

17 Assessing character

Interviews were conducted on July 30th for the flight attendant training programme. We require a calm, confident and hard-working person.

NAME	Interviewer's comments	?
 Joel Robbins	Joel seemed rather arrogant and immature. He started badly by saying some idiotic things about the company, showing that he wasn't at all knowledgeable about it. He struggled to answer the most basic questions.	no
 Makiko Yaguchi	I didn't know what to make of her at first, but as the interview progressed, I felt she was a very capable person, mature and motivated.	yes?
 Marek Novak	At first he came across as timid and lacking in confidence. However, as he relaxed, I could see he was actually quite charming. He seemed conscientious and efficient, and I think he would take the job seriously.	yes?
 Jacinta Ribeiro	I really took to Jacinta immediately. She struck me as a confident, straightforward candidate, and I feel she has great potential.	yes

GLOSSARY

arrogant	behaving in a proud, unpleasant way arrogance <i>n</i>	confidence	a belief in yourself and your abilities confident <i>adj</i>
immature	behaving in a way that is typical of much younger people OPP mature	charming	very pleasant charm <i>n</i>
idiotic	very stupid SYN ridiculous ; idiot <i>n</i>	conscientious	taking care to do things carefully and correctly
knowledgeable	knowing a lot SYN well informed	efficient	doing sth well without making mistakes or wasting time efficiency <i>n</i>
struggle (to do sth)	try very hard to do sth when it is difficult or there are a lot of problems struggle <i>n</i>	take sth/sb seriously	think that sth/sb is important and is worth your attention
capable	able to do things well	take to sb/sth	start liking sb/sth
motivated	wanting to do sth, especially sth involving hard work motivation <i>n</i>	straightforward	honest and open about your feelings and opinions
timid	shy and nervous	potential	qualities in a person that exist and can be developed potential <i>adj</i>
be lacking in sth	having none or not enough of sth ALSO lack sth		

SPOTLIGHT creating and forming an impression

make sth of sb understand the character of sb:

*I didn't know what to **make of him**. What do you **make of** the new receptionist?*

come across (as sth) make a particular impression **SYN** **come over (as sth)**:

■ *He **came over/across** very well in the discussion.*

■ *He **comes over/across as** an efficient person.*

strike sb as sth give somebody a particular impression:

■ *She **struck me as** someone with potential. He **struck me as** odd.*

1 Complete the table.

NOUN	ADJECTIVE
	arrogant
	confident
	efficient
	charming
motivation	
potential	
knowledge	
idiot	

2 Is the pronunciation of the underlined letters the same or different? Write S or D.

Use the  to help you.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 mature <u>ch</u> arm | 5 ridicu <u>l</u> ous seri <u>o</u> sly |
| 2 confidence idi <u>t</u> | 6 ca <u>p</u> able a <u>r</u> rogant |
| 3 strai <u>gh</u> tforward well-i <u>n</u> formed | 7 ridicu <u>l</u> ous stru <u>gg</u> le |
| 4 po <u>t</u> ential co <u>n</u> fident | 8 co <u>n</u> scientious effi <u>c</u> ient |

3 Complete the dialogues in a suitable way.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 Is Mr Morris knowledgeable about the business? | ~ Yes, he's very |
| 2 Does she say exactly what she wants? | ~ Yes, she's very |
| 3 She seems like she's just out of school. | ~ I agree. She's too for our company. |
| 4 Would he be organized and work quickly? | ~ I think so. His old boss said he was |
| 5 Was it easy to fill in that long form? | ~ No, it was a real I didn't understand it. |
| 6 That candidate's answers were idiotic! | ~ Yes, they were He'd be hopeless. |
| 7 I liked him, but I'm worried that he's quite shy. | ~ Yes, he's rather, isn't he? |
| 8 Would she have the right qualities for managing the office? | ~Yes, she seemed to me. |

4 Rewrite the sentences using the word or a form of the word in capitals. Keep the same meaning.

- | | |
|---|-----------------|
| 1 What did you think of Aaron's character? | MAKE |
| 2 Josie found it hard to explain what she meant. | STRUGGLE |
| 3 Lawrence didn't seem that charming to me. | LACKING |
| 4 I didn't like Rollo at first. | TAKE |
| 5 Parminder made a very good impression in the interview. | COME |
| 6 Rupert gave me the impression of being capable. | STRIKE |
| 7 I think Ariana has qualities that can be developed. | POTENTIAL |
| 8 Vicky didn't seem to have much motivation. | MOTIVATED |

5 ABOUT YOU Complete the answers in a way that is true for you. If possible, talk to another student.

- I am well informed about
- I think people who are conscientious
- If people are charming towards me, I
- I feel confident when
- It's sometimes a struggle for me to
- If I meet someone who is arrogant, I
- If someone doesn't take me seriously, I
- I don't take to people who
- In an interview situation, I think I probably come across as
- If someone says something ridiculous in an interview, I think it could be because

