Unit 1: Describing character

**A ‣ What are you like?**

Afbeelding met tekst, Menselijk gezicht, schermopname, Website

Automatisch gegenereerde beschrijving

1what you are like as a person  
2believe that good things will happen  
3can be trusted to do what people expect you to do  
4feeling sure about yourself and your abilities  
5not confident, especially about meeting or talking to new people  
6putting a lot of effort into your work and spending a lot of time on it  
7the ability to laugh and understand when something is funny  
8a serious person is quiet and doesn’t laugh very much  
9able to stay calm and not get angry, especially when things take a lot of time

Common mistakes

A: What’s he like? (~~NOT~~ How is he like?)  
B: He’s very **nice**. (NOT He’s ~~like~~ very nice.)

**B ‣ Opposites**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Positive** | **negative** |
| **generous**[happy to give more money or help than is usual] | **mean** |
| **honest**[an honest person tells the truth] | **dishonest** |
| **clever, intelligent** [able to learn and understand things quickly] | **stupid** |
| **calm**[relaxed and not worried or frightened] | **nervous, anxious** |

Language help

We use **kind**to describe someone who wants to help people a lot, and **nice, friendly** or **pleasant**for someone who is happy to talk to people. The opposites are **unkind**, **unfriendly**and **unpleasant**.

**C ‣ Describing a friend**

“The first thing I would say about my best friend is that she’s very **sensible**1. I’ve never known Emilia to do anything **silly**2, and I know I can always **trust**3 her. She’s also very **creative**4; she makes things, and she’s a very **talented**5 artist. I **wish**6 I had her **talent**.”

1practical; doesn’t do stupid things  
2not sensible, a bit stupid  
3be sure that she is honest  
4good at thinking of new ideas and using her imagination  
5has a natural ability  
6I would like to have her talent but I haven’t got it.

#### 11.1 ‣ Circle the correct answer.

1. nice
   *  positive
   *  negative
2. Mean (=méchant)
   *  positive
   *  negative
3. Sensible = Sensé (>< sensitive = sensible)
   *  positive
   *  negative
4. lazy
   *  positive
   *  negative
5. calm
   *  positive
   *  negative
6. generous
   *  positive
   *  negative
7. Unpleasant (désagréable)
   *  positive
   *  negative
8. hard-working
   *  positive
   *  negative
9. silly
   *  positive
   *  negative
10. nervous
    *  positive
    *  negative

#### 11.2 ‣ Write the opposites using the correct prefix.

1. kind
2. friendly
3. pleasant
4. patient
5. honest
6. reliable

#### 11.3 ‣ Describe the person in the sentences, in one word.

1. My brother is in the office from 8 am to 6 pm every day. 
2. He has never bought me a drink in ten years. 
3. She often promises to do things but sometimes she forgets. 
4. My teacher explains things again and never gets angry. 
5. Emma finds it difficult to meet people and talk to strangers. 
6. Noah is practical and doesn’t do anything stupid. 
7. Our teacher is nice, but he’s quiet and he doesn’t laugh a lot. 
8. Danya is very relaxed and doesn’t seem to worry about things. 
9. My boss is really good at using his imagination to think of new ideas. 
10. Ava can play several musical instruments. 

#### 11.4 ‣ Complete the sentences.

1. My sister can't wait for anything; she's so .
2. I get very  before exams; I need to try and relax a bit more.
3. I  I could paint as well as your brother; he’s so creative.
4. Adeline hasn’t done a thing since she’s been here. Honestly, she’s so .
5. I always have a laugh with my cousin – he’s got a great sense of .
6. My younger sister is able to understand new ideas so quickly; she’s very .
7. If Sarah says she’ll do it, then she’ll do it. I  her completely.
8. He’d like to be relaxed and confident, but it’s just not part of his .
9. He failed his exams, but he isn’t . He just didn’t do any work.
10. Aurora helped me bake some cakes last week; she’s very .

#### 11.5 ‣

### Over to you

**From all the words in this unit, which one would you most like to be, and which is the one you would hate to be?**