

# 11 Describing character

## A What are you like?

**Describe your character<sup>1</sup>**  
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 <b>positive</b> <sup>2</sup> .	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	I'm quite a <b>negative</b> person.
I'm usually <b>reliable</b> <sup>3</sup> .	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	I'm quite <b>unreliable</b> .
I'm quite <b>confident</b> <sup>4</sup> .	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	I'm quite <b>shy</b> <sup>5</sup> .
I'm <b>hard-working</b> <sup>6</sup> .	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	I'm quite <b>lazy</b> .
I have a good <b>sense of humour</b> <sup>7</sup> .	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	I'm usually quite <b>serious</b> <sup>8</sup> .
I'm usually quite <b>patient</b> <sup>9</sup> .	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	I'm quite <b>impatient</b> .

<sup>1</sup> what you are like as a person

<sup>2</sup> believe that good things will happen

<sup>3</sup> can be trusted to do what people expect you to do

<sup>4</sup> feeling sure about yourself and your abilities

<sup>5</sup> not confident, especially about meeting or talking to new people

<sup>6</sup> putting a lot of effort into your work and spending a lot of time on it

<sup>7</sup> the ability to laugh and understand when something is funny

<sup>8</sup> a serious person is quiet and doesn't laugh very much

<sup>9</sup> 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
<b>generous</b> [happy to give more money or help than is usual]	<b>mean</b>
<b>honest</b> [an honest person tells the truth]	<b>dishonest</b>
<b>clever, intelligent</b> [able to learn and understand things quickly]	<b>stupid</b>
<b>calm</b> [relaxed and not worried or frightened]	<b>nervous, anxious</b>

### 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**<sup>1</sup>. I've never known Emilia to do anything **silly**<sup>2</sup>, and I know I can always **trust**<sup>3</sup> her. She's also very **creative**<sup>4</sup>; she makes things, and she's a very **talented**<sup>5</sup> artist. I **wish**<sup>6</sup> I had her **talent**.”

<sup>1</sup> practical; doesn't do stupid things

<sup>2</sup> not sensible, a bit stupid

<sup>3</sup> be sure that she is honest

<sup>4</sup> good at thinking of new ideas and using her imagination

<sup>5</sup> has a natural ability

<sup>6</sup> I would like to have her talent but I haven't got it