or im:

... reliable	... honest	... sensitive
... pleasant	... loyal	... tolerant
... patient	... mature	... friendly
... decisive	... ambitious	... selfish

Add your own words and expressions