Describing people: personality

VOCABULARY PRACTICE

INTERMEDIATE | B1-B2

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

1 Tick the most suitable category for each personality word.

Word	Ability	Attitude to life	Attitude to others
1 gifted	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
2 pessimistic	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
3 sociable	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
4 sensible	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
5 argumentative	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
6 talented	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
7 easy-going	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
8 trustworthy	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]

2 Choose the correct adjective.

1 Someone who expects the worst is *pessimistic* / *optimistic*.

2 Someone who enjoys the company of others is *sociable* / *introverted*.

3 Someone who stays calm and balanced is *even-tempered* / *stressed out*.

4 Someone who tells the truth is *honest* / *cunning*.

5 Someone who often starts disagreements is *argumentative* / *laid-back*.

6 Someone who makes practical decisions is *down-to-earth* / *extravagant*.

7 Someone who can be depended on is *reliable* / *inquisitive*.

8 Someone who wants what another person has is *envious* / *generous*.

3 Choose the word that gives the requested impression.

1 Positive: careful with money - *thrifty* / *stingy*.

2 Negative: too confident in their own importance - *self-assured* / *arrogant*.

3 Positive: determined to succeed - *ambitious* / *pushy*.

4 Negative: interested in private matters - *inquiring* / *nosy*.

5 Positive: says what they think - *frank* / *blunt*.

6 Negative: refuses to change their mind - *determined* / *stubborn*.

7 Positive: expresses needs clearly - *assertive* / *bossy*.

8 Negative: spends far too freely - *generous* / *extravagant*.

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4 Complete the team profiles with words from the box.

assertive | down-to-earth | even-tempered | extroverted | frank | inquisitive | reliable | sensitive | stubborn | talented

Ana: She is a **1** _____ designer who asks many questions because she is naturally **2** _____. She gives direct, honest opinions, so colleagues describe her as **3** _____.
Joel: He is outgoing and **4** _____. He states his views confidently and is usually **5** _____, although he can become **6** _____ when asked to change a plan.
Mei: She is practical and **7** _____. She is also **8** _____: she finishes every task. She remains calm and **9** _____, but is quite **10** _____ to criticism.

5 Read the text and answer the questions briefly.

Personality and context
A personality adjective summarises a pattern, but it does not describe every action a person takes. A usually quiet student may become talkative with close friends, while a confident manager may feel nervous in an unfamiliar role. Behaviour also depends on expectations: direct communication may be valued in one group but considered abrupt in another. Labels can therefore be useful shorthand, yet they become unfair when treated as fixed explanations. Strong descriptions connect a quality to repeated, observable behaviour and leave room for context, development and exceptions.

1 What does a personality adjective summarise? _____

2 When may a quiet student become talkative? _____

3 Why may a confident manager feel nervous? _____

4 How can direct communication be interpreted differently? _____

5 When do personality labels become unfair? _____

6 What makes a strong personality description? _____

6 Rewrite each phrase using the word in capitals.

1 Nika always expects good results. **OPTIMISTIC** _____

2 Sam rarely loses his temper. **EVEN** _____

3 You can trust Marta to keep her promises. **RELIABLE** _____

4 Leon prefers being alone with his thoughts. **INTROVERTED** _____

OVER TO YOU

Write a **100-120 word** comparison of two people's personalities. Explain each quality with behaviour and show how context may change what you observe.

[ ] Use at least ten target adjectives. [ ] Control positive and negative connotation. [ ] Support claims with examples.

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ANSWER KEY

1 Categories

1 **ability** 2 **attitude to life** 3 **attitude to others** 4 **attitude to life** 5 **attitude to others** 6 **ability** 7 **attitude to life** 8 **attitude to others**

2 Choose the correct adjective

1 **pessimistic** 2 **sociable** 3 **even-tempered** 4 **honest** 5 **argumentative** 6 **down-to-earth** 7 **reliable** 8 **envious**

3 Connotation

1 **thrifty** 2 **arrogant** 3 **ambitious** 4 **nosy** 5 **frank** 6 **stubborn** 7 **assertive** 8 **extravagant**

4 Team profiles

1 **talented** 2 **inquisitive** 3 **frank** 4 **extroverted** 5 **assertive** 6 **stubborn** 7 **down-to-earth** 8 **reliable** 9 **even-tempered** 10 **sensitive**

5 Reading - suggested answers

1 A pattern, not every action.
2 With close friends.
3 The role may be unfamiliar.
4 It may be valued or considered abrupt.
5 When they are treated as fixed explanations.
6 It links a quality to repeated behaviour and leaves room for context and exceptions.

6 Rewriting - possible answers

1 Nika is **optimistic**. 2 Sam is **even-tempered**. 3 Marta is **reliable**. 4 Leon is **introverted**.

Over to you: Answers will vary. Check connotation, evidence and attention to context.