



### Listening activity- Personality

Listen to the recording and follow the conversation transcript and answer the questions:

**H = Helen, D = Daniel**

**H:** Hi Daniel. Have you finished doing your essay? I want to show you something ... just five minutes ... It won't take long.

**D:** Yes, sure. I've decided not to do my essay now, actually. It's really difficult and Michael has offered to help me later. What do you want to do?

**H:** Well, erm ... I want to look at the shape of your fingers.

**D:** What? ... Why?

**H:** I'm going to tell you about your personality.

**D:** Oh ... hmm ... I'm not sure about that. What are you going to say about me?! You have to promise to be nice!

**H:** Well, we'll see what your fingers say!

**D:** Oh, OK ... why not? I enjoy doing this kind of thing actually. So, where do we start?

**H:** OK, well, erm ... there are three main things to look at.

**D:** Mmm ...

**H:** First, there's the length of your fingers. People with long, slim fingers are quite sensitive. People with shorter, thicker fingers, like yours, are more open. They talk about their feelings more. So, you're quite an open person ...

**D:** No, I'm not sure about that ... Actually, I don't think I'm very open. I think I avoid telling people about my feelings most of the time ... In fact, I don't think I talk about my feelings much at all.

**H:** Yes, you do ...

**D:** I don't think so, really ... only to really close family and friends. I mean, I'd never even consider showing my feelings to someone I didn't know.

**H:** No, well, obviously not ... but you seem to be quite open with people you know – that's what I mean.

**D:** Well ... I'm really not sure – but let's move on. What else then?

**H:** Well, secondly, there's the shape of your fingers. Are your fingers straight?

**D:** Erm ... yes ... I think they are quite straight.

**H:** Errmm ... that means you're organised. Is that true?

**D:** Yes. I think that's true about me. I mean, especially with writing essays and things ... I'm very organised. You can't afford to be disorganised really. There's so much work at university ... It all piles up if you're not organised about it.

**H:** Yes ...

**D:** So, you said I'm open, organised ... OK ... what else?

**H:** Well, finally, the thumb is very important. Let's see how long your thumb is ...

**D:** Hmm ... I think it's quite long.

**H:** Well, a long thumb means you're ambitious. You know, you really want to be successful in what you do. You've got quite a long thumb, so I guess you're quite ambitious.

**D:** That's absolutely right! I think I am ambitious ... yes. Hmm ... not bad ... you said I'm ambitious, yes, organised, yes ... and open, well, I'm still not sure about that one ... but not bad, I suppose.

**H:** Mmm ... I think that's quite accurate, actually.

**D:** OK, now it's your turn! Let me look at your hands ...

*Material taken from New Total English Pre-intermediate by Pearson.*

1. They talk about three main aspects; the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of the fingers and how long was the \_\_\_\_\_ finger.
2. According to Helen, people with short fingers are open. **True** **False**
3. Are Daniel's fingers **straight** or **crooked**?
4. Which two adjectives match with Daniel's personality?  
\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_