

29 Describing people: character

29.1 Match each adjective (1–11) with its synonym or near-synonym (a–k).

10 marks

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|------------------|-----------------|
| 1 half-witted | a gregarious |
| 2 impolite | b curt |
| 3 inward-looking | c down-to-earth |
| 4 quarrelsome | d sly |
| 5 sensible | e stubborn |
| 6 obstinate | f dim |
| 7 brusque | g bright |
| 8 cunning | h introverted |
| 9 smart | i reliable |
| 10 trustworthy | j discourteous |
| 11 sociable | k argumentative |

29.2 Which people does the speaker approve of and which does the speaker not approve of?

10 marks

Example: Jack's miserly but Jill is generous.

The speaker doesn't approve of Jack but does approve of Jill.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| 1 Sam is broad-minded and Sue is original. | 4 Amos is inquisitive and Anna is naive. |
| 2 Mark is arrogant and Mary is curt. | 5 Dave's pig-headed and Debby's brusque. |
| 3 John is pushy but Jane is assertive. | |

29.3 Rewrite the sentences in exercise 29.2. Use adjectives from the box to show that this speaker has a different opinion about whether the people's characteristics are positive or negative.

10 marks

ambitious	bossy	determined	extravagant	frank	innocent
inquiring	open	self-assured	thrifty	unprincipled	weird

Example: I don't agree. I think Jack is thrifty and Jill is extravagant.

29.4 Match the adjectives in the box to the people who are being described.

10 marks

jealous	optimistic	sincere	eccentric	gifted	relaxed
envious	sensitive	cruel	nosy	easy-going	

Example: optimistic - Jill always sees the bright side of things.

- Robert always wants what other people have got.
- Sandra plays the piano better than anyone else I know.
- Beth takes everything in her stride and never gets upset.
- Paul seems to enjoy pulling his cat's tail.
- Dan doesn't mind what we do when we stay at his place.
- You always know that Clare means what she says.
- Julie felt terrible when her boyfriend left her for someone else.
- Becky only ever wears black clothes and black lipstick.
- Whenever we have visitors, our neighbour Fred is at his window watching who it is.
- Emma always gets very upset if she feels that she is being criticised or laughed at.