

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.

Exercises

11.1 Find five pairs of opposites and put them into the correct columns.

nice mean sensible lazy calm generous
unpleasant hard-working silly nervous

positive	negative
nice	

11.2 Write the opposites using the correct prefix.

- 1 unkind 3pleasant 5honest
2friendly 4patient 6reliable

11.3 Describe the person in the sentences, in one word.

- 1 My brother is in the office from 8 am to 6 pm every day. hard-working
2 He has never bought me a drink in ten years.
3 She often promises to do things but sometimes she forgets.
4 My teacher explains things again and never gets angry.
5 Emma finds it difficult to meet people and talk to strangers.
6 Noah is practical and doesn't do anything stupid.
7 Our teacher is nice, but he's quiet and he doesn't laugh a lot.
8 Danya is very relaxed and doesn't seem to worry about things.
9 My boss is really good at using his imagination to think of new ideas.
10 Ava can play several musical instruments.

11.4 Complete the sentences.

- 1 My sister can't wait for anything; she's so impatient.
2 I get very before exams; I need to try and relax a bit more.
3 I I could paint as well as your brother; he's so creative.
4 Adeline hasn't done a thing since she's been here. Honestly, she's so
5 I always have a laugh with my cousin – he's got a great sense of
6 My younger sister is able to understand new ideas so quickly; she's very
7 If Sarah says she'll do it, then she'll do it. I her completely.
8 He'd like to be relaxed and confident, but it's just not part of his
9 He failed his exams, but he isn't He just didn't do any work.
10 Aurora helped me bake some cakes last week; she's very

11.5 Over to you

Complete the quiz on the opposite page for yourself. From all the words on the opposite page, which one would you most like to be, and which is the one you would hate to be? If possible, compare your answers with someone else.