

Vocabulary: Modifying



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CD1

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Listen to Track 1 again and notice how the adjectives describing character and personality are modified. Complete sentences 1–10 with the modifying adverbs you hear.

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|--------------------------------------|--|
| 1 She's _____ outgoing and sociable. | 6 She's _____ nosy. |
| 2 She's _____ hard-working. | 7 She's _____ blunt. |
| 3 She can be _____ impatient. | 8 She can be _____ stingy. |
| 4 He was _____ creative. | 9 She's _____ clever. |
| 5 He's not _____ reliable. | 10 She's _____ self-assured and ambitious. |

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Read the following guidance on modifying adjectives.

- 1 We can use adverbs like *really* and *so* before a positive adjective.

Example: She's really outgoing.

He was so creative.

- 2 We can use the same adverbs before a negative adjective, but we normally do this only if we do not like the person or are angry with them.

Example: She's so nosy.

- 3 If we say something negative about someone, e.g. *She is impatient*, or *He is unreliable*, it can sound rude or too direct. We often 'soften' negative comments for this reason. Here are two ways of doing this:

- with *can be a bit*

Example: She can be a bit impatient.

- with *not very* + a positive adjective

Example: He's not very reliable.



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Listen to Track 1 again and repeat. Pay particular attention to your pronunciation.

Exam tip: If you use a character adjective to describe someone in the exam, you should expand on it or explain it.

Examples:

She's really outgoing and sociable – she's always going out with friends and colleagues.

He's not very reliable, so, for example, if I email him, he won't respond.

She's terribly blunt, which means she quite often upsets us with the things she says.

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Write descriptions, similar to those you heard in Track 1, of four members of your family. Use some of the adjectives from Part 1 of this unit. Remember to modify the adjectives and explain or expand on each characteristic. Include at least one negative point for each person.