

1 ADJECTIVES

- a Complete the sentences with the adjectives in the list.

bright /braɪt/ conscientious /kɒnʃi'entʃəs/
determined /dɪ'tɜːmɪnd/ gentle /'dʒentl/
resourceful /rɪ'sɔːsɪfl/ sarcastic /sɑː'kæstɪk/
self-sufficient /,self-sə'fɪʃnt/
spontaneous /spɒn'teɪniəs/ steady /'stedɪ/
straightforward /,streɪt'fɔːwəd/
sympathetic /,sɪmpə'tetɪk/ thorough /'θʌrə/

- 1 He is very thorough. Whatever part of a job he's doing, he does it with great attention to detail.
- 2 He's quite _____. He can usually work out how to solve a problem.
- 3 He's very _____. He never needs anyone else's help.
- 4 Her boyfriend is a _____ guy. He's sensible and she can really rely on him – just what she needs!
- 5 She's very _____. Once she's decided to do something, nothing will stop her.
- 6 My nieces are both really _____. They get very good marks at school in all their subjects.
- 7 He's not very _____. When I was ill last week he didn't even phone me.
- 8 She is so _____! She worked all weekend to make sure she got everything done.
- 9 My sister's a very _____ person. She's calm and kind and she never gets angry.
- 10 She's such a _____ person. She's honest and open and says just what she thinks.
- 11 He's very _____. He can suddenly decide to go to Paris in the morning and in the evening he's there!
- 12 Our maths teacher used to be so _____. She loved making comments that made us feel small.

- b 1 6)) Listen and check.

2 PHRASES

- a Complete the phrases with the verbs from the list in the right form.

change refuse seem take (x2) tend

- 1 My father tends to avoid conflict. He never argues with my mother – he just leaves the room.
- 2 I don't really like _____ risks, especially with money.
- 3 She makes life hard for herself because she _____ to **compromise**. Everything has to be perfect.
- 4 She's quite stubborn. She rarely _____ **her mind** even when she knows she's probably wrong.
- 5 I worry about my grandmother. She's so trusting that it would be easy for people to _____ **advantage of** her.
- 6 **On the surface** he _____ self-confident, **but deep down** he's quite insecure.

- b 1 7)) Listen and check.

3 IDIOMS

- a Match the **bold** idioms 1–6 to their meanings A–F.

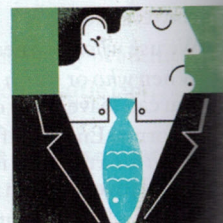
- 1 **F** My brother-in-law is very **down to earth**.
- 2 **Mum's got a heart of gold**.
- 3 **My boss is a bit of a cold fish**.
- 4 **My brother's a real pain in the neck**.
- 5 **Dad's a soft touch**.
- 6 **My uncle has a very quick temper**.

- A He's unfriendly and he never shows his emotions.
- B She's incredibly kind to everyone she meets.
- C He's so annoying – he's always taking my things.
- D I can always persuade him to give me extra pocket money.
- E He gets angry very easily.
- F He's very sensible and practical.

- b 1 8)) Listen and check.

Being negative about people

We often use *a bit / a bit of* before negative adjectives or idioms to 'soften' them, e.g. *She can be a bit sarcastic. He's a bit of a pain in the neck*. We also often use *not very + positive adjectives* rather than using negative ones, e.g. *He's not very bright*, rather than *He's stupid*.



False friends

Be careful with *sympathetic*. Many languages have a similar adjective – *sympathique* (French), *simpatico* (Italian), *sympatyczny* (Polish) – which means *friendly*. The same is true of *gentle*; this is not the same as, e.g. *gentil* (French), *gentile* (Italian), which mean *kind* or *polite*.

activation Think of people you know for two adjectives from 1, a phrase from 2, and an idiom from 3. Tell your partner about them and why they suit the description.

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