

Personality

Pre-intermediate

1 Similar and opposite meanings

Which words have similar meanings and which words have opposite meanings?

shy
bad-tempered
friendly
out-going
fun
selfish
childish

thoughtless
mean
affectionate
good-tempered
thoughtful
easygoing
mature

honest
sociable
patient
generous
nice
caring
kind

Similar Meanings

kind + caring

Opposite Meanings

selfish / thoughtful +
thoughtless

2 Descriptions

Which of the words above would you use to describe the people below? Sometimes there is more than one possible answer.

1. She gives a lot of money to charity, and she likes to share everything she has with other people.
2. He's great to go out with to parties and discos. He makes me laugh.
3. He never gets angry. He's always calm and relaxed.
4. She never thinks about how other people may feel.
5. He's very loving. He likes to show that he cares about me.
6. Sometimes he does stupid things. He should grow up!
7. He doesn't like spending his money.
8. She is only interested in herself.



3 Negative words

Make these words negative.

Example: *kind - unkind*

caring
patient
honest

selfish
friendly

mature
sociable

4 Adjectives

Match the expressions to the adjectives they describe.

She's full of energy.

He likes to be the centre of attention.

She thinks of others.

He's tight-fisted.

She would never tell a lie.

thoughtful

honest

mean

lively

out-going

5 Job description

Match the jobs to the descriptions.

sales rep

policeman

nurse

computer programmer

1. You have to be patient and caring, good-tempered most of the time, and kind and friendly. It's hard work. Sometimes ill people are very impatient.
2. You need to be patient and honest with people, and you shouldn't be unfriendly. But you also have to be very hard on people who are breaking the law.
3. You have to be very out-going and friendly. You have to be good at talking, too. You should also be honest, especially when describing your product.
4. You have to be patient and good at your job. But, it doesn't really matter if you are shy, selfish or thoughtless – just don't break the machine!

6 Writing

Write a description of what qualities you need to be a teacher, or to do your job.

7 Interview

Prepare to describe people in your family. Think of two or three people in your family and write notes to describe them. When you are ready, work with a partner, and ask and answer questions.

Example:

Can you describe _____?

What is he/she like?

Teacher's notes – Personality

Aim

The aim of this activity is to find out how many of the words the students know. Put the students in pairs to find words that have similar or opposite meanings.

1) Answers:

Similar meanings:

| | | | | |
|------------|---|-------------------------|---|----------|
| friendly | + | affectionate (nice) | | |
| (friendly) | + | out-going | + | sociable |
| kind | + | generous | + | caring |
| selfish | + | thoughtless | | |
| easygoing | + | good-tempered (patient) | | |

Opposite meanings:

| | | | | |
|---------------------|---|---------------------|-------------------------|------|
| shy | + | out-going/sociable | | |
| bad-tempered | + | easygoing | good-tempered (patient) | nice |
| generous | + | mean | | |
| selfish/thoughtless | + | thoughtful (caring) | | |
| childish | + | mature | | |

2) Put the students in pairs to match the words to the descriptions.

Answers:

1. generous/kind
2. fun
3. easygoing/good-tempered
4. thoughtless
5. affectionate
6. childish
7. mean
8. selfish

3) Ask the students to make the words negative.

Answers:

| | | |
|-----------|------------|------------|
| uncaring | unselfish | immature |
| impatient | unfriendly | unsociable |
| dishonest | | |

4) Put the students in pairs to match the expressions to the adjectives they describe.

Answers:

| | | |
|-----------------------------------------|---|------------|
| She's full of energy. | - | lively |
| He likes to be the centre of attention. | - | out-going |
| She thinks of others. | - | thoughtful |
| He's tight-fisted. | - | mean |
| She would never tell a lie. | - | honest |

5) Ask the students to match the jobs to the descriptions.

Answers:

1. nurse
2. policeman
3. sales rep
4. computer programmer

6) Ask the students to write a description of the qualities needed to be a teacher, or to do *their* job. You could set this for homework. Alternatively, you could ask students to write a description then read it out. The other students must guess which job they are describing.

7) Give the students a few minutes to prepare to describe people in their family. When they are ready, ask them to work with a partner, and ask and answer questions.