

## ENGLISH FOR COMMUNICATION LEVEL 02: PERSONALITY

If you want to know about somebody's **personality**, you can ask:

- 1- What is (name of a person like? What is Jack like?
- 2- How would you describe (name of a person)? How would you describe Jack?
- 3- How do you see (name of a person)? How do you see Jack?

To describe somebody's personality, you can use personality **adjectives** in this way:

**To be + adjective**

I am funny / I am angry / I am sensitive.....

### POSITIVE PERSONALITY ADJECTIVES.

**Assertive** – confident and strong ( not afraid about to say, direct).

**Chatty, talkative**– likes to talk.

**Cheerful** – a happy soul.

**Conscientious** – reliable, hardworking.

**Fun-loving** – a person with whom you can have a good time. 'My uncle is a very fun person. He is the life and soul of a party.'

**Loyal** – someone you can always trust to be there for you.

**Outgoing** – sociable.

**Open/ broad-minded** – someone who will listen to new ideas.

**Reliable** – someone you can trust to do what you ask them to do.

**Sensitive** – someone who feels a lot of emotion (typically cries at sad movies).

**Sensible** – someone who is responsible.

**Selfless** – someone who does lots of things for other people.

**Thick-skinned**: not easily affected by criticism

**Wise** – a person who is intelligent and compassionate from their many years of experience.

**Fair-minded**: to treat people equally.

**Self-assured**: confident.

**Trustworthy**: can be trusted.

**Self-confident**: believes in one's own ability or knowledge

## NEGATIVE PERSONALITY ADJECTIVES

- **Arrogant** – superior, egotistical.

**Bossy** – domineering, authoritarian.

**Forgetful** – someone who keeps forgetting things.

**Insecure** – a person who suffers from anxiety and self-doubt.

**Moody** – your mood changes.

**Stubborn** – obstinate, immovable.

**Selfish** – egotistical, self-centred.

**Vain** – someone who is constantly thinking about their appearance.

**To lose one's temper**: to suddenly become angry. / **Quick-tempered**: to become angry quickly

**Narrow/closed minded**: opposite of 'broad-minded' (see above)

**Painfully shy/ Reserved**: very shy

**Two-faced**: not honest or sincere. Will say one thing to someone to their face and another when they are not present.

**Snobby**: someone who looks down to people who are inferior.

**Stuck up**: someone who feels he /she is better than the others.

## Expressions

**Have it together**: to be organized; be prepared: "I want to be like her. She really has it together."

**Take things to heart**: to be sensitive; take things personally: "Don't tell him; you know he takes things to heart."

**Tell it like it is**: to be direct or straightforward: "I'm not rude. I just tell it like it is."

**Take yourself seriously**: to be uptight or humourless: "He takes himself seriously and hates to joke around."

**Have/ give a good vibe**: comfortable or nice to be around: "My new coworker has a good vibe. I think we'll be friends."

**Go with the flow:** to be flexible, easygoing, relaxed: "They prefer to relax and go with the flow.

**To be the life and soul of the party:** a fun person, someone who is the centre of activity

**To bend over backwards:** to try very hard to help someone.

**To hide one's light under a bushel:** to hide one's talents and skills

**Good sense of humour:** the ability to understand what is funny

**To put others first:** to think of others before yourself

**Away with the fairies:** someone who lives in a dream world not in reality.

### Speaking Practice

- 1- Are you happy with your personality?
- 2- Are you similar or different to your sister or brother?
- 3- What of your personality traits do you like/ hate most?
- 4- How has your personality changed over the years?
- 5- Is your true personality always on show or do you hide parts of it?
- 6- What tells you about a person's personality: clothes, body language, voice, taste or something else?
- 7- How are female and male personalities different?
- 8- Do you know anyone who has a split personality or multiple personalities?
- 9- Have you ever experienced bad vibes from a person or place?
- 10- Which personality types do you think are less likely to suffer from stress or anxiety?