

11 Describing character

A What are you like?

Describe your character¹
 Choose the number that describes you. For example, in the first line
 1 = very positive, 3 = not very positive or negative, 5 = very negative.

	1	2	3	4	5	
I think I'm very positive ² .	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	I'm quite a negative person.
I'm usually reliable ³ .	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	I'm quite unreliable .
I'm quite confident ⁴ .	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	I'm quite shy ⁵ .
I'm hard-working ⁶ .	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	I'm quite lazy .
I have a good sense of humour ⁷ .	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	I'm usually quite serious ⁸ .
I'm usually quite patient ⁹ .	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	I'm quite impatient .

¹ what you are like as a person

² believe that good things will happen

³ can be trusted to do what people expect you to do

⁴ feeling sure about yourself and your abilities

⁵ not confident, especially about meeting or talking to new people

⁶ putting a lot of effort into your work and spending a lot of time on it

⁷ the ability to laugh and understand when something is funny

⁸ a serious person is quiet and doesn't laugh very much

⁹ able to stay calm and not get angry, especially when things take a lot of time

Common mistakes

A: What's he like? (NOT How is he like?)

B: He's very **nice**. (NOT He's like very nice.)

B Opposites

positive	negative
generous [happy to give more money or help than is usual]	mean
honest [an honest person tells the truth]	dishonest
clever, intelligent [able to learn and understand things quickly]	stupid
calm [relaxed and not worried or frightened]	nervous, anxious

Language help

We use **kind** to describe someone who wants to help people a lot, and **nice, friendly** or **pleasant** for someone who is happy to talk to people. The opposites are **unkind, unfriendly** and **unpleasant**.

C Describing a friend

“The first thing I would say about my best friend is that she's very **sensible**¹. I've never known Emilia to do anything **silly**², and I know I can always **trust**³ her. She's also very **creative**⁴; she makes things, and she's a very **talented**⁵ artist. I **wish**⁶ I had her **talent**.”

¹ practical; doesn't do stupid things

² not sensible, a bit stupid

³ be sure that she is honest

⁴ good at thinking of new ideas and using her imagination

⁵ has a natural ability

⁶ I would like to have her talent but I haven't got it