

13 Adjectives to describe people

1 That was a silly thing to do

Use these pairs of adjectives in the sentences:

wise / sensible	careless / silly
horrible / nasty	strange / funny

- I locked my keys in the house this morning.
> That was a very / thing to do.
- I gave my neighbours' little boy some money for his holidays and his parents took it from him!
> Really? What a / thing to do.
- I'm thinking of getting myself a private pension.
> Good idea. That's a very / thing to do.
- They've been married for 25 years and then one day she just walked out and never came back.
> Really? What a / thing to do!

2 It's very brave of you

Match the beginnings and endings of the following sentences:

- It was a bit cheeky of you
 - It's very brave of you
 - It was very generous of you
 - It was very clever of you
 - It was a bit dishonest of you
- to finish this crossword so quickly.
 - not to tell them they'd given you too much change.
 - to go to India on your own.
 - to ask the teacher how old she is.
 - to pay for all the drinks.

Now complete the following dialogues with the phrases below:

very kind	very tactful
a bit clumsy	very rude

- I invited Sue and Gerry for dinner. They turned up an hour and a half late and didn't even apologise!
> Really, that was of them, wasn't it?

- Sarah spilt coffee all over the carpet. It made a terrible mess.
> Oh dear. That was of her, wasn't it?
- Mary knew how busy I was, so she offered to collect the kids from school for me.
> That was of her.
- Sue said she had a headache, but she knew that Chris, her first husband, was going to be at the party.
> That was of her. It would have been very embarrassing if she'd turned up.

3 Aren't you being a bit selfish?

Complete the following dialogues with the words below:

fussy	pushy	selfish
pessimistic	intolerant	optimistic

- I know I'm going to get this job – the interview went so well.
> I think you're being a bit
Hundreds of people have applied for it.
- I'm trying to persuade Liz to give up her job and come and live with me in Scotland.
> Aren't you being a bit?
You know how important her career is.
- I've looked at fifteen flats and I haven't seen one I really like.
> Don't you think you're being a bit?
You'll never find one that's perfect.
- Why haven't they phoned me back? I know I'm not going to get this job.
> Aren't you being a bit?
You only had the interview yesterday.
- Do you think Ann will come on holiday with me?
> Slow down! You've only just met her!
Aren't you being a bit?
- I hope Bob doesn't become manager. I don't like his accent.
> Don't you think you're being a bit?
You can't dislike him just because of the way he speaks!

4 Wordbuilding

Complete the following sentences with a noun formed from the adjective at the end of each sentence:

- Thousands would have died in last year's famine in Ethiopia, if it wasn't for the of ordinary people.
(generous)
- They've always shown me great
(kind)
- The theatre's sent me tickets for the wrong day again. I can't believe their
(careless)
- Considering how ill I've been, I thought my boss would show a bit more
(sympathetic)
- She handled the situation very well. She showed great
(sensitive)
- You've been such a great help. I'd like to buy you dinner as an expression of my
(grateful)
- I do wish those children would show a little more sometimes.
(patient)
- He just told me to shut up and walked off. I've never known such
(rude)
- You don't like him because of his accent? You could show a bit more sometimes.
(tolerant)
- I think one day we might doubt the of this decision.
(wise)

Did you notice how many of these words were used with the verb show? Go back and underline the show + noun expressions.

5 What a nasty thing to say

Which words fit in the two examples below?

nice	nasty
mean	lovely
sweet	unkind
kind	rude
spiteful	horrible

- He said I was fat.
> Really? What a(n) thing to say.
- I can't believe you're forty-five. You look much younger than that.
> What a thing to say. Thank you.

6 Don't be so impatient

Complete the following sentences with the words below. Then add the comments at the end.

nosey	pessimistic
impatient	childish

- Haven't you finished? Come on! Hurry up! I've got to go out in ten minutes.
> Oh, don't be so!
 - How much do you earn?
> Don't be so!
 - Well, if you won't let me watch what I want to watch, I'm not doing the washing up.
> Oh, don't be so!
 - I know I won't get this job. I don't know why I bothered applying.
> Don't be so!
- Why don't you grow up?
 - I've only got one pair of hands!
 - Why not look on the bright side?
 - It's none of your business!

Add your own words and expressions
