# 12 Describing character

## 1 Positive or negative comments

**Mark the following P (positive) or N (negative):**

1. She's got so much personality.
2. She's a bit difficult at times.
3. She isn't easy to get on with.
4. She's got a great sense of humour.
5. She's a bit of a pain sometimes.
6. She's great fun.
7. She can be a pain in the neck.
8. She's my kind of person.

*Can you think of people you know who fit these descriptions?*

## 2 He's always doing that

**Match the first part of these descriptions with the second parts below:**

1. Tony isn't very sensitive.
2. Mark's so aggressive.
3. Simon's very thoughtful.
4. He's so absent-minded.
5. Joe isn't very self-confident.
6. He's so vain.

a. He's always buying me little presents.
b. He's always looking in the mirror.
c. He's always worrying about what people think of him.
d. He's always saying the wrong thing.
e. He keeps forgetting where he's put things.
f. He keeps getting into fights.

## 4 Opposites

**Match the adjectives in sentences 1 – 5 with the opposites in sentences a – e:**

1. Tom's really generous. He bought everyone in the pub a drink last night.
2. Claire's very hard-working. She never leaves the office until after six o'clock.
3. Tina's very outgoing. She's made friends with everybody else in the class already.
4. Brian's a very easy-going sort of guy. Nothing seems to worry him.
5. Jack's such a cheerful little boy. I've never seen him in a bad mood.

a. Bruno's so shy. I don't think he's spoken to any of the other students yet.
b. I don't understand why he's so miserable. He never stops complaining.
c. Lucy's very tense. She's always worrying about something or other.
d. Don't expect Tom to put any money in the collection. He's much too mean.
e. I can't believe Emma's husband's so lazy. He just sits and watches TV all evening.

*In British English informal words for men are: guy, bloke and lad; lad is only used for young men.*

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## 3 He's far too modest

**Complete the following dialogues with the following expressions:**

| | |
|---|---|
| far too modest | far too sensible |
| much too shy | much too proud |
| much too loyal | far too honest |

1. I think Mark took some money from my bag while we were out.
   > No, he's . . . . . to do a thing like that.
2. I'm still waiting for Lisa to say sorry for sending that fax to the wrong address.
   > You'll wait a long time! Lisa's . . . . . to admit anything's her fault.
3. Jenny left a window open when she went out this morning. Anybody could've got in.
   > Are you sure it was Jenny. She's . . . . . to do anything like that.
4. Apparently, Amy asked Tom if he'd like to go out tomorrow night.
   > I don't believe you. She's . . . . . to ask a boy out!
5. Julie got the highest mark in the class, but she didn't say a word.
   > No, she wouldn't. She's . . . . . to say anything about it.
6. I thought Martin was a good friend but he's been telling everybody that I'm boring.
   > Are you sure? Martin's . . . . . to say something like that behind your back.

## 8 Negative prefixes

**Change these words into their opposites by adding un, dis, in, or im:**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| . . . reliable | . . . honest | . . . sensitive |
| . . . pleasant | . . . loyal | . . . tolerant |
| . . . patient | . . . mature | . . . friendly |
| . . . decisive | . . . ambitious | . . . selfish |

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## 6 Don't be so nosey

**Complete the dialogues below with these adjectives:**

bossy sensitive fussy nosey

1. How much do you earn in your new job?
   > That's a bit . . . . . of you!
2. You can do the washing up while I'm out.
   > You can be so . . . . . at times!
3. Jenny's really upset about what you said.
   > She's too . . . . . .
4. I can't eat these vegetables. They've been cooked in oil.
   > Oh, don't be so . . . . . .

## 7 Types of people

**Here are 8 different kinds of people. Use them in the sentences below:**

| | |
|---|---|
| a gossip | a big-head |
| an extrovert | a laugh |
| a couch potato | a snob |
| a coward | a liar |

1. You shouldn't believe a word Justin says. He's a terrible . . . . . .
2. Maria's a terrible . . . . . . She's always talking about everybody else in the office.
3. Roberto's quite an . . . . . , isn't he? He's got hundreds of friends!
4. Martin's such a . . . . . . He never stops telling people how wonderful he is.
5. You can't keep running away from your responsibilities. You're such a . . . . . .
6. Just because Dave didn't go to university doesn't mean he's any less intelligent than you. Don't be such a . . . . . .
7. Emma's husband's such a . . . . . . He just sits around all day watching TV.
8. Billy knows hundreds of jokes. He's such a . . . . . !

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