

# I can talk about character

## How I see myself

Dan (33) 'I'm **ambitious**, **self-confident**, and **generous**. I'm also very **impatient**.'



Kaz (18) 'I'm always **cheerful**. I'm **easy-going**, and I've got lots of **energy**.'



Giles (45) 'I see myself as **honest**, **hard-working**, and generally **tolerant**.'



## How others see me

'Some people really like me; others think I'm **arrogant** and maybe **aggressive**.'

'My parents don't think I'm very **responsible**; my friends just think I'm **crazy**.'

'Other people probably think I'm a bit **dull**, without much **sense of humour**.'

## spotlight *crazy, mad, stupid*

**Crazy** and **mad** mean 'not sensible or practical; a bit stupid'.

Both words can describe a person or an action or idea, but the meaning is not always negative. They can describe someone who is a bit out of control but just wants to enjoy life. **Stupid** is always negative.

## Glossary

see sb as sth

**ambitious**

**self-confident**

**generous**

**impatient**

**arrogant**

**aggressive**

**cheerful**

**easy-going**

**energy**

**responsible**

**honest**

**hard-working**

**tolerant**

**dull**

**sense of humour**

- imagine or think of sb in a particular way.
- having a strong desire to do well or be successful. **OPP** **unambitious**. **ambition** N.
- feeling sure about your own ability. **OPP** **insecure**.
- happy to give more money and help than is usual. **OPP** **mean**. **generosity** N.
- not able to stay calm and wait for sth/sb. **OPP** **patient**. **patience** N.
- thinking you are better than other people. **OPP** **modest**. **arrogance** N.
- likely to fight or argue. **aggression** N.
- feeling happy.
- relaxed and not worried by what other people do.
- the ability to be very active without getting tired. **energetic** ADJ.
- able to act sensibly and intelligently. **OPP** **irresponsible**.
- always telling the truth. **OPP** **dishonest**. **honesty** N.
- able to work with effort and for a long time. **OPP** **lazy**.
- able to accept ideas you don't agree with. **OPP** **intolerant**. **tolerance** N.
- boring.
- the ability to laugh at things and see when sth is funny.

## 1 Positive or negative, or can it be both? Write P or N or B.

► She's very cheerful. P

1 He's very arrogant.       

2 They're a bit dull.       

3 Both boys are very honest.       

4 My boss is very tolerant.       

► He's very ambitious. B

5 She's so modest.       

6 He's very self-confident.       

7 Karen is so mean.       

8 My brother is absolutely mad.



## 2 Correct the spelling mistakes.

- |                                  |                              |                               |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| ▶ onest <u>honest</u>            | 3 generos <u>generous</u>    | 6 agressive <u>aggressive</u> |
| 1 energie <u>energy</u>          | 4 cheerfull <u>cheerful</u>  | 7 patiente <u>patient</u>     |
| 2 responsible <u>responsible</u> | 5 energetik <u>energetic</u> | 8 tolarant <u>tolerant</u>    |

## 3 Match 1–8 with a–i.

- |                                                      |                    |
|------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| ▶ feeling sure about your own ability <u>c</u>       | a aggressive       |
| 1 boring <u>d</u>                                    | b cheerful         |
| 2 likely to fight or argue <u>a</u>                  | c self-confident ✓ |
| 3 thinking you are better than others <u>e</u>       | d tolerant         |
| 4 always telling the truth <u>h</u>                  | e sense of humour  |
| 5 ability to laugh at things <u>b</u>                | f dull             |
| 6 feeling happy <u>f</u>                             | g arrogant         |
| 7 unhappy to give money or help people <u>i</u>      | h honest           |
| 8 able to accept ideas you don't agree with <u>d</u> | i mean             |

## 4 Complete the tables.

| ADJECTIVE      | OPPOSITE             | ADJECTIVE  | NOUN              |
|----------------|----------------------|------------|-------------------|
| ▶ patient      | <u>impatient</u>     | ambitious  | <u>ambition</u>   |
| honest         | <u>dishonest</u>     | honest     | <u>honesty</u>    |
| responsible    | <u>irresponsible</u> | tolerant   | <u>tolerance</u>  |
| lazy           | <u>hard-working</u>  | aggressive | <u>aggression</u> |
| generous       | <u>selfish</u>       | arrogant   | <u>arrogance</u>  |
| ambitious      | <u>unambitious</u>   | generous   | <u>generosity</u> |
| self-confident | <u>self-doubting</u> | patient    | <u>patience</u>   |

## 5 Complete the words in each sentence.

- ▶ If you disagree with Matthew, he can get a bit aggressive.
- My brother's a bit irresponsible and does some crazy things; but he's OK.
  - Keiko's a good person to share a flat with: she's very easygoing.
  - I like Zoltan; he's got a great sense of humour.
  - Hamdi is a fantastic musician, but very few people realize this because he's so mean.
  - Since Katy got a new job and a boyfriend, she's become more self-confident.
  - My brother's lazy, but my sisters have always been very honest-working.
  - I don't think young Andy is responsible enough to drive a car.
  - Andrea has so much energy; she's always doing something.

## 6 ABOUT YOU Answer the questions, or ask another student.

- Are you ambitious? If so, in what way? I am ambitious because I want to be a doctor.
- Would you say you're hard-working or a bit lazy? I am hard-working.
- Are you intolerant of anything? If so, what? I am intolerant of people who are rude.
- When do you get impatient? I get impatient when I am waiting for someone.
- How do you see yourself? Write three adjectives. I am honest, hard-working, and ambitious.
- Which two qualities do you think are the most important: honesty, patience, tolerance, or generosity? Honesty and tolerance.