

ADJECTIVES DESCRIBING A PERSON'S CHARACTER

How I **see** myself

Dan (33) 'I'm **ambitious**, **self-confident**, and **generous**. I'm also very **impatient**.'



Kaz (18) 'I'm always **cheerful**. I'm **easy-going**, and I've got lots of **energy**.'



Giles (45) 'I see myself as **honest**, **hard-working**, and generally **tolerant**.'



How others **see** me

'Some people really like me; others think I'm **arrogant** and maybe **aggressive**.'

'My parents don't think I'm very **responsible**; my friends just think I'm **crazy**.'

'Other people probably think I'm a bit **dull**, without much **sense of humour**.'

spotlight **crazy, mad, stupid**

Crazy INF and **mad** mean 'not sensible or practical; a bit stupid'.

Both words can describe a person or an action or idea, but the meaning is not always negative. They can describe someone who is a bit out of control but just wants to enjoy life. **Stupid** is always negative.

Glossary

see sb as sth	• imagine or think of sb in a particular way.
ambitious	• having a strong desire to do well or be successful. OPP unambitious . ambition N.
self-confident	• feeling sure about your own ability. OPP insecure .
generous	• happy to give more money and help than is usual. OPP mean . generosity N.
impatient	• not able to stay calm and wait for sth/sb. OPP patient . patience N.
arrogant	• thinking you are better than other people. OPP modest . arrogance N.
aggressive	• likely to fight or argue. aggression N.
cheerful	• feeling happy.
easy-going	• relaxed and not worried by what other people do.
energy	• the ability to be very active without getting tired. energetic ADJ.
responsible	• able to act sensibly and intelligently. OPP irresponsible .
honest	• always telling the truth. OPP dishonest . honesty N.
hard-working	• able to work with effort and for a long time. OPP lazy .
tolerant	• able to accept ideas you don't agree with. OPP intolerant . tolerance N.
dull	• boring.
sense of humour	• the ability to laugh at things and see when sth is funny.

1 Positive or negative, or can it be both? Write P or N or B.

► She's very cheerful. P

1 He's very arrogant. _____

2 They're a bit dull. _____

3 Both boys are very honest. _____

4 My boss is very tolerant. _____

► He's very ambitious. B

5 She's so modest. _____

6 He's very self-confident. _____

7 Karen is so mean. _____

8 My brother is absolutely mad. _____

2 Correct the spelling mistakes.

- ▶ onest honest 3 generos generous 6 agresive aggressive
 1 energie energy 4 cheerfull cheerful 7 patiente patient
 2 responsable responsible 5 energetik energetic 8 tolarant tolerant

3 Match 1–8 with a–i.

- ▶ feeling sure about your own ability c a aggressive
 1 boring f b cheerful
 2 likely to fight or argue d c self-confident ✓
 3 thinking you are better than others g d tolerant
 4 always telling the truth h e sense of humour
 5 ability to laugh at things i f dull
 6 feeling happy b g arrogant
 7 unhappy to give money or help people a h honest
 8 able to accept ideas you don't agree with e i mean

4 Complete the tables.

ADJECTIVE	OPPOSITE	ADJECTIVE	NOUN
▶ patient	<u>impatient</u>	ambitious	<u>ambition</u>
honest	<u>dishonest</u>	honest	<u>honesty</u>
responsible	<u>irresponsible</u>	tolerant	<u>tolerance</u>
lazy	<u>hard-working</u>	aggressive	<u>aggression</u>
generous	<u>selfish</u>	arrogant	<u>arrogance</u>
ambitious	<u>unambitious</u>	generous	<u>generosity</u>
self-confident	<u>self-doubting</u>	patient	<u>patience</u>

5 Complete the words in each sentence.

- ▶ If you disagree with Matthew, he can get a bit aggressive.
 1 My brother's a bit irresponsible and does some crazy things; but he's OK.
 2 Keiko's a good person to share a flat with: she's very easy-going.
 3 I like Zoltan; he's got a great sense of humour.
 4 Hamdi is a fantastic musician, but very few people realize this because he's so much.
 5 Since Katy got a new job and a boyfriend, she's become more self-confident.
 6 My brother's lazy, but my sisters have always been very hard-working.
 7 I don't think young Andy is responsible enough to drive a car.
 8 Andrea has so much energy; she's always doing something.

6 ABOUT YOU Answer the questions, or ask another student.

- 1 Are you ambitious? If so, in what way? _____
 2 Would you say you're hard-working or a bit lazy? _____
 3 Are you intolerant of anything? If so, what? _____
 4 When do you get impatient? _____
 5 How do you see yourself? Write three adjectives. _____
 6 Which two qualities do you think are the most important:
 honesty, patience, tolerance, or generosity? _____

7 Test yourself. Cover your opposites and nouns in Exercise 4 and test yourself. Then cover the glossary meanings and look at the words. What do they mean?