Personality

1 Adjectives and phrases to describe personality

Match the adjectives with phrases 1–20.

~~ambitious~~ ~~arrogant~~ ~~assertive~~ bad-tempered calm /kɑːm/ cheerful conscientious /ˌkɒnʃiˈenʃəs/ easy-going eccentric /ɪkˈsentrɪk/ funny immature impulsive ~~insecure~~ insincere loyal open-minded ~~optimistic~~ possessive reserved ~~self-confident~~ stubborn /ˈstʌbən/ vain ~~well-balanced~~ wise

She's the kind (sort) of person who…	She's / He's…
1 always looks at herself in every mirror she passes.	
2 takes care to do things carefully and correctly.	
3 is prepared to accept new and different ideas.	
4 doesn't say what she really thinks.	
5 other people often find different or unusual.	
6 is fairly relaxed about most things.	
7 is emotionally in control, not moody.	*well-balanced*
8 never changes her opinion even when she's clearly wrong.	
9 expresses her ideas or opinions with confidence.	*assertive*
10 is always in a good mood.	
11 feels sure about her ability to do things	*self-confident*
12 isn't very sure about herself.	*insecure*
13 is determined to be successful	*ambitious*
He's good at…	
14 supporting his friends.	
15 giving people advice because of his knowledge and experience.	
16 keeping his head in a crisis.	
She's not very good at…	
17 letting other people share her friends.	
18 showing her feelings or expressing her opinions.	
He tends to…	
19 behave like a child.	
20 act without thinking.	
21 get angry very easily.	
22 think he is better and more important than other people.	*arrogant*
23 expect good things to happen	*optimistic*
She has / has got…	
24 a great sense of humour.	

Can you remember the words on this page? Test yourself or a partner.

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2 Adjective suffixes

a Many adjectives are formed by adding a suffix to a noun or verb. Look at the typical suffixes in the chart.

-ible	-able	-ful	-y
responsible	*sociable*	*helpful*	*bossy*

-ive	-ous	-al	-ic
assertive	*ambitious*	*practical*	*ironic*

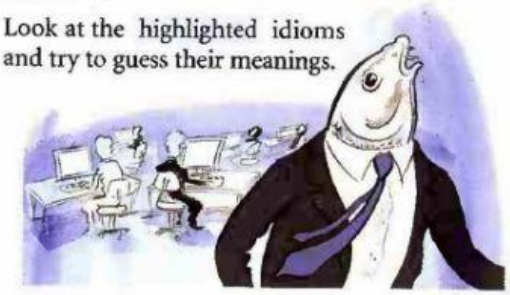
b Add one adjective to each column in a by adding a suffix to the nouns / verbs in the list. You may need to make other small changes. (Be careful with *sense* which can have two different endings and meanings.)

adventure critic forget mood pessimist rely sense

c Think of definitions for the adjectives you made in b.

3 Idioms

a Look at the highlighted idioms and try to guess their meanings.



1 My boss is rather a cold fish. I don't even know if he likes me or not.
2 She has a heart of gold. She'll always help anyone with anything.
3 She's as hard as nails. She doesn't care who she hurts.
4 I hope Jack doesn't come tonight. He's such a pain in the neck.

b Match the idioms with their meanings.

A annoying, difficult
B very kind, generous
C distant, unfriendly
D shows no sympathy or fear

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