

Word formation (Part 3)

Read the text quickly without worrying about the gaps. What problem with describing people's personalities is mentioned?

How well do you know yourself?

When trying to understand our own or other people's (0) behaviour, we tend to over-simplify things. We use one or two adjectives to sum each other up. We think of one friend as having a generally (1) and positive outlook, while another friend is considered (2) and negative. Of course, in (3), none of us is so easily defined. The truth is that we are all made up of inconsistent and contradictory (4); we can be serious and reliable with our colleagues at work but in our personal relationships at home we are more (5) and emotional. With some friends we can be very cautious, while we are (6) thrill-seekers with other friends.

So can people be neatly divided into personality types? Or do we alter our personality according to the (7) in our changing moods and situations? Maybe we can never really get to know ourselves and the idea of a fixed personality is completely unrealistic and (8)

BEHAVE

HOPE
PESSIMIST
REAL
CHARACTER

PREDICT

ADVENTURE

DIFFERENT

MEANING