Personality

1 ADJECTIVES

a Complete the sentences with the adjectives in the list.

bright /braɪt/ conscientious /ˌkɒnʃiˈenʃəs/
determined /dɪˈtɜːmɪnd/ gentle /ˈdʒentl/
resourceful /rɪˈsɔːsfl/ sarcastic /sɑːˈkæstɪk/
self-sufficient /ˌself-səˈfɪʃnt/
spontaneous /spɒnˈteɪniəs/ steady /ˈstedi/
straightforward /ˌstreɪtˈfɔːwəd/
sympathetic /ˌsɪmpəˈθetɪk/ thorough /ˈθʌrə/

1 He is very *thorough*. Whatever part of a job he's doing, he does it with great attention to detail.
2 He's quite _____. He can usually work out how to solve a problem.
3 He's very _____. He never needs anyone else's help.
4 Her boyfriend is a _____ guy. He's sensible and she can really rely on him – just what she needs!
5 She's very _____. Once she's decided to do something, nothing will stop her.
6 My nieces are both really _____. They get very good marks at school in all their subjects.
7 He's not very _____. When I was ill last week he didn't even phone me.
8 She is so _____! She worked all weekend to make sure she got everything done.
9 My sister's a very _____ person. She's calm and kind and she never gets angry.
10 She's such a _____ person. She's honest and open and says just what she thinks.
11 He's very _____. He can suddenly decide to go to Paris in the morning and in the evening he's there!
12 Our maths teacher used to be so _____. She loved making comments that made us feel small.

b 16 Listen and check.

False friends
Be careful with *sympathetic*. Many languages have a similar adjective – *sympathique* (French), *simpatico* (Italian), *sympatyczny* (Polish) – which means *friendly*. The same is true of *gentle*; this is not the same as, e.g. *gentil* (French), *gentile* (Italian), which mean *kind* or *polite*.

2 PHRASES

a Complete the phrases with the verbs from the list in the right form.

change refuse seem take (x2) tend

1 My father *tends* **to** avoid conflict. He never argues with my mother – he just leaves the room.
2 I don't really like _____ **risks**, especially with money.
3 She makes life hard for herself because she _____ **to compromise**. Everything has to be perfect.
4 She's quite stubborn. She rarely _____ **her mind** even when she knows she's probably wrong.
5 I worry about my grandmother. She's so trusting that it would be easy for people to _____ **advantage of** her.
6 **On the surface he** _____ self-confident, **but deep down** he's quite insecure.

b 17 Listen and check.

3 IDIOMS

a Match the **bold** idioms 1–6 to their meanings A–F.

1 F My brother-in-law is very **down to earth**.
2 _ Mum's got **a heart of gold**.
3 _ My boss is a bit of **a cold fish**.
4 _ My brother's **a real pain in the neck**.
5 _ Dad's **a soft touch**.
6 _ My uncle has **a very quick temper**.



A He's unfriendly and he never shows his emotions.
B She's incredibly kind to everyone she meets.
C He's so annoying – he's always taking my things.
D I can always persuade him to give me extra pocket money.
E He gets angry very easily.
F He's very sensible and practical.

b 18 Listen and check.

Being negative about people
We often use *a bit* / *a bit of a* before negative adjectives or idioms to 'soften' them, e.g. *She can be a bit sarcastic. He's a bit of a pain in the neck.* We also often use *not very* + positive adjectives rather than using negative ones, e.g. *He's not very bright.* rather than *He's stupid.*

activation Think of people you know for two adjectives from **1**, a phrase from **2**, and an idiom from **3**. Tell your partner about them and why they suit the description.

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LIVEWORKSHEETS