

Personality Adjectives in English

Level: B1

Learn 29 adjectives to describe a person's character: generous, stubborn, reliable, shy, ambitious and more. Read each word and its example, then do the exercises. Some words are useful opposites, such as honest and dishonest, so you can describe people more exactly.

Positive character

generous	happy to give money, time or help	My uncle is so generous that he paid for everyone's dinner last night.
reliable	you can trust them to do what they say	If you need someone reliable , ask Marta. She has never been late.
honest	always telling the truth	I wish more politicians were honest with the people who voted for them.
ambitious	wants to be very successful	He is very ambitious and hopes to become the director of the company one day.
creative	good at having new ideas	My sister is creative . She has designed all the posters for the school.
easygoing	relaxed and not easily worried or angry	Our boss is easygoing , so nobody is afraid to ask her questions.
polite	using good manners with other people	It is polite to say thank you when someone has helped you.
sensible	making good, careful decisions	I think it is sensible to take an umbrella when the sky is grey.
determined	not giving up, even when it is hard	She was determined to pass the exam, so she studied every evening.
confident	sure that you can do things well	He felt confident before the interview because he had practised a lot.
hard-working	works a lot and tries hard	My neighbour is very hard-working . He often works until nine at night.

Negative character

selfish	thinking only about yourself	He was selfish . He ate the last piece of cake without asking.
stubborn	not changing your mind, even when you are wrong	My grandfather is so stubborn that he never listens to the doctor.
bossy	always telling other people what to do	My older brother was bossy when we were children, and he told us what to play.
moody	your mood changes quickly, often to a bad one	Teenagers can be moody : happy in the morning and angry in the afternoon.
lazy	not wanting to work or do anything	I felt lazy on Sunday, so I stayed on the sofa all day.

rude	not polite, without good manners	The waiter was rude , and he did not even say hello.
arrogant	thinking you are better than other people	He is arrogant . He says that he is the best player in the team.
jealous	unhappy because someone has something that you want	She was jealous when her friend got a better job than hers.
mean	not willing to share or spend money	He is too mean to buy his own sister a birthday present.

Social style and attitude

shy	nervous and quiet with people you do not know	When I was a child, I was so shy that I never spoke in class.
outgoing	friendly and happy to meet new people	Lucy is outgoing , so she makes friends wherever she goes.
sensitive	easily hurt or upset by what people say	Be careful what you say. He is very sensitive and gets upset easily.
adventurous	happy to try new and exciting things	We are adventurous people. Last summer we went climbing in Peru.
optimistic	expecting good things to happen	I'm optimistic that the weather will be nice for the picnic.

Useful opposites

dishonest	not telling the truth	The shop assistant was dishonest . He told us the phone was new, but it wasn't.
unreliable	you cannot trust it or them to work or to come	My old car is unreliable . It has stopped three times this month.
immature	behaving like a child when you are an adult	It is immature to shout when you don't get what you want.
pessimistic	expecting bad things to happen	Don't be so pessimistic ! If we leave now, we will catch the train.

Exercise 1: Match the Adjectives

Match each adjective with its meaning.

- generous → _____
- selfish → _____
- stubborn → _____
- bossy → _____
- ambitious → _____
- shy → _____
- jealous → _____

8. creative → _____

always telling other people what to do good at having new ideas happy to give money, time or help
nervous and quiet with people you do not know not changing your mind, even when you are wrong
thinking only about yourself unhappy because someone has something that you want wants to be
very successful

Exercise 2: Choose the Correct Word

Choose the correct adjective for each sentence.

9. My brother never changes his mind, even when he is wrong. He is very ____.
a) generous b) stubborn c) creative
10. You can always trust Tom to arrive on time and do his work. He is ____.
a) moody b) jealous c) reliable
11. She told her team what to do all day and never asked for their ideas. She was ____.
a) bossy b) easygoing c) shy
12. Peter shared his lunch and paid for the taxi. He is a very ____ person.
a) selfish b) arrogant c) generous
13. Which word is the opposite of reliable?
a) sensible b) unreliable c) honest
14. My sister is ____ and almost never gets angry about small things.
a) easygoing b) bossy c) moody
15. He is so ____ that he thinks nobody in the office is as clever as he is.
a) sensitive b) adventurous c) arrogant

Exercise 3: Fill in the Blank

Type the missing adjective.

16. She cried because she is very ____ and the comment hurt her. (easily hurt by what people say)
17. I think we will lose the match. Don't be so ____! We are a good team. (expecting bad things to happen)
18. He is so ____ that he never pays for anything when he goes out with friends. (not willing to spend money)
19. She is ____ to learn Chinese, so she practises every day. (not giving up)
20. He was very ____ to speak to the teacher like that. He did not say please. (not polite)
21. I was so ____ at school that I never put up my hand in class. (afraid to speak to new people)
22. My cousin is very _____. She wants to be a famous doctor. (wants to be successful)

Answer key

Exercise 1: Match the Adjectives

1. generous → happy to give money, time or help
2. selfish → thinking only about yourself
3. stubborn → not changing your mind, even when you are wrong
4. bossy → always telling other people what to do
5. ambitious → wants to be very successful
6. shy → nervous and quiet with people you do not know
7. jealous → unhappy because someone has something that you want
8. creative → good at having new ideas

Exercise 2: Choose the Correct Word

9. b) stubborn
10. c) reliable
11. a) bossy
12. c) generous
13. b) unreliable
14. a) easygoing
15. c) arrogant

Exercise 3: Fill in the Blank

16. sensitive
17. pessimistic / negative
18. mean / selfish / stingy
19. determined
20. rude / impolite
21. shy / timid
22. ambitious / determined