



2 Read the descriptions of people you might live with and check the meaning of the words in bold. Then, for each, write:

- 1 = This would really get on my nerves.
 2 = (Not great, but) it wouldn't bother me.
 3 = I would like to live with someone like this.

- a **chatterbox** who likes constant company
- someone who is a bit **awkward socially** and **keeps himself to himself**
- someone who likes **messing around** and **cracking jokes**
- someone who is **irritable** or **on a short fuse**
- someone **laid-back** who never **lets things get to them**
- someone **highly strung** who **lives on their nerves**
- a **neat freak** or someone who's very **fussy** about hygiene, etc.
- someone who **leaves their stuff all over the place** and **won't do their share** of the housework
- someone **overbearing** and **arrogant** who **won't listen to other people's point of view**
- someone **hyperactive** who never sits down and **finds it difficult to unwind**
- someone who **lounges around** doing nothing for hours on end
- someone who **sulks** rather than **saying what is on their mind**
- someone **opinionated** and **outspoken**
- someone **unpredictable** whose **mood changes** for no apparent reason

b Work in groups and compare your answers. Does any other kind of behaviour drive you mad?

3a 8.1 Listen to five people describing a person they find/found difficult to live with. Who are they talking about? Which characteristics in exercise 2 do they mention?

b Listen again and make notes about why the speakers find/found these people difficult.

4 Choose three of the following people and think of three or four typical habits (good and bad) that each person has/had. Then work in pairs and tell your partner about them using the verb forms in the Patterns to notice box.

- someone you live with now
- someone you used to live with
- a colleague or acquaintance who irritates you
- a neighbour you don't/didn't like
- someone who looked after you a lot when you were a child
- a teacher from primary or secondary school

PATTERNS TO NOTICE

Describing typical habits

1 Notice the use of **will/would** and the Present/Past continuous + **always** to describe typical behaviour (good or bad).

Present habits:

She'll go off in a corner and sulk.

She won't pick up the phone.

She's always laughing.

He's always moaning.

Past habits:

One day he'd be really friendly and the next he'd be really down.

He was always picking things up and sighing.

2 Past habits (but not present habits) can also be described with **used to**.

He would swing from on extreme to another.

He used to go mad at me if I left things lying around.

3 The verbs **keep (on) + -ing** and **tend to + infinitive** are also common and can be used in both the past and the present.

- **Keep (on)** emphasises that the action is repeated frequently.

Sorry, I keep forgetting your name!

He just kept on asking her to marry him until, in the end, she said yes.

- **Tend to** is used with repeated actions and typical states.

She tends to speak very loudly.

My parents tended to be very strict.