

54 Reactions - Short and Long

Note: All the words that appear under *Reactions* are adjectives

Reactions

to be adamant: (i) to be determined not to change your mind about sth
(ii) to be convinced that what you are saying is true

He was adamant that he had said nothing of the sort.

to be baffled: to find it impossible to explain/understand/solve (a mystery, a problem, a puzzle, etc)

Why, when one person yawns, does it make other people yawn? It is a mystery that has baffled scientists for years.

to be blasé: not to worry about sth that other people get very worried or excited about

We were all incredibly excited and nervous about appearing on TV but Chris, who had been on television before, was quite blasé about it.

to be devastated: to be extremely upset or disappointed

I'd set my heart on buying that house and I was devastated when they sold it to someone else.

We were devastated when we found out that she had died.

to be/feel drowsy: to be/feel half asleep

Don't drive while you are taking these tablets. They make you feel very drowsy.

to be enthralled: to be so interested in sth that it has completely captured your attention

The Sultan was enthralled by Scheherazade's stories.

to be/feel flattered: to feel very pleased because sb has said sth nice about you/has done sth special for you

He felt flattered by Einstein's comment, of course.

to be flummoxed: to have no idea what the answer to a problem/question is

I was absolutely flummoxed. I didn't even understand the question.

to be/get flustered: to be/get very nervous because you are very short of time

She has a tendency to get flustered in exams and that's why she underachieves.

to be impressed (by sb/sth): to have great admiration (for sb/sth)

I was very impressed by your curriculum vitae.

to be/feel lethargic: to feel that you have little or no energy
[Note: **lethargy** (n)]

When it gets very hot I always feel so lethargic.

to be livid: to be extremely angry

When he found out that she had lost his golf clubs, he was livid.

to be off-hand: to treat sb in a way that suggests that you are not interested in what they are saying

His off-hand manner told me he didn't want to know.

to be stunned: to be extremely surprised

We were stunned by the news.

to be/feel uptight: to be tense and nervous about sth

I don't understand why you get so uptight about exams. I mean, you've sat so many.

Short and Long

as long as: if (and only if)

You can borrow my pen as long as you give it back.

to go to any lengths to do sth: to be determined to do anything to get/achieve what you want (even if it means doing sth dishonest/cruel/dangerous)

[Note: **to go to great lengths to do sth:** to try very hard/to spend a lot of time trying to get/achieve sth (but not doing anything dishonest or cruel)]

Some people will go to any lengths to avoid paying their taxes.

I went to great lengths to get that book and all she could say was that it wasn't in very good condition!

to have (got) a long face: to look sad and/or depressed

He sat there with a long face and tears welling up in his eyes.

how long ago ...?: when ..?

How long ago did he emigrate?

it won't be long before (sth happens): sth will soon happen

It won't be long before schools close for the summer.

to speak at length about sth: to speak for a long time about sth

When I interviewed him, he spoke at length about his family.

the length and breadth of: everywhere in a place

He's travelled the length and breadth of Africa in search of fossils.

to be in short supply: to be very difficult to find or buy

Milk was in such short supply that we used to put water on our cornflakes.

to be short for sth: to be a shorter way of saying a particular name/word/phrase

Bob is short for Robert.

EFL is short for English as a Foreign Language.

to be short with sb: to speak to sb using very few words in a rude/aggressive/unfriendly way

I'm sorry I was so short with you yesterday. I was in a bad mood.

to run short of sth: to no longer have enough of sth

We're running short of coffee. Can you remember to buy some at the supermarket?

Practice

1. For questions 1 to 11, complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using 3 to 8 words. You must include the word given in bold, which cannot be changed in any way, and one of the following: **SHORT, LONG, LENGTH or LENGTHS**.

- 1 He is the kind of man who will do anything to crush the competition.
go He is the kind of man
..... crush the competition.
- 2 The letters BBC mean British Broadcasting Corporation.
for BBC
..... British Broadcasting Corporation.
- 3 "Why are you looking so unhappy?" she asked.
face "Why have you
.....?" she asked.
- 4 Food was so scarce that the government had to ration it.
supply Food was
..... that the government was forced to ration it.
- 5 We don't have much time left.
running We're time.
- 6 He spoke for a long time about the social implications of the plan.
at He spoke
..... social implications of the plan.
- 7 Martin has travelled all over India.
of Martin has travelled
..... India.
- 8 When did you send that application?
ago How
..... that application?
- 9 He said he was sorry that he'd been so rude to her.
with He apologised
..... her.
- 10 Soon we'll all be on holiday.
before It won't
..... on holiday.
- 11 If you do your revision, you should pass the exam.
as You should
..... your revision.

2. a. Read the situation outlines (1 to 15) and match them with an appropriate **reaction** adjective from this unit. Try to use each adjective only once.

- 1 He is very pleased. She thinks he looks like a movie star and she told him so. It was a wonderful compliment.

- 2 Her plane leaves in two hours and she hasn't packed yet. She is running around, panicking.
- 3 Her goldfish meant the world to her. She arrives home to find it floating upside down in the fish tank. She is shocked and incredibly upset.
- 4 He is so angry! He had lent his car to his daughter on condition that she didn't damage it. When he next uses the car, he finds it dented in three places.
- 5 Her son, seventeen, and an A grade student, has just told her that he is dropping out of school. She's speechless.
- 6 It's hot. Where's his energy? He can't be bothered to do anything. He'll stay in his chair and do nothing.
- 7 When he went to the kitchen his glass was full. When he came back – five minutes later – his glass was empty. No one else is in the house. There doesn't seem to be any explanation at all.
- 8 All the other teachers are frantic. They're living on their nerves. There's an inspection. Everyone is panicking – except Peter, that is. He's been observed many times before. It's no big deal.
- 9 She hangs on his every word. Everything he says is fascinating. She has never met such an interesting man.
- 10 He had a splitting headache, so he took three extra-strong painkillers. The headache has gone but he can hardly keep his eyes open. All he wants to do is sleep.
- 11 Normally she is so nice. Always joking, always chatty. Not today. She's ignoring everyone. If someone says something, she sneers and says, "So what?"
- 12 He won't believe me. He says he saw me in the mall yesterday. I tell him I wasn't in the mall. I was playing golf. He still says it was me.
- 13 She hasn't got a clue. She just stands there, helpless. What is the answer? She doesn't know.
- 14 He's worried, nervous and in a bad mood. His boss is coming to dinner and he has to cook. Cooking is not his strong point. He finds it difficult to make toast.
- 15 She hasn't seen her sister for a long time. They meet and go to a Chinese restaurant. Her sister orders in Chinese. Wow! Her sister can speak Chinese!

b. Can you match the pictures to any of the **reaction** adjectives?

