

Personality

1 Adjectives and phrases to describe personality

Match the adjectives with phrases 1–20.

ambitious arrogant assertive bad-tempered calm /kɑ:m/
cheerful conscientious /,kɒnʃi'ɛnʃəs/ easy-going
eccentric /ɪk'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

She's / He's...

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- well-balanced
- _____
- assertive
- _____
- self-confident
- insecure
- ambitious
- _____

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.

arrogant

optimistic

She has / has got...

- 23 expect good things to happen
- 24 a great sense of humour.

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 |
|--------------------|------------------|------------------|---------------|
| <u>responsible</u> | <u>sociable</u> | <u>helpful</u> | <u>bossy</u> |
| | | | |
| -ive | -ous | -al | -ic |
| <u>assertive</u> | <u>ambitious</u> | <u>practical</u> | <u>ironic</u> |
| | | | |

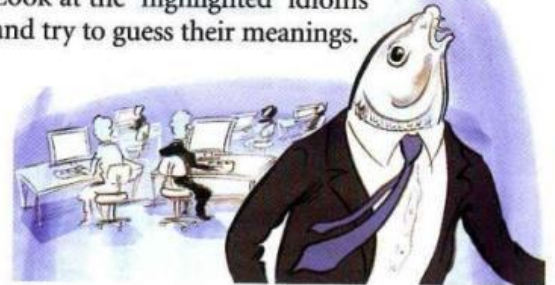
b Add one adjective to each column in a by adding a suffix to the nouns / verbs in the list. You may need to make other small changes. (Be careful with *sense* which can have two different endings and meanings.)

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.