

Personality

VOCABULARY BANK

1 ADJECTIVES

- a Complete the sentences with an adjective from the list.

bright /braɪt/ conscientious /kɒnʃiːənʃəs/
determined /dɪ'tɜːmɪnd/ gentle /dʒenti/
resourceful /rɪ'sɔːsfl/ sarcastic /sɑː'kæstɪk/
self-sufficient /self-sə'fɪʃnt/
spontaneous /spɒn'teɪniəs/ steady /'stedɪ/
straightforward /streɪt'fɔːwəd/
sympathetic /sɪmpə'tetɪk/ thorough /'θʌrə/

- He's quite resourceful. He can usually work out how to solve a problem.
- He's very thorough. Whatever part of a job he's doing, he does it with great attention to detail.
- My nieces are both really straightforward. They get very good marks at school in all their subjects.
- She's such a spontaneous person. She's honest and open and says just what she thinks.
- She's very determined. Once she's decided to do something, nothing will stop her.
- He's very self-sufficient. He never needs anyone else's help.
- He's not very sympathetic. When I was ill last week, he didn't even phone me.
- She is so steady! She worked all weekend to make sure she got everything done.
- My sister's a very gentle person. She's calm and kind and she never gets angry.
- Her boyfriend is a conscientious kind of guy. He's sensible and she can really rely on him.
- He's very bright. He can suddenly decide to go to Paris in the morning and in the evening he's there!
- Our maths teacher used to be so sarcastic. She loved making comments that made us feel small.

- b 1.5 Listen and check.

False friends

Be careful with *sympathetic*. Many languages have a similar adjective – *sympathique* (French), *simpatico* (Italian), *sympatyczny* (Polish), *sempatik* (Turkish) – which means *friendly, nice*. The same is true of *gentle*; this is not the same as, e.g. *gentil* (French), *gentile* (Italian), which mean *kind* or *polite*.

2 USEFUL PHRASES WHEN DESCRIBING PERSONALITY

- a Complete the sentences with a phrase from the list.

a bit of a a bit too comes across deep down on the surface on the whole tends to

- My father tends to avoid conflict – he never argues with my mother, he just leaves the room.
- On the surface he seems self-confident, but deep down he's quite insecure.
- I worry about my grandmother. She's a bit too trusting, so it's easy for people to take advantage of her.
- On the whole he's pretty laid-back, though he can sometimes get very stressed about work.
- She's a bit of a control freak – she always needs to organize everything and everybody.
- He comes across as quite sarcastic, but in fact he's really friendly.

- b 1.6 Listen and check.

3 IDIOMS

- a Match the **bold** idioms 1–10 to their meanings A–J.

- B My dad's got **a heart of gold**.
- My brother-in-law is very **down to earth**.
- My boss is a bit of **a cold fish**.
- My brother's **a real pain in the neck**.
- My mum's **a soft touch**.
- My uncle has **a very quick temper**.
- I know I shouldn't criticise your family, but your sister is really **full of herself**.
- He comes across as aggressive, but in fact he **wouldn't hurt a fly**.
- My brother never **lifts a finger** around the house.
- My cousin's always **the life and soul of the party**.

- A She's unfriendly and she never shows her emotions. 3
B He's incredibly kind to everyone he meets.
C He's so annoying – he's always taking my things. 4
D She's great at telling jokes and making people laugh. 10
E I can always persuade her to give me extra pocket money. 5
F He expects the rest of us to do everything. 9
G He's the gentlest person I know. 8
H He gets angry very easily. 6
I He's very sensible and practical. 2
J She thinks she's the most important member of the family. 7

- b 1.7 Listen and check.

ACTIVATION Think of people you know for two adjectives from 1, a phrase from 2, and an idiom from 3. Tell your partner about them and why they suit the description.

