attitude

1 Verb + attitude

Use the correct form of these verbs:

change *harden* *shape* *understand*
show *take* *typify*

1. I'm afraid our nephew has turned out to be a greedy, self-centred young man. His attitude ..... a complete disregard for his family and others.
2. I've always ..... a fairly easy-going attitude towards bringing up my children. Children need freedom to develop and make their own mistakes.
3. John's total lack of interest in the general election ..... the attitude of many young people today.
4. What do you think influences our attitudes to marriage?
   > I think our experiences in childhood ..... our attitudes to marriage and family life.
5. This book examines how attitudes to sex in Britain have ..... since the end of the Second World War.
6. Attitudes towards the US have ..... as a result of the recent accidental bombing of civilians.
7. I don't ..... your attitude. Why don't you like Ken? Everyone else thinks he's a great guy.

2 Common adjective collocations

Use these adjectives in the sentences:

aggressive *insular* *negative*
patronising *relaxed* *right*

1. A meal with Greg can be really depressing. He's got such a ..... attitude to everything.
2. The teachers in this school seem to have a very ..... attitude to discipline. I thought they'd be much stricter.
3. You can make a career in sales and marketing, but only if you have the ..... attitude.
4. Why do football fans cause so much trouble? They've got such an ..... attitude to everything.
5. Many US newspapers contain very little international news. This is just one sign of the ..... attitudes of Americans.
6. He obviously thinks he's so much better than me, but his ..... attitude is beginning to irritate me immensely.

Go back and underline the adjective collocations.

3 Hyphenated adjectives

Use these two- and three-part adjectives:

slap-dash *happy-go-lucky* *laid-back*
holier-than-thou *devil-may-care*

1. My boss is so relaxed, but so efficient. I've never seen her get worried by anything. She's got such a ..... attitude towards work.
2. He's the most exciting tennis player of the decade. His ..... attitude means he takes the kind of risks nobody else would.
3. Our son's a bit too ..... in his attitude to schoolwork. He usually does it while he watches television. It's no surprise that his examination results are so poor.
4. My mother-in-law is always disapproving and saying that she would never do this or that. She thinks she's so morally superior. I can't stand people with such ..... attitudes.
5. My brother just accepts whatever happens to him and says he never thinks about the future. He's got such a ..... attitude to everything.

Notes

1. Note that *attitude* is followed by *to* or *towards*:
   I find his attitude towards women hard to take.
   I find his whole attitude to his work unacceptable.
2. Note these noun phrases with 'attitude':
   There's been a noticeable change in attitude towards head office in recent months.
   Some people believe that how old you feel is just an attitude of mind.
3. A *complacent attitude* is when you stop trying to improve or change things:
   Lack of competition led to a complacent attitude in both management and the workforce.
4. *Entrenched attitudes* are ones that people have had for a long time and are unlikely to change:
   It will be difficult to change the deeply entrenched attitudes of some of the older union members.
5. *Gung-ho* attitudes are usually over-enthusiastic and politically inappropriate:
   The Prime Minister's gung-ho attitude was not appropriate for such delicate negotiations.

LIVEWORKSHEETS