

Which are -/+?

Use a dictionary to find the meanings of the adjectives describing character and personality below.

ambitious	good fun	nosy	reliable
blunt	hard-working	open-minded	self-assured
clever	impatient	outgoing	sociable
creative	judgemental	over-sensitive	stingy

Which adjectives from Exercise 1 would you use to describe yourself?

I consider myself to be _____.

I would say I was _____.

Vocabulary Relationships

Match phrases 1–8 with definitions a–h.

1 get on with somebody	a argue and stop being friendly with somebody
2 look up to somebody	b have a good relationship
3 be in touch with somebody	c gradually have a less close relationship with somebody
4 fall out with somebody	d be in communication with somebody
5 grow apart from somebody	e know somebody well and see or talk to them often
6 take after somebody	f have many childhood and adolescent experiences in common with somebody
7 grow up together/with somebody	g respect somebody
8 be close to somebody	h resemble somebody in your family (in appearance or personality)

Using phrases from Exercise 4, make eight sentences describing relationships you have.

Example: I take after my dad – we're both quite careless.

Listen to three people talk about their relatives. Make notes as you listen. How do they describe their relatives and their relationships with them?

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____

Listen again and make more notes. Look up any language you do not know in your dictionary and make a note of it.



Listen to Track 1 again and notice how the adjectives describing character and personality are modified. Complete sentences 1–10 with the modifying adverbs you hear.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| 1 She's _____ outgoing and sociable. | 6 She's _____ nosy. |
| 2 She's _____ hard-working. | 7 She's _____ blunt. |
| 3 She can be _____ impatient. | 8 She can be _____ stingy. |
| 4 He was _____ creative. | 9 She's _____ clever. |
| 5 He's not _____ reliable. | 10 She's _____ self-assured and ambitious. |

Remember!

Listen to Track 1 again and repeat. Pay particular attention to your pronunciation.

Exam tip: If you use a character adjective to describe someone in the exam, you should expand on it or explain it.

Examples:

She's really outgoing and sociable – she's always going out with friends and colleagues.

He's not very reliable, so, for example, if I email him, he won't respond.

She's terribly blunt, which means she quite often upsets us with the things she says.

Homework

Write descriptions, similar to those you heard in Track 1, of four members of your family. Use some of the adjectives from Part 1 of this unit. Remember to modify the adjectives and explain or expand on each characteristic. Include at least one negative point for each person.



Exam information

Part 2: Individual long turn (3–4 minutes)

The examiner will give you a task card that asks you to talk about a particular topic and includes points that you can cover in your talk. You do not have to cover all the points and you do not have to talk about them in order. You will be given one minute to prepare your talk, and you will be given a pencil and paper to make notes (do not write on the task card). You must talk for one to two minutes on the topic. The examiner will then ask you one or two questions on the same topic.

Part 2 tests your ability to talk at length, organising your ideas coherently.

IELTS Speaking Exam: Part 2

Read this Part 2 question. Give yourself one minute to plan your answer, making notes if you wish. Then talk for one to two minutes. Remember: you can use the vocabulary you have learnt in this unit to talk about friendship too.

Describe a close friend.

You should say:

how long you have known this person

how you met

what kind of person he/she is

and explain why you like him/her.

Grammar: Thinking about tenses

14 Read the Part 2 Exam questions from Exercise 13 again.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 How long have you known this person? | 3 What kind of person is he/she? |
| 2 How did you meet? | 4 Explain why you like him/her. |

Judging from the tenses used in each question, which tenses are you likely to use in your responses?

Exam tip: In the exam, look carefully at the tenses used in the Part 2 questions, and listen carefully to the examiner to hear which tenses they use in their questions. Does the question relate to the past, present, future, or something imagined? This will help you use the correct tenses when you speak.

Listen to the sample answer to the Part 2 Exam question in Exercise 13. Then read the extracts below. What tenses does the speaker use and why does he use those tenses?

- 1 We got to know each other on the tennis courts. _____
- 2 He'd often suggest doing something and I'd go along with it. _____
- 3 We've never fallen out. _____



Homework

Prepare answers for Speaking Part 1 and Part 2 using the new vocabulary and different tenses.