

# Personality

## 1 Adjectives and phrases to describe personality

Match the adjectives with phrases 1–20.

ambitious arrogant assertive bad-tempered calm /kɔ:m/  
cheerful conscientious /,kɔnsi'ensəs/ easy-going  
eccentric /ik'sentrik/ funny immature impulsive insecure  
insincere loyal open-minded optimistic possessive reserved  
self-confident stubborn /'stʌbən/ vain well-balanced wise

She's the kind (sort) of person who...

- 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.
- 8 never changes her opinion even when she's clearly wrong.
- 9 expresses her ideas or opinions with confidence.
- 10 is always in a good mood.
- 11 feels sure about her ability to do things
- 12 isn't very sure about herself.
- 13 is determined to be successful

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.
- 23 expect good things to happen

She has / has got...

- 24 a great sense of humour.

She's / He's...

well-balanced  
assertive  
self-confident  
insecure  
ambitious

adventure  
critic  
forget  
mood  
pessimist  
rely  
sense

arrogant  
optimistic

## 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

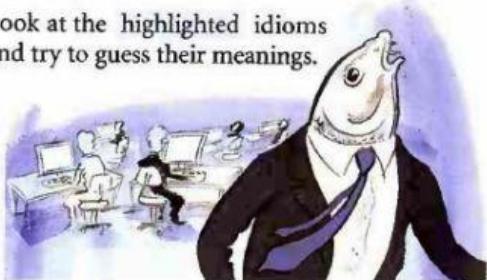
b Add one adjective to each column in a by adding a suffix to the nouns / verbs in the list. You may need to make other small changes. (Be careful with *sense* which can have two different endings and meanings.)

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

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

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