

# Personality

## VOCABULARY BANK

### 1 ADJECTIVES

a Complete the sentences with an adjective from the list.

bright /brait/ conscientious /kɒnʃi'ensəs/  
determined /dɪ'tɜːmɪnd/ gentle /dʒentl/  
resourceful /rɪ'sɔːsfl/ sarcastic /sə'kæstɪk/  
self-sufficient /self-sə'fɪʃnt/  
spontaneous /spɒn'teɪnɪəs/ steady /'stedi/  
straightforward /streɪt'fɔːwəd/  
sympathetic /sɪm'pæθetɪk/ thorough /'θərəf/

- 1 He's quite *resourceful*. He can usually work out how to solve a problem.
- 2 He's very \_\_\_\_\_. Whatever part of a job he's doing, he does it with great attention to detail.
- 3 My nieces are both really \_\_\_\_\_. They get very good marks at school in all their subjects.
- 4 She's such a \_\_\_\_\_ person. She's honest and open and says just what she thinks.
- 5 She's very \_\_\_\_\_. Once she's decided to do something, nothing will stop her.
- 6 He's very \_\_\_\_\_. He never needs anyone else's help.
- 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 Her boyfriend is a \_\_\_\_\_ kind of guy. He's sensible and she can really rely on him.
- 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 1.5 Listen and check.

#### False friends

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

### 2 USEFUL PHRASES WHEN DESCRIBING PERSONALITY

a Complete the sentences with a phrase from the list.

a bit of a a bit too comes across deep down on the surface  
on the whole tends to

- 1 My father *tends to* avoid conflict – he never argues with my mother, he just leaves the room.
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_ he seems self-confident, but \_\_\_\_\_ he's quite insecure.
- 3 I worry about my grandmother. She's \_\_\_\_\_ trusting, so it's easy for people to take advantage of her.
- 4 \_\_\_\_\_ he's pretty laid-back, though he can sometimes get very stressed about work.
- 5 She's \_\_\_\_\_ control freak – she always needs to organize everything and everybody.
- 6 He \_\_\_\_\_ as quite sarcastic, but in fact he's really friendly.

b 1.6 Listen and check.

### 3 IDIOMS

a Match the **bold** idioms 1–10 to their meanings A–J.

- 1 **B** My dad's got a **heart of gold**.
- 2 **C** My brother-in-law is very **down to earth**.
- 3 **D** My boss is a bit of a **cold fish**.
- 4 **E** My brother's a **real pain in the neck**.
- 5 **F** My mum's a **soft touch**.
- 6 **G** My uncle has a **very quick temper**.
- 7 **H** I know I shouldn't criticise your family, but your sister is really **full of herself**.
- 8 **I** He comes across as aggressive, but in fact he **wouldn't hurt a fly**.
- 9 **J** My brother never **lifts a finger** around the house.
- 10 **A** My cousin's always **the life and soul of the party**.

A She's unfriendly and she never shows her emotions.  
B He's incredibly kind to everyone he meets.  
C He's so annoying – he's always taking my things.  
D She's great at telling jokes and making people laugh.  
E I can always persuade her to give me extra pocket money.  
F He expects the rest of us to do everything.  
G He's the gentlest person I know.  
H He gets angry very easily.  
I He's very sensible and practical.  
J She thinks she's the most important member of the family.

b 1.7 Listen and check.

**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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