

6 Using grammar: modifying nouns and adjectives

Choose the correct words in each sentence.

1. She's *so / such* a slob.
2. She's *really / a real* bitchy.
3. She's *really / a right* pain in the arse.
4. She's *a bit / a bit of* a bully.
5. She's *so / such* a selfish.
6. She's *completely / a complete* nerd.
7. She's *a bit / a bit of* a weird.
8. She's *really / a real* busybody.
9. She's *so / such* a hypocritical.
10. She's *so / such* a dizzy.

All the sentences above could be used to describe men as well as women. Do you think any of them are more common with one sex?

Now match these follow-up comments with the sentences above.

- a. She's always talking behind your back. She can just be quite nasty.
- b. She's always complaining about something or other and wasting my time.
- c. She's forever pushing people around and telling them what to do.
- d. She's constantly sticking her nose into other people's business.
- e. She's constantly losing things and she can just be a bit stupid sometimes.
- f. All she does is sit in front of her computer all day.
- g. All she does is lie around all day, smoking and watching telly. She just never lifts a finger round the house.
- h. All she thinks about is herself.
- i. She just never really talks to anyone and she looks a bit strange as well.
- j. She'll tell you off for something and then she'll go and do exactly the same thing herself.

Work with a partner and test each other.

Student A: Close your book.

Student B: Read out the follow-up comments.

Student A: Say the matching sentences.

Do you know anyone like the people above?

► For more information on modifying nouns and adjectives, see G1.

Real English: bitchy

Saying someone is a *bitch* is very rude. However, if you say someone is a *bit bitchy* or that they *make bitchy comments*, it is not rude. It just means they say unkind or unpleasant things about people. The meaning has nothing to do with sex! We can also *bitch about* or *have a bitch about* people or things when we complain about them.

When the boss isn't there, we usually sit around and bitch about him!

I went out with Julie last night and had a good bitch about work.

7 Ways of adding emphasis

Did you notice these patterns for emphasising frequency?

- He's *always / constantly / forever ... -ing*
- He *just never ...*
- All he (ever) ... *is ...*

Choose some of these words to describe people you know. Use the patterns above to add follow-up comments.

an egomaniac	a loser	a party animal
a know-all	macho	tight-fisted
a ladies' man	moody	a whinger
laid-back	obsessed with	a workaholic

Tell some other students about these people.

