

# 5 Describing people

Describe the people below using adjectives from the box.

clumsy cynical dynamic elegant genuine gullible  
illiterate intellectual intimidating skilful superstitious  
tolerant tough ~~versatile~~ weird

- 1 Dustin Hoffman can take on almost any kind of role – comic, tragic, bizarre characters, everything. versatile
- 2 My daughter believes absolutely everything you tell her. But she's only five. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 My grandfather can't read or write. He worked on the family farm from the age of seven. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 In my family we say that my brother has two left hands. He breaks everything. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 My wife only wears designer clothes, and they look perfect on her. \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 My mother is a thinker, always discussing issues and reading. \_\_\_\_\_
- 7 My brother-in-law makes beautiful furniture. It's great to watch him working. \_\_\_\_\_

- 8 My aunt spends her life reading horoscopes, she carries lucky charms around with her, and she never, ever walks under a ladder! \_\_\_\_\_
- 9 My father is an old-style communist, but he seems to get on with everybody, whatever their politics. \_\_\_\_\_
- 10 My niece is a bit strange. She goes around wearing all black clothes and purple lipstick. She listens to old heavy metal bands. \_\_\_\_\_
- 11 My sister-in-law has had lots of trouble in her life, but she survives – and nobody pushes her around. \_\_\_\_\_
- 12 With my uncle, 'what you see is what you get'. He never says anything unless he means it, and he really cares about people. \_\_\_\_\_
- 13 My eldest son is always creating something. He's full of energy. \_\_\_\_\_
- 14 My cousin Vinnie always suspects everyone's motives. \_\_\_\_\_
- 15 My godmother has terribly strong views on things, and not many people dare to contradict her. \_\_\_\_\_



Be especially careful when using adjectives to describe people, if you don't want to upset them. There are subtle differences in meaning which can cause problems. For example, **tough** and **aggressive** mean almost the same thing. However, it's usually good to be tough, but it's always bad to be aggressive!