

11 Describing character

A What are you like?

Describe your character¹
Choose the number that describes you. For example, in the first line
1 = very positive, 3 = not very positive or negative, 5 = very negative.

	1	2	3	4	5	
I think I'm very positive ² .	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	I'm quite a negative person.
I'm usually reliable ³ .	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	I'm quite unreliable .
I'm quite confident ⁴ .	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	I'm quite shy ⁵ .
I'm hard-working ⁶ .	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	I'm quite lazy .
I have a good sense of humour ⁷ .	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	I'm usually quite serious ⁸ .
I'm usually quite patient ⁹ .	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	I'm quite impatient .

¹ what you are like as a person

² believe that good things will happen

³ can be trusted to do what people expect you to do

⁴ feeling sure about yourself and your abilities

⁵ not confident, especially about meeting or talking to new people

⁶ putting a lot of effort into your work and spending a lot of time on it

⁷ the ability to laugh and understand when something is funny

⁸ a serious person is quiet and doesn't laugh very much

⁹ able to stay calm and not get angry, especially when things take a lot of time

Common mistakes

A: What's he like? (NOT How is he like?)

B: He's very **nice**. (NOT He's like very nice.)

B Opposites

positive	negative
generous [happy to give more money or help than is usual]	mean
honest [an honest person tells the truth]	dishonest
clever, intelligent [able to learn and understand things quickly]	stupid
calm [relaxed and not worried or frightened]	nervous, anxious

Language help

We use **kind** to describe someone who wants to help people a lot, and **nice, friendly** or **pleasant** for someone who is happy to talk to people. The opposites are **unkind, unfriendly** and **unpleasant**.

C Describing a friend

“The first thing I would say about my best friend is that she's very **sensible**¹. I've never known Emilia to do anything **silly**², and I know I can always **trust**³ her. She's also very **creative**⁴; she makes things, and she's a very **talented**⁵ artist. I **wish**⁶ I had her **talent**.”

¹ practical; doesn't do stupid things

² not sensible, a bit stupid

³ be sure that she is honest

⁴ good at thinking of new ideas and using her imagination

⁵ has a natural ability

⁶ I would like to have her talent but I haven't got it.

Exercises

11.1 Find five pairs of opposites and put them into the correct columns.

nice mean sensible lazy calm generous
unpleasant hard-working silly nervous

positive	negative
nice	

11.2 Write the opposites using the correct prefix.

- 1 unkind 3pleasant 5honest
2friendly 4patient 6reliable

11.3 Describe the person in the sentences, in one word.

- 1 My brother is in the office from 8 am to 6 pm every day. *hard-working*
2 He has never bought me a drink in ten years.
3 She often promises to do things but sometimes she forgets.
4 My teacher explains things again and never gets angry.
5 Emma finds it difficult to meet people and talk to strangers.
6 Noah is practical and doesn't do anything stupid.
7 Our teacher is nice, but he's quiet and he doesn't laugh a lot.
8 Danya is very relaxed and doesn't seem to worry about things.
9 My boss is really good at using his imagination to think of new ideas.
10 Ava can play several musical instruments.

11.4 Complete the sentences.

- 1 My sister can't wait for anything; she's so *impatient*.
2 I get very before exams; I need to try and relax a bit more.
3 I I could paint as well as your brother; he's so creative.
4 Adeline hasn't done a thing since she's been here. Honestly, she's so
5 I always have a laugh with my cousin – he's got a great sense of
6 My younger sister is able to understand new ideas so quickly; she's very
7 If Sarah says she'll do it, then she'll do it. I her completely.
8 He'd like to be relaxed and confident, but it's just not part of his
9 He failed his exams, but he isn't He just didn't do any work.
10 Aurora helped me bake some cakes last week; she's very

11.5 Over to you

Complete the quiz on the opposite page for yourself. From all the words on the opposite page, which one would you most like to be, and which is the one you would hate to be? If possible, compare your answers with someone else.

A How do you feel?

Language help

We use **emotion** and **feeling(s)** for something which someone feels strongly about, e.g. love, hate or anger. **Emotions** are part of our character, e.g. *Timo is a very emotional person.* [shows his feelings easily] **Feeling** is often plural, e.g. *She doesn't like talking about her feelings.*

I'm very **proud**¹ of my son's success, but I'm a bit **disappointed**² that the local paper hasn't shown more interest in the story.

¹ feeling good because you (or someone you know) has done something well

² unhappy because someone or something was not as good as you hoped.

The politicians seem **confused**³ about what to do, so I'm not **hopeful**⁴ that things will improve.

³ not able to think clearly or understand something
⁴ feeling positive about a future situation

We were **curious**⁵ to see what all the noise was about, but I felt **anxious**⁶ when I saw how angry the men were, and really **scared**⁷ when they started coming towards us.

⁵ wanting to know or learn about something

⁶ worried

⁷ afraid; syn **frightened**

I think Harry ended the relationship because his girlfriend was getting **jealous**⁸, but now he's quite **upset**⁹.

⁸ unhappy and angry because someone you love seems too interested in another person

⁹ unhappy because something unpleasant has happened

Language help

adjective	noun
proud	pride
jealous	jealousy
curious	curiosity

adjective	noun
disappointed	disappointment
confused	confusion
anxious	anxiety

B The effect of the weather on our feelings

Why do people say they feel more **cheerful** [happy] when the sun shines, and **miserable** [unhappy] when it's raining? Why do some people suffer from SAD (seasonal affective disorder), which makes them feel **depressed** [unhappy, often for a long time, and without hope for the future] during long dark winters? Can the weather really affect our **mood** [the way we feel at a particular time], or is it just in our imaginations?

C The effect of colour on our emotions

COLOUR can have an **effect** on our mood, but how do specific colours relate to our emotions?

RED can make us feel **energetic**¹, but it can also indicate **anger**².

GREEN is associated with nature and is good for people suffering from **stress**⁴.

PINK though, is softer and more about maternal love and **caring for**³ people.

BLUE is relaxing and helps us to be **creative**⁵, but too much dark blue can make us depressed.

¹ wanting to be busy and doing a lot of things

² being angry

³ looking after someone, especially someone young or old

⁴ feelings of worry caused by difficult situations such as problems at work

⁵ good at thinking of new ideas or using our imagination

Exercises

12.1 Cover the opposite page. Complete the tables.

adjective	noun
angry	<i>anger</i>
jealous	
confused	
	pride

adjective	noun
disappointed	
	curiosity
anxious	
	emotion

12.2 Find the best sentence ending on the right for each of the sentence beginnings on the left.

- | | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| 1 He was very anxious when | ☒ | a he heard his aunt had died. |
| 2 He was very jealous when | ☐ | b his father appeared on TV with the Prime Minister. |
| 3 He was very scared when | ☐ | c his 14-year-old daughter didn't get home until 2 am. |
| 4 He was very proud when | ☐ | d he saw the man coming towards him with a knife. |
| 5 He was very upset when | ☐ | e he was ill. |
| 6 He was very miserable when | ☐ | f his best friend went out with the girl he really liked. |

12.3 Match the words and faces.

anxious 1 scared cheerful upset confused depressed

1 2 3 4 5 6



12.4 Complete the sentences.

- My aunt had to care for her elderly mother for years.
- I can't tell whether Mia is happy or not; she never shows her
- I'm much more in the mornings. By the afternoon I feel tired.
- Weather has a big on the way I feel.
- He's been under a lot of recently because of the amount of work he has to do.
- Oliver's cheerful one minute and miserable the next; his changes all the time.
- It's been a depressing month, but I'm things will get better next month.
- I don't like walking home in the dark. I get very

12.5 Over to you

Answer the questions. If possible, compare your answers with someone else.

- Does colour or the weather have an effect on your emotions? How?
- Do you ever suffer from stress? Why?
- Does your mood change a lot from day to day? Why?
- Do you feel more energetic at certain times of the day? Why?