

## VOCABULARY personality

**4A** Work in pairs. Brainstorm adjectives for describing people's personalities.

**B** Look at the words in the box. Give examples of how people with these qualities might behave.

*Someone who is open-minded likes to consider different points of view.*

thoughtful perceptive obsessive inspirational over-ambitious  
conscientious obstinate neurotic open-minded prejudiced  
apathetic insensitive solitary rebellious mature inquisitive

**C** Find a word in the box above to describe someone who:

- 1 notices things quickly and understands situations and people's feelings well.
- 2 has an unreasonable dislike of a thing or a group of people.
- 3 is not interested or willing to make the effort to do anything.
- 4 is determined not to change their ideas, behaviour or opinions.
- 5 deliberately disobeys people in authority or rules of behaviour.
- 6 spends a lot of time alone because they like being alone.
- 7 is unreasonably anxious or afraid.
- 8 is willing to consider or accept other people's ideas or opinions.


**D** Work in pairs and write definitions for the other words in Exercise 4B. Choose three words your friends would/wouldn't use to describe you.

page 148 **VOCABULARYBANK**

## LISTENING

**5A** Read the radio programme listing below and answer the questions.

- 1 What does the Myers-Briggs Test Indicator do?
- 2 Who uses it?
- 3 Do you think this type of test can be useful? Why/Why not?

**B**  **1.3** Listen to the programme and answer the questions.

- 1 According to the programme, what is one of the biggest stressors at work?
- 2 What kinds of people do the MBTI test?
- 3 What kinds of questions does the interviewer ask Mariella?

### How Myers-Briggs Conquered the Office



It was created by a mother and daughter team, neither of whom were trained as psychologists, yet today it is the world's most widely used personality indicator, used by leading companies like Shell, Procter and Gamble, Vodafone and the BBC. In this BBC radio programme, Mariella Frostrup tells the story of The Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI), created by Katherine Briggs and her daughter Isabel Briggs Myers. Participants are asked a series of questions intended to reveal information about their thinking, problem-solving and communication styles. At the end of the

process each participant is handed one of sixteen four-letter acronyms which describes their 'type'. ENTPs are extrovert inventors, ISTJs are meticulous nit-pickers. Mariella finds out what type she is – will it change the way she works?

**6A** What do the following expressions from the programme mean?

- 1 sweeping generalisers
- 2 detail-obsessed nit-pickers
- 3 obsessive planners
- 4 last-minute deadline junkies
- 5 recharge your batteries
- 6 flat-pack furniture

**B** Listen again. Choose the option, a), b) or c), which best describes Mariella's answer to the question.

- 1 How do you like to recharge your batteries at the end of the day?
  - a) She goes out for a nice meal.
  - b) She stays at home and reads a book.
  - c) She watches TV and goes to bed.
- 2 If you have ever had the opportunity to put together any flat-pack furniture, how did you go about it?
  - a) She always follows the instructions carefully.
  - b) She finds the whole process infuriating, so she doesn't buy flat-pack furniture.
  - c) She tends to lose the instructions and the parts.
- 3 If you imagine that a friend of yours gives you a call and says, 'I've just been burgled.' What would you do? What would your reaction be?
  - a) First, she would ask her friend how she was feeling.
  - b) First, she would be concerned about the practicalities, then she would ask about feelings.
  - c) She would only ask about the practical details.
- 4 How do you go about doing the food shopping?
  - a) She generally keeps a careful list of all the things she needs. Then she buys it all online.
  - b) She hates internet shopping, so she goes to the supermarket once a week.
  - c) She buys most of her food on the internet, but she doesn't use a list so she forgets things.

**C** Work in pairs. Answer the questions in Exercise 6B for you and compare your answers.



## SPEAKING

**7A** Read about the different types of people in the Myers-Briggs test below. Mark your position on each scale to work out your profile, e.g. ENTJ.

**B** Turn to page 158 to read more about your profile. Do you agree with the description?

**C** Compare your profiles with other students. Are they similar or different?

**I** Introvert ..... Extrovert **E**

Enjoys spending time alone. Tends to think first, act later.



Finds being with others relaxing. Tends to act first, think later.

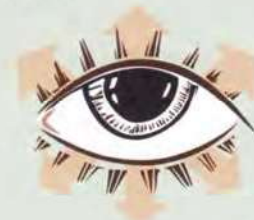


**N** Intuition ..... Sensing **S**

Likes to change things and find their own solutions to problems. Looks to the future and tends towards idealism.



Uses the practical information around them to solve problems. Enjoys the present and tends towards realism.



**T** Thinker ..... Feeler **F**

Makes decisions using objectivity and logic.



Decides by listening to their own and others' feelings.



**J** Judging ..... Perceiving **P**

Approaches life in a structured way, making plans and organising things.



Finds structure limiting, likes to keep their options open and go with the flow.



## VOCABULARY PLUS idioms for people

**8A** Look at the idioms in bold and try to work out the meanings.

- 1 He's a bit of a **yes-man**. He agrees with anything the boss says.
- 2 Apparently, the new engineer knows what he's doing. He's a real **whiz kid**.
- 3 She knows everything about everyone. She's the office **busybody**.
- 4 There is never a quiet moment with Kate. She's a real **chatterbox**.
- 5 It was very annoying of him. Sometimes Joe could be a real **pain in the neck**.
- 6 She is a **dark horse**. I didn't know she had written a novel.
- 7 He's had plenty of experience. He's an **old hand** at the job.
- 8 My grandmother has the same routine every day. She's very **set in her ways**.
- 9 Jack has always been a bit of a rebel. He's the **black sheep** of the family.
- 10 I'm glad we've invited Sinead. She's always the **life and soul** of the party.

**B** Work in pairs. Which of the idioms in Exercise 8A would you use in the following situations?

- 1 You have suggested a new way of working, but your colleague is reluctant to change the way he does things.
- 2 You feel sure that you can trust the person you have asked to do a job because he has a lot of experience.
- 3 Your friend loves talking.
- 4 You discover that your colleague is the lead singer in a successful band. She has never mentioned it.
- 5 You have to complete your tax return by tomorrow. You hate doing it.
- 6 Your young nephew shows you how to play a new computer game. He has already applied to work as a games developer with Nintendo.
- 7 Your postman is always asking questions about your private life.
- 8 You always invite your sister when you're having a party, because she makes people laugh.

### speakout TIP

Understanding and using English idioms is particularly important for Advanced learners. Here are four ideas to help you try to remember idioms.

- 1 Translation – are any of the idioms in Exercise 8A the same in your language?
- 2 Group by topic – do you know any other idioms for describing personality?
- 3 Visualise – can you think of images to help you remember the idioms in Exercise 8A?
- 4 Personalise – can you use the idioms in 8A to talk about people you know?

**C** Use the expressions in Exercise 8A to talk about people in your own life, or people in the news/film/television/politics.



# 1.3 THIS IS ME ...

► **FUNCTION** | speculating

► **VOCABULARY** | images

► **LEARN TO** | use vague language

## VOCABULARY images

**1A** Look at the portraits from the National Portrait Gallery, London. Read what the sitters said about their portraits and match quotations 1–3 with portraits A–C. Were they happy with their portraits? Why/Why not?

1 I'd rather be thought of as it were through what I've written than my own **physical presence** because I think it's such a **dismal** physical presence most of the time. But he doesn't make me look so ... you know ... the usual take on me is that I'm this monkish recluse and he doesn't quite endorse that view of me.

– Alan Bennett

2 I think it's a wonderful picture. I know it doesn't make me look particularly good-looking, but I'm not good-looking so that's alright. I don't feel as though I have been **caricatured** or anything, but what I think it does look like, it looks like a portrait of intelligence. It's got this incredible **flicker** about it, of energy, which is her energy more than mine, but it's ... my image is invested in her ... her power and her concentration.

– Germaine Greer

3 It's very hard to see yourself in the picture or any image of yourself. But when I look at that now, you see that was done a few years ago and when I first **posed** for Peter I must have been thirty-eight or thirty-nine. It was unveiled when I was forty. And that this whole process of having a portrait done, paradoxically because you know a portrait is supposed to in some way preserve you, it suddenly made me very aware of my mortality and I mean I'm approaching forty; yes it's a great honour and very **flattering**. But they say they are going to do a portrait for the National Portrait Gallery. But of course I immediately think, oh but that's where all these dead people are hung up.

– Kazuo Ishiguro

**B** Work in pairs. Check you understand the meaning of the words in bold. Can you use other words to explain them?

*dismal – dull, depressing*

## FUNCTION speculating

**2A** Look at each portrait more carefully. Work in pairs and discuss the questions.

- 1 What can you say about the person's character from the picture?
- 2 What job do you think they do?

**B** **1.4** Listen to people discussing the portraits and make notes. What do they say about each person's:

- character/appearance?
- possible job?



**C** In which portrait do they say the person:

- 1 has a kind of intensity to their face?
- 2 looks like he's in a world of his own?
- 3 is trying to make a statement: 'this is the sort of person I am'?
- 4 looks intellectual or thoughtful?
- 5 has something knowing in their eyes, as if they've got a secret?
- 6 is trying to make a point about how ridiculous or absurd his life is?

**D** Listen again to check your ideas.

**3** Look at the language used for speculating. Read audio script 1.4 on page 164 and find some examples of this language.

I suppose/guess/reckon he's about ...

I'd say he/she looks/doesn't look ...

I wonder what he/she ...

I'd hazard a guess (that) ...

If I had to make a guess, I'd say (that) ...

I'm pretty sure he/she ...

There's something ... about him/her.

He/she gives the impression of being ...

He/she could be ...

It seems like he/she ... /It seems to me ...

It looks to me as if he/she ...

It makes me think (that) maybe he/she ...

It might suggest (that) ...

► page 128 **LANGUAGEBANK**