

Reading

What type of person makes a good firefighter? We asked four firefighters what they thought.

a – Jason

I've been in the job since I was 20 – that's a long time!
I don't think there is a particular type of person, but I'd say they need to be hard-working and sociable. Getting along with your team is very important because the job is so dangerous. Oh, and they should keep fit – it's very important to be strong and healthy. You need to be able to move quickly sometimes.

b – Chris

I'm the station manager. I've been in the job for too long now!
For me, I'd say that they need to be reliable and hard-working. Too many of the new people I see just want to be promoted quickly and want to be paid well. As a firefighter, you need to be prepared to risk your own life to save others, and I'm not sure that all of our new staff are brave like that.

c – Anya

I was a nurse but decided to change my career after ten years. I think that the most important qualities are the ability to remain calm under pressure and to be confident when communicating with your team. You also need to be able to follow instructions – there's no time to explain twice during a fire.

d – Michelle

I've worked as a firefighter for a year now. I think the best advice I got when I was new was to take the job seriously – you need to be sensible about things – and to remain positive, even when things start to go wrong. It's a tough job, and it's easy to feel stressed.

11 Read the text. Then match people a–d with the statements.

- 1 It's dangerous if people don't understand what they need to do. _____
- 2 Some firefighters are more interested in having a good salary. _____
- 3 Doing exercise in your spare time is important to be able to do the job. _____
- 4 You shouldn't think negatively if something bad happens. _____
- 5 Your colleagues should have confidence in you. _____
- 6 The job is dangerous and you have to put the lives of others first. _____
- 7 Being friendly with your team makes the job easier. _____

Score ___/7

12 Read the text again. Are the sentences T (true) or F (false)?

- 1 Jason thinks that only certain types of people can become firefighters. **T/F**
- 2 Chris is disappointed by the attitudes of some of the new firefighters. **T/F**
- 3 All four people say that being hard-working is important. **T/F**
- 4 Anya says that you have to be calm when you talk to people. **T/F**
- 5 Michelle says that you need to act responsibly in the job. **T/F**
- 6 Anya explains that you have to be able to communicate quickly. **T/F**
- 7 Nobody says that the job is easy. **T/F**
- 8 All four people are positive about their jobs. **T/F**

Score ___/8