

9) Personal qualities

A Positive

My cousin Zara is **incredibly talented**: she's a **gymnastics champion**, and is **currently** the best runner in the country in her age group.



I think my brother Luke is so **brave**. He lost a leg in a motorbike accident five years ago, but now runs marathons to **raise money** for **charity**. I'm very **proud** of him.



My gran has many great **qualities**: she's one of the **kindest**, **gentlest**, and most **loving** people I've ever met. She never has a bad word to say about anyone and is always there to help you if you need it.



GLOSSARY

incredibly	extremely
talented	having a natural ability to do sth well talent <i>n</i>
champion	the person who is the best at a sport or game
currently	now; at the moment current <i>adj</i>
brave	ready to do dangerous or difficult things without fear
raise money	get money from other people for a special purpose
charity	an organization that collects money to help people who need it
proud (of sb)	pleased about sth you or others have done
quality	a thing that is part of sb's character, especially sth good
kind	friendly and good to other people <i>opp unkind</i>
gentle	quiet and kind
loving	feeling or showing love and care

1 Complete the sentences in a logical way.

► Gentle people are quiet and **kind**.....

- 1 You raise money for other people because they it.
- 2 A father is kind and caring.
- 3 You feel proud if you've done something
- 4 If you are a champion, you are the
- 5 Brave people are prepared to do things.
- 6 Charities usually collect to help other people.
- 7 If something is currently true, it's true at the
- 8 A talent is a natural
- 9 If something is incredibly easy, it is easy.
- 10 If you're unkind, you aren't to people.

2 Complete the dialogues.

► Amelia is wonderful with her children.

- 1 Does she have a natural ability?
- 2 Is Carlos good at tennis?
- 3 Does Shelter collect money for homeless people?
- 4 Has your father helped you?
- 5 Your sister has been very kind.
- 6 Does the charity need more money?
- 7 Are there many students in the school?
- 8 Tom seems to have no fear at all.
- 9 It's amazing what Zoe has achieved already.

~ Yes, she's a very **loving** mother.
~ Yes, she's very
~ Yes, he's the national for 16-year-olds.
~ Yes, it's a national
~ Yes, he's been helpful.
~ Yes, it's one of her best
~ Yes, they need to another £50,000.
~ Yes, there are about 400, and more each year.
~ No, he's very
~ I know, we're all very of her.

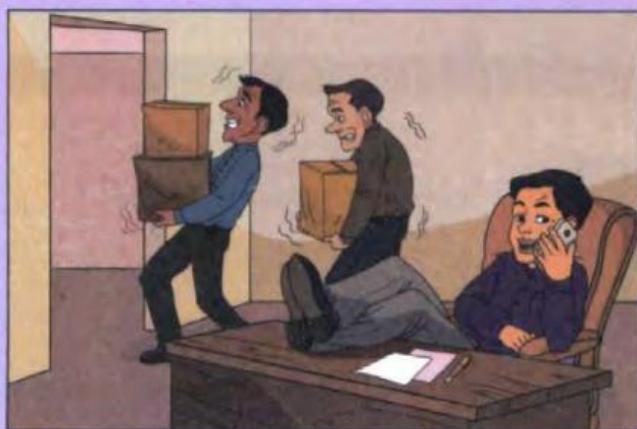
3 ABOUT YOU Write answers to the questions, or ask another student.

► Do you have a natural talent for something? If so, what is it? **I think I have a talent for writing.**

- 1 Have you ever been a champion at anything?
- 2 Have you ever raised money for anything? If so, what?
- 3 Think of something you are proud of.
- 4 Would you describe yourself as gentle?
- 5 What's one of your best qualities?



B Negative



When anyone asks my colleague Otto for help, he always **pretends** to be busy and **makes up** an **excuse** for not having enough time. It's very **annoying** because it's part of his job to help us.

My boss can be very **difficult** as well. She has very **high standards**, which is good, but sometimes she **expects** too much of other people, and she can be a bit **cruel**.

My brother can be quite **unpleasant**. He doesn't **mean to be**, but he just sounds rather angry a lot of the time. People think he's a bit **odd**.

GLOSSARY

pretend	try to make sb believe sth that is not true
make sth up	tell sb sth that is not true SYN invent
excuse	a reason you give to explain why you have done sth wrong, or not done sth you should have done
annoying	making you a little angry
difficult	A person who is difficult is not easy to please, or will not do what you want.
high standards	wanting people to reach a high level of quality and ability
cruel	very unkind cruelty n
unpleasant	unfriendly and not nice OPP pleasant
mean (to do sth)	intend (to do sth)
odd	strange or unusual

SPOTLIGHT *expect*

In the text above, **expect** means 'demand that somebody does something because it is their job or responsibility'.

► *She expects a lot of people who work for her.*

It can also mean 'think that something will happen or that somebody will come'.

► *I expect my mother will be here soon.*

4 Underline the main stress on these words. Use the to help you. Practise saying the words.

► annoying

1 pretend

3 difficult

2 excuse

4 standard

5 expect

7 pleasant

6 cruel

8 unpleasant

5 Yes or No?

► He's a difficult person. Do you think he'll do what you want?

No

1 He pretended to be asleep. Was he?

.....

2 He made it up. Was it true?

.....

3 He meant to do it. Did he intend to do it?

.....

4 He was pleasant. Was he nice?

.....

5 He was annoying. Were you angry?

.....

6 He's cruel. Is he kind?

.....

7 You expect something to happen. Do you think it will?

.....

8 He just made up an excuse. Was he telling the truth?

.....

9 He has high standards. Is he easy to please?

.....

10 She's odd. Is she normal?

.....

6 Complete the texts.

► The animals are locked up 24 hours a day. I think that's very cruel

1 Petra is late for class most days, but always has a different I think she's got a few problems at the moment. She to be OK, but in actual fact, she isn't.

2 When students are late for class they are sometimes honest, but often they an excuse about the buses not being on time, or that the traffic was terrible.

3 I can't keep the flat as clean and tidy as my flatmate, but that's because she has very high and I don't. She puts my things away where I can't find them, which can be , and I sometimes get a bit angry with her. She doesn't to be unkind or anything. She's just incredibly tidy.

4 My little sister has lots of problems and a lot of help from me. But when I can't solve her problems, she can be quite to me. She's a person.



TEST YOURSELF