

Advanced Personality and Character

Vocabulary Lesson, Examples & Practice Questions

Advanced Personality and Character

How do you describe the people in your life — not just their appearance, but who they truly *are*? At B2 level, we move beyond simple adjectives like "nice" or "funny" and explore the richer, more nuanced language English uses to capture personality and character. Whether you are writing a character reference, discussing a novel, or simply trying to understand someone better, this vocabulary will help you express complex human qualities with precision and confidence.

Meet the Characters

Imagine you have just joined a new workplace. Over the first few weeks, you begin to notice the very different personalities around you. Your manager is **pragmatic** and **assertive**, your colleague Diane is **empathetic** but sometimes **diffident**, and the office newcomer seems rather **enigmatic** — nobody can quite work him out. Meanwhile, the team leader is **tenacious** about hitting deadlines, though some find him a little **overbearing**. Learning to describe these people accurately — and diplomatically — is exactly what this lesson is for.

Key Vocabulary & Meaning Breakdown

1. Strength, Drive, and Resilience

These words describe people who show inner strength, determination, and the ability to keep going under pressure.

Word / Phrase	Part of Speech & Meaning	Example Sentence	Collocations / Notes
tenacious	<i>adjective</i> — determined; refusing to give up, even when things are difficult	She was a tenacious negotiator who never accepted the first offer.	tenacious <i>spirit</i> ; tenacious <i>grip</i> ; fiercely / remarkably tenacious
resilient	<i>adjective</i> — able to recover quickly from setbacks, difficulties, or change	After losing his job, he proved surprisingly resilient and found a better position within a month.	emotionally / incredibly resilient; a resilient <i>character</i> / <i>personality</i>
assertive	<i>adjective</i> — confident in stating opinions and needs clearly, without being aggressive	Her manager told her to be more assertive in team meetings.	assertive <i>behaviour</i> ; calmly / quietly assertive; more / less assertive

Word / Phrase	Part of Speech & Meaning	Example Sentence	Collocations / Notes
pragmatic	<i>adjective</i> — focused on practical solutions rather than theories or emotions	He took a pragmatic approach to the problem, ignoring sentiment and focusing on results.	a pragmatic <i>approach / solution / outlook</i> ; refreshingly pragmatic
principled	<i>adjective</i> — having and acting according to strong moral values or ethics	She was a deeply principled person who refused to cut corners, no matter the pressure.	a principled <i>stand / decision / individual</i> ; morally / deeply principled
tenacity	<i>noun</i> — the quality of being determined and persistent; the noun form of <i>tenacious</i>	His tenacity in the face of repeated failure was truly admirable.	show / demonstrate <i>tenacity</i> ; with great tenacity; sheer tenacity

2. Social Behaviour and Emotional Character

These words describe how people relate to others — their warmth, confidence, openness, or reserve in social situations.

Word / Phrase	Part of Speech & Meaning	Example Sentence	Collocations / Notes
empathetic	<i>adjective</i> — able to understand and share the feelings of others	A good counsellor must be empathetic , making clients feel genuinely heard.	deeply / naturally empathetic; empathetic <i>response / listener</i>
diffident	<i>adjective</i> — lacking confidence; hesitant to assert oneself or put forward opinions	Despite her talent, she was diffident about sharing her ideas in public.	rather / somewhat diffident; a diffident <i>manner / smile</i>
gregarious	<i>adjective</i> — enjoying being with other people; very sociable and outgoing	Marco was an enormously gregarious person who could strike up a conversation with anyone.	naturally / intensely gregarious; a gregarious <i>personality / nature</i>
reticent	<i>adjective</i> — unwilling to speak openly or share information; quiet and reserved	She was reticent about her past, rarely volunteering personal details.	rather / unusually reticent; reticent <i>about something</i> ; remain reticent
candid	<i>adjective</i> — honest and straightforward, even if the truth is uncomfortable	I appreciate her candid feedback — she never sugarcoats things.	brutally / refreshingly candid; candid <i>assessment / opinion / conversation</i>

Word / Phrase	Part of Speech & Meaning	Example Sentence	Collocations / Notes
amiable	<i>adjective</i> — pleasant, friendly, and easy to get along with	He was an amiable host who made every guest feel welcome and at ease.	perfectly / thoroughly amiable; an amiable <i>disposition / manner / fellow</i>
aloof	<i>adjective</i> — emotionally distant; unfriendly or unwilling to engage with others	Her colleagues found her aloof at first, but she simply took time to warm up to people.	remain / seem / appear aloof; emotionally aloof; somewhat / rather aloof

3. Complexity, Morality, and Problematic Traits

These words capture more complex or morally ambiguous personality traits — useful for discussing characters in literature, film, or real life with depth and nuance.

Word / Phrase	Part of Speech & Meaning	Example Sentence	Collocations / Notes
enigmatic	<i>adjective</i> — mysterious and difficult to understand or explain	The new director remained enigmatic , revealing little about her plans or intentions.	deeply / strangely enigmatic; an enigmatic <i>figure / smile / presence</i>
overbearing	<i>adjective</i> — unpleasantly dominant; trying to control others in an oppressive way	His overbearing management style left staff feeling micromanaged and demoralised.	a rather / thoroughly overbearing <i>manner / attitude / person</i>
manipulative	<i>adjective</i> — skilled at controlling or influencing people in a clever and unfair way	She slowly realised her ex-partner had been deeply manipulative , twisting situations to his advantage.	subtly / dangerously manipulative; a manipulative <i>tactic / person / relationship</i>
magnanimous	<i>adjective</i> — generous and forgiving, especially towards rivals or enemies	Despite winning the argument, he was magnanimous in victory and praised his opponent's points.	be / prove magnanimous; a magnanimous <i>gesture / spirit</i> ; magnanimous in <i>defeat / victory</i>
vindictive	<i>adjective</i> — having a strong desire to hurt or punish someone who has caused offence	After being dismissed, the former employee launched a vindictive online campaign against the company.	petty and vindictive; a vindictive <i>streak / act / nature</i> ; intensely vindictive

Word / Phrase	Part of Speech & Meaning	Example Sentence	Collocations / Notes
disingenuous	<i>adjective</i> — not honest or sincere; pretending to be innocent or unaware	His apology felt disingenuous — he was clearly aware of the damage his comments had caused.	somewhat / rather disingenuous; a disingenuous <i>remark</i> / <i>response</i> / <i>claim</i>
scrupulous	<i>adjective</i> — very careful to behave honestly and correctly; meticulous about ethics	The journalist was scrupulous about verifying every source before publishing.	morally / professionally scrupulous; scrupulous <i>attention to detail</i> ; meticulously scrupulous
pedantic	<i>adjective</i> — excessively concerned with minor details or rules, often in an irritating way	He was so pedantic about grammar that he would correct colleagues' emails unprompted.	somewhat / rather / unnecessarily pedantic; a pedantic <i>approach</i> / <i>correction</i> / <i>person</i>

Collocations & Useful Expressions

At B2 level, knowing individual words is not enough — you must also know how they combine with other words. Here are the most important collocations for this topic.

resilient + in the face of

She remained remarkably resilient in the face of constant criticism.

assertive + behaviour / manner / approach

Developing more assertive behaviour can greatly improve workplace communication.

empathetic + listener / response / approach

What this situation calls for is an empathetic response, not a lecture.

candid + about / with someone

I'll be candid with you — I don't think the plan will work.

magnanimous + in defeat / in victory

It is not easy to be magnanimous in defeat, but it speaks volumes about your character.

remain + aloof / reticent / enigmatic

Despite the media pressure, the artist chose to remain enigmatic about her private life.

have a vindictive / manipulative streak

Most people didn't notice it at first, but he had a deeply vindictive streak.

show / demonstrate tenacity / resilience

The athlete demonstrated extraordinary tenacity throughout the entire competition.

a principled stand (on something)

She took a principled stand on the issue, even when it cost her professionally.

pragmatic approach / outlook / solution

What we need now is a pragmatic approach, not idealism.

Important Differences & Confusing Words

Assertive vs Aggressive vs Overbearing

These three words are often confused because they all relate to strong or dominant behaviour, but they carry very different meanings and connotations.

- **Assertive** is *positive*. It means confidently expressing your needs and views without attacking or controlling others.
A good leader knows how to be assertive without making others feel dismissed.
- **Aggressive** is *negative*. It involves force, hostility, or intimidation — either physical or verbal.
His aggressive tone shut down the conversation entirely.
- **Overbearing** is *negative*. It describes someone who is controlling, domineering, and suffocating to those around them.
Her overbearing nature meant she could never delegate a task without interfering.

Reticent vs Introvert vs Diffident

These words all describe people who are quiet or reserved, but for very different reasons.

- **Reticent** means unwilling to speak or share information — often about a specific topic. It is about *choosing silence*.
He was reticent about his financial situation, even with close friends.
- **Introvert** is a personality type (noun). An introvert gains energy from time alone and finds social situations draining — but is not necessarily shy.
She was a classic introvert who needed quiet time after a busy social event.
- **Diffident** relates specifically to *lack of confidence* — hesitating to assert oneself due to self-doubt.
His diffident manner made him easy to overlook in meetings, despite his brilliant ideas.

Candid vs Blunt vs Tactless

- **Candid** means honest and direct, but usually with some sensitivity or good intent. (*Neutral to positive*)
She gave me a candid assessment of my performance, which I found genuinely helpful.
- **Blunt** means direct and very straightforward, without softening — can be positive or negative depending on context. (*Neutral*)
He was blunt about the flaws in the proposal but offered solutions too.
- **Tactless** means carelessly saying things that are hurtful or inappropriate without considering others' feelings. (*Negative*)
Her tactless comment about his presentation embarrassed everyone in the room.

Scrupulous vs Pedantic

- **Scrupulous** refers to strong ethical care and moral conscientiousness — paying close attention to doing the right thing. (*Positive*)
The auditor was scrupulous in every financial review.
- **Pedantic** refers to excessive, often irritating attention to minor rules, facts, or details — especially in a way that misses the bigger picture. (*Negative*)

Stop being so pedantic — nobody cares whether it should technically be "fewer" or "less" in that context.

Common Mistakes

Even upper-intermediate learners make predictable errors with advanced personality vocabulary. Study these carefully.

✗ She is very *sympathetic* — she always understands how I'm feeling.

✓ **She is very empathetic — she always understands how I'm feeling.**

Note: "*Sympathetic*" means you feel sorry for someone. "*Empathetic*" means you truly understand and share their feelings. These are not interchangeable at B2 level.

✗ He was *reticent* about speaking in public because he was shy.

✓ **He was diffident about speaking in public because he lacked confidence.**

Note: "*Reticent*" means unwilling to share information, not afraid of social situations. Use "*diffident*" for shyness rooted in low self-confidence.

✗ She is very *principled* — she has strong ideas about how things should work.

✓ **She is very pragmatic — she has strong ideas about how things should work practically.**

Note: "*Principled*" is about moral values, not practical thinking. "*Pragmatic*" refers to a preference for practical solutions over theory or idealism.

✗ His *tenacious* helped him succeed despite many setbacks.

✓ **His tenacity helped him succeed despite many setbacks.**

Note: "*Tenacious*" is an adjective; you need the noun "*tenacity*" as the subject of the sentence.

✗ She was very *candid* with her answer — she didn't care who she hurt.

✓ **She was very tactless with her answer — she didn't care who she hurt.**

Note: "*Candid*" implies honest intent. When the focus is on carelessness about others' feelings, use "*tactless*" or "*blunt*".

✗ He is quite *aloof* — he loves parties and meeting new people.

✓ **He is quite gregarious — he loves parties and meeting new people.**

Note: "*Aloof*" means emotionally distant and detached. Someone who loves socialising is "*gregarious*", not "*aloof*".

✗ The politician gave a very *disingenuous* and honest reply.

✓ **The politician gave a very candid and honest reply.**

Note: "*Disingenuous*" means insincere or dishonest. It cannot be paired with "*honest*" — they are contradictory.

Advanced Personality and Character: Quick Summary & Review

In this lesson, you have explored a wide range of advanced vocabulary for describing personality and character in English. Here is a final overview of the key groups covered:

- **Strength and drive:** tenacious, resilient, assertive, pragmatic, principled, tenacity
- **Social behaviour and emotion:** empathetic, diffident, gregarious, reticent, candid, amiable, aloof

- **Complex and moral traits:** enigmatic, overbearing, manipulative, magnanimous, vindictive, disingenuous, scrupulous, pedantic

Remember these key principles when using this vocabulary:

- Many personality adjectives have strong positive or negative connotations — always consider register and tone.
- Use precise collocations: say *a pragmatic approach*, not just *a pragmatic thing*.
- Do not confuse near-synonyms: *empathetic* is not the same as *sympathetic*; *assertive* is not the same as *aggressive*.
- Adverbs like *deeply*, *remarkably*, *refreshingly*, *subtly*, and *rather* help you qualify and add nuance to your descriptions.

Now practise **Advanced Personality and Character** vocabulary in the exercises below.

Advanced Personality and Character – Practice Test

B2 | Practice Exercises: Multiple Choice, Fill-in-the-Gap, Fill-in-the-Blank, Matrix Matching & Sorting

Part 1: Multiple Choice (Questions 1–10)

1 The politician was known for his _____ nature — he always said exactly what people wanted to hear, even if it wasn't true.

- A** candid
- B** obstinate
- C** sycophantic
- D** impulsive

2 She has an _____ personality — she draws energy from being around other people and dislikes spending time alone.

- A** introverted
- B** extroverted
- C** aloof
- D** reticent

3 Which word best describes someone who is unwilling to change their opinion despite strong evidence to the contrary?

- A** versatile
- B** tenacious
- C** dogmatic
- D** pragmatic

4 My colleague rarely shares her thoughts in meetings and keeps to herself — she is naturally quite _____.

- A** gregarious
- B** vivacious
- C** reticent
- D** assertive

5 The new manager's _____ approach meant she could find practical solutions without getting stuck on abstract theories.

- A** idealistic
- B** pragmatic
- C** impulsive
- D** narcissistic

6 He took great _____ in his work, always ensuring every small detail was perfect before submitting anything.

- A** vanity
- B** meticulousness
- C** arrogance
- D** complacency

7 Which adjective describes a person who strongly believes in their own superiority and has an exaggerated sense of self-importance?

- A** empathetic
- B** narcissistic
- C** conscientious
- D** tenacious

8 Despite facing many setbacks, she remained _____, refusing to give up on her ambitions.

- A** complacent
- B** tenacious
- C** aloof
- D** capricious

9 The professor seemed _____ — she was physically present in the room but emotionally distant and uninterested in the students.

- A** empathetic
- B** aloof
- C** gregarious
- D** candid

10 Her _____ behaviour made her an unreliable teammate — one day she was enthusiastic, and the next she had completely lost interest.

- A** conscientious
- B** steadfast
- C** capricious
- D** candid

Part 2: Fill in the Gap (Questions 11–20)

11 Despite the criticism she received, Maya remained ____, continuing to pursue her goals without losing confidence in herself.

- A** resilient
- B** timid
- C** indulgent

12 His ____ nature made it impossible for him to share credit with his colleagues, even when they had contributed equally to the project.

- A** egotistical
- B** conscientious
- C** reserved

13 Sarah is known for being extremely ____, always thinking carefully before making any decision, no matter how minor it may seem.

- A** methodical
- B** impulsive
- C** candid

14 The new manager's ____ attitude toward his team's mistakes created a tense and uncomfortable working environment for everyone.

- A** condescending
- B** empathetic
- C** gregarious

15 Unlike his outgoing sister, Daniel is quite ____ and prefers spending evenings at home rather than socialising at large gatherings.

- A** introverted
- B** arrogant
- C** assertive

- 16** Her ____ personality means she is always willing to listen to different perspectives and adjust her opinions when presented with strong evidence.
- A** open-minded
 - B** stubborn
 - C** impulsive

- 17** People who are ____ often struggle to maintain long-term relationships because they act on emotions without considering the consequences.
- A** impulsive
 - B** diligent
 - C** empathetic

- 18** The diplomat was admired for her ____ approach to conflict, always choosing words carefully to avoid causing offence.
- A** tactful
 - B** blunt
 - C** volatile

- 19** James has always been ____, dedicating long hours to every task and never submitting work unless he is completely satisfied with its quality.
- A** conscientious
 - B** aloof
 - C** reckless

- 20** Despite her senior position, she remained surprisingly ____, always taking time to understand how her decisions affected junior staff members.
- A** empathetic
 - B** narcissistic
 - C** pedantic

Part 3: Fill in the Blank (Questions 21–30)

- 21** Despite being the most talented musician in the group, she remained completely _____, never boasting about her achievements or seeking praise from others.
- 22** His _____ attitude toward solving the engineering problem impressed his supervisors — he refused to give up even after weeks of failed attempts.

- 23** The new manager was known for being extremely _____, always taking time to understand how her team members were feeling before making important decisions.
- 24** Critics described the politician as deeply _____, arguing that he believed most people acted only out of self-interest and could never be truly trusted.
- 25** She was widely regarded as an _____ communicator — she expressed her opinions confidently and clearly without being aggressive or dismissive toward colleagues.
- 26** His _____ nature often got him into trouble; he would make major life decisions within minutes without stopping to consider the long-term consequences.
- 27** The charity founder was extraordinarily _____, regularly donating large portions of her own salary to causes that benefited strangers with no expectation of personal gain.
- 28** Many colleagues found him difficult to work with because of his _____ behaviour — he constantly dismissed others' ideas and believed only his own opinions were worth considering.
- 29** The renowned diplomat was praised for her _____ character; she had a remarkable ability to handle sensitive disputes without offending any of the parties involved.
- 30** Growing up in a strict household made her somewhat _____; she preferred quiet evenings reading alone to attending large social gatherings with unfamiliar people.

Part 4: Matrix / Match Values (Questions 31–40)

31 Match each personality adjective on the left with its correct definition on the right.

MATCHING OPTIONS:

- A** Generous and forgiving, especially towards rivals or enemies
- B** Refusing to give up; persistent in achieving goals
- C** Stubbornly refusing to change one's opinion or course of action
- D** Lacking confidence; shy and reserved in social situations

Item / Phrase	Write Match Letter (A, B, C...)
Tenacious	[]
Diffident	[]
Magnanimous	[]
Obstinate	[]

32 Match each word on the left with its closest synonym on the right.

MATCHING OPTIONS:

- A** Spiteful
- B** Frank
- C** Practical

Item / Phrase	Write Match Letter (A, B, C...)
Pragmatic	[]
Candid	[]
Vindictive	[]

33 Match each character trait on the left with the behaviour it best describes on the right.

MATCHING OPTIONS:

- A** Has an excessive admiration of oneself
- B** Acts with great care about doing what is morally right
- C** Changes moods or decisions suddenly and unpredictably
- D** Understands and shares the feelings of others

Item / Phrase	Write Match Letter (A, B, C...)
Empathetic	[]
Narcissistic	[]
Scrupulous	[]
Capricious	[]

34 Match each word on the left with its antonym on the right.

MATCHING OPTIONS:

- ☐ A Humble
 - ☐ B Deliberate
 - ☐ C Gregarious

Item / Phrase	Write Match Letter (A, B, C...)
Introverted	[]
Arrogant	[]
Impulsive	[]

35 Match each advanced personality noun on the left with its correct definition on the right.

MATCHING OPTIONS:

- A** Excessive focus on minor rules or details, especially in learning
 - B** Mental calmness and composure, especially in difficult situations
 - C** Selfless concern for the well-being of others
 - D** Deceitfulness; saying one thing while doing another

Item / Phrase	Write Match Letter (A, B, C...)
Equanimity	[]
Duplicity	[]
Altruism	[]
Pedantry	[]

36 Match each common collocation on the left with the personality word it best completes on the right.

MATCHING OPTIONS:

- A** Conscientious
 - B** Empathetic
 - C** Independent

Item / Phrase	Write Match Letter (A, B, C...)
Fiercely ____	[]
Deeply ____	[]
Highly ____	[]

37 Match each sentence on the left with the personality trait it best illustrates on the right.

MATCHING OPTIONS:

A Magnanimous

B Perfectionist

C Philanthropic

D Sceptical

Item / Phrase	Write Match Letter (A, B, C...)
She stayed late every night to ensure her report was completely error-free.	[]
He donated his entire bonus to a local food bank anonymously.	[]
Despite losing the contract, she smiled and congratulated her competitor.	[]
He questioned every instruction his manager gave him.	[]

38 Match each word on the left with the phrase that correctly describes what it is NOT on the right.

MATCHING OPTIONS:

A Not easily moved by emotion or complaining

B Not inclined to speak freely or share opinions

C Not calm or predictable in temperament

Item / Phrase	Write Match Letter (A, B, C...)
Stoic	[]
Volatile	[]
Reticent	[]

39 Match each formal personality description on the left with its informal equivalent on the right.

MATCHING OPTIONS:

A Daring

B Chatty

C Tight with money

D Whiny

Item / Phrase	Write Match Letter (A, B, C...)
Loquacious	[]
Frugal	[]
Audacious	[]
Querulous	[]

40 Match each personality-related phrase on the left with its correct meaning on the right.

MATCHING OPTIONS:

A To be resistant to change in habits or attitudes

B To be resentful or touchy, often due to past unfairness

C To openly show your emotions

Item / Phrase	Write Match Letter (A, B, C...)
To wear your heart on your sleeve	[]
To be set in your ways	[]
To have a chip on your shoulder	[]

Part 5: Sort the Values (Questions 41–50)

41 Arrange the words to make a correct sentence.

self-deprecating

demeanour,

remarkably

outwardly

confident

private.

Despite

her

she

is

in

42 Arrange the words to make a correct sentence.

decision-making

unnecessarily

scrupulous

difficult.

tendency

overly

often

makes

His

to

be

43 Arrange the words to make a correct sentence.

organisation.

empathetic

regarded

leaders

widely

most

She

one

the

the

is

as

of

in

44 Arrange the words to make a correct sentence.

distinguishes

unwavering

integrity.

others

sense

What

from

him

his

is

of

45 Arrange the words to make a correct sentence.

colleagues

Although

candour.

appear

aloof,

deeply

value

can

his

his

he

46 Arrange the words to make a correct sentence.

resilience

remarkable

composure.

overcome

allowed

setback

innate

every

with

Her

has

her

to

47 Arrange the words to make a correct sentence.

recognition

altruistic

genuinely

People

rarely

deeds.

their

seek

good

who

are

for

48 Arrange the words to make a correct sentence.

meticulous

attention

detail

peers.

apart

that

sets

from

his

him

his

It

is

to

49 Arrange the words to make a correct sentence.

collaboration.

independent

necessarily

incapable

fiercely

someone

Being

does

mean

that

not

is

of

50 Arrange the words to make a correct sentence.

pragmatic

ambition.

approach

mistaken

often

life

lack

Her

for

to

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a

Answer Key & Explanations

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Part 1: Multiple Choice

1. **C** Correct Answer: sycophantic ✓ Explanation: Sycophantic describes someone who uses excessive flattery and tells people what they want to hear in order to gain favour. His sycophantic behaviour towards the boss embarrassed his colleagues. A candid person is honest, which is the opposite meaning.
2. **B** Correct Answer: extroverted ✓ Explanation: An extroverted person gains energy from social interaction and enjoys being around others. Her extroverted personality made her a natural leader in group settings. Introverted is the antonym, describing someone who prefers solitude.
3. **C** Correct Answer: dogmatic ✓ Explanation: A dogmatic person rigidly holds onto their beliefs and refuses to consider alternative views. His dogmatic attitude made it impossible to have a productive debate. Tenacious means persistent but not necessarily closed-minded, and pragmatic means practical and flexible.
4. **C** Correct Answer: reticent ✓ Explanation: Reticent describes a person who is reluctant to speak openly or share their feelings. Although reticent in public, she was very open with close friends. Gregarious and vivacious both suggest outgoing, sociable personalities, which is the opposite.
5. **B** Correct Answer: pragmatic ✓ Explanation: A pragmatic person deals with problems in a sensible, realistic way based on what works in practice. Her pragmatic approach helped the team meet its deadlines efficiently. Idealistic suggests focusing on perfect outcomes rather than realistic ones.
6. **B** Correct Answer: meticulousness ✓ Explanation: Meticulousness refers to the quality of being extremely careful and precise about details. Her meticulousness in checking the data prevented several costly errors. Complacency means the opposite — being too satisfied and not paying enough attention.
7. **B** Correct Answer: narcissistic ✓ Explanation: A narcissistic person has an inflated sense of their own importance and a deep need for admiration. His narcissistic tendency to make every conversation about himself alienated his friends. Conscientious means diligent and careful, and empathetic means understanding others' feelings.
8. **B** Correct Answer: tenacious ✓ Explanation: Tenacious describes someone who is very determined and does not give up easily. Her tenacious spirit helped her overcome every obstacle in her career. Capricious means unpredictable and changing one's mind frequently, which is the opposite quality.
9. **B** Correct Answer: aloof ✓ Explanation: Aloof describes someone who is emotionally distant, cold, or unfriendly, often appearing uninterested in others. His aloof manner made it difficult for new employees to approach him. Gregarious means sociable and outgoing, which is the opposite.

10. **C** Correct Answer: capricious ✓ Explanation: Capricious describes someone whose moods, behaviour, or decisions change suddenly and unpredictably. Her capricious nature meant nobody ever knew what to expect from her. Steadfast means loyal and unwavering, which is the opposite of capricious.

Part 2: Fill in the Gap

11. **A** Correct Answer: resilient ✓ Explanation: Resilient describes someone who recovers quickly from difficulties and does not give up. A resilient person bounces back from setbacks with strength.
12. **A** Correct Answer: egotistical ✓ Explanation: Egotistical means excessively self-centred and unwilling to acknowledge others' contributions. An egotistical manager rarely appreciates teamwork.
13. **A** Correct Answer: methodical ✓ Explanation: Methodical describes someone who follows a careful, orderly approach to tasks and decisions. A methodical thinker rarely makes careless mistakes.
14. **A** Correct Answer: condescending ✓ Explanation: Condescending describes behaviour that implies one considers others inferior, often expressed through a patronising tone. A condescending remark can deeply damage team morale.
15. **A** Correct Answer: introverted ✓ Explanation: Introverted describes someone who gains energy from solitude and tends to feel drained by extensive social interaction. An introverted person often enjoys quiet, reflective activities.
16. **A** Correct Answer: open-minded ✓ Explanation: Open-minded describes a person who is receptive to new ideas and willing to reconsider their views. An open-minded individual embraces diverse viewpoints rather than dismissing them.
17. **A** Correct Answer: impulsive ✓ Explanation: Impulsive describes someone who acts suddenly without thinking carefully about the outcome. An impulsive decision can sometimes lead to regret later on.
18. **A** Correct Answer: tactful ✓ Explanation: Tactful describes the ability to communicate sensitively without upsetting others, especially in delicate situations. A tactful response can resolve tension without creating further conflict.
19. **A** Correct Answer: conscientious ✓ Explanation: Conscientious describes someone who is extremely thorough, careful, and committed to doing things well. A conscientious employee consistently produces high-quality work.
20. **A** Correct Answer: empathetic ✓ Explanation: Empathetic describes the ability to understand and share the feelings of others, especially those in different or difficult situations. An empathetic leader fosters trust and loyalty within a team.

Part 3: Fill in the Blank

21. **humble** Correct Answer: humble ✓ Explanation: Humble describes someone who does not exaggerate their own importance or abilities. The context clues never boasting and not seeking praise point directly to this word.

22. **tenacious** Correct Answer: tenacious ✓ Explanation: Tenacious means holding firmly to a goal and refusing to stop trying. The clues refused to give up and weeks of failed attempts confirm this persistent character trait.
23. **empathetic** Correct Answer: empathetic ✓ Explanation: Empathetic describes someone who can deeply understand and share the feelings of others. The phrase understand how her team members were feeling is a strong context clue.
24. **cynical** Correct Answer: cynical ✓ Explanation: A cynical person distrusts the motives of others and assumes selfish intentions. The context clues self-interest and never be truly trusted confirm this negative character trait.
25. **assertive** Correct Answer: assertive ✓ Explanation: Assertive means expressing one's views and needs confidently and directly, without hostility. The contrast with aggressive and the phrase expressed opinions confidently are key clues.
26. **impulsive** Correct Answer: impulsive ✓ Explanation: Impulsive describes someone who acts quickly on feelings without thinking things through. The clues within minutes and without considering long-term consequences confirm this meaning.
27. **altruistic** Correct Answer: altruistic ✓ Explanation: Altruistic describes selfless concern for the well-being of others. The phrases no expectation of personal gain and benefited strangers are strong indicators of this advanced vocabulary word.
28. **arrogant** Correct Answer: arrogant ✓ Explanation: Arrogant describes someone with an exaggerated sense of their own importance who looks down on others. The clues dismissed others' ideas and only his own opinions confirm this negative trait.
29. **diplomatic** Correct Answer: diplomatic ✓ Explanation: Diplomatic refers to the skill of dealing with people tactfully and without causing offense. The context clue without offending any of the parties directly reflects this personality trait.
30. **introverted** Correct Answer: introverted ✓ Explanation: Introverted describes a personality type that gains energy from solitude rather than social interaction. The clues preferred quiet evenings alone and discomfort with large social gatherings confirm this character trait.

Part 4: Matrix / Match Values

31. Tenacious: B • Diffident: D • Magnanimous: A • Obstinate: C Correct Matches: • Tenacious → Refusing to give up; persistent in achieving goals • Diffident → Lacking confidence; shy and reserved in social situations • Magnanimous → Generous and forgiving, especially towards rivals or enemies • Obstinate → Stubbornly refusing to change one's opinion or course of action ✓ Explanation: A tenacious person keeps working despite setbacks, while an obstinate person refuses to budge from their position. A magnanimous winner congratulates their opponents graciously, whereas a diffident person hesitates to speak up in meetings.

32. Pragmatic: C • Candid: B • Vindictive: A Correct Matches: • Pragmatic → Practical • Candid → Frank • Vindictive → Spiteful ✓ Explanation: A pragmatic person focuses on what works in real situations rather than ideals. Being candid means speaking honestly and directly, similar to being frank. A vindictive person is motivated by a desire for revenge, which is the essence of being spiteful.

33. Empathetic: D • Narcissistic: A • Scrupulous: B • Capricious: C Correct Matches: • Empathetic → Understands and shares the feelings of others • Narcissistic → Has an excessive admiration of oneself • Scrupulous → Acts with great care about doing what is morally right • Capricious → Changes moods or decisions suddenly and unpredictably ✓ Explanation: An empathetic listener makes others feel truly understood. A narcissistic individual constantly seeks admiration and validation. A scrupulous professional never compromises ethical standards. A capricious manager may reverse decisions without warning.

34. Introverted: C • Arrogant: A • Impulsive: B Correct Matches: • Introverted → Gregarious • Arrogant → Humble • Impulsive → Deliberate ✓ Explanation: An introverted person prefers solitude, which is the opposite of being gregarious, meaning sociable and enjoying company. Arrogance involves an inflated sense of superiority, contrasting with humble, meaning modest and unassuming. An impulsive person acts without thinking, unlike someone who is deliberate and carefully considers every action.

35. Equanimity: B • Duplicity: D • Altruism: C • Pedantry: A

Correct Matches: • Equanimity → Mental calmness and composure, especially in difficult situations • Duplicity → Deceitfulness; saying one thing while doing another • Altruism → Selfless concern for the well-being of others • Pedantry → Excessive focus on minor rules or details, especially in learning ✓
Explanation: Someone who faces a crisis with equanimity remains composed under pressure. Duplicity involves deliberate deception through contradictory actions and words. Altruism is seen in people who volunteer without expecting anything in return. Pedantry is displayed when someone over-corrects trivial grammatical errors obsessively.

36. Fiercely ____: C • Deeply ____: B • Highly ____: A

Correct Matches: • Fiercely ____ → Independent • Deeply ____ → Empathetic • Highly ____ → Conscientious ✓
Explanation: The adverb fiercely collocates naturally with independent, suggesting a strong resistance to outside control. Deeply pairs with empathetic to emphasise a profound emotional connection with others. Highly is commonly used with conscientious to describe someone who takes their responsibilities very seriously.

37. She stayed late every night to ensure her report was completely error-free.: B • He donated his entire bonus to a local food bank anonymously.: C • Despite losing the contract, she smiled and congratulated her competitor.: A • He questioned every instruction his manager gave him.: D

Correct
Matches: •
She stayed late every night to ensure her report was completely error-free. → Perfectionist
• He donated his entire bonus to a local food bank anonymously. → Philanthropic
• Despite losing the contract, she smiled and congratulated her competitor. → Magnanimous
• He questioned every instruction his manager gave him. → Sceptical ✓
Explanation:
A
perfectionist sets extremely high personal standards. A philanthropic person gives generously to benefit others without seeking recognition. Being

magnanimous
in defeat
means
showing
grace and
generosity
even when
you have lost.
A sceptical
employee
does not
accept
information at
face value.

38. Stoic: A • Volatile: C • Reticent: B

Correct Matches: • Stoic → Not easily moved by emotion or complaining
• Volatile → Not calm or predictable in temperament • Reticent → Not inclined to speak freely or share opinions ✓ Explanation: A stoic person endures pain or hardship without expressing feelings. A volatile person may shift rapidly between extreme emotional states, making them unpredictable. A reticent individual holds back from sharing thoughts in conversation, which is different from being shy — reticence is often a deliberate choice.

39. Loquacious: B • Frugal: C • Audacious: A • Querulous: D

Correct Matches: • Loquacious → Chatty • Frugal → Tight with money • Audacious → Daring • Querulous → Whiny ✓ Explanation: Loquacious is a formal B2 word meaning tending to talk a great deal, equivalent to the informal chatty. Frugal describes careful and sparing use of resources, informally expressed as tight with money. Audacious implies bold and willing to take risks, much like daring. A querulous person complains persistently, which is captured informally by the word whiny.

40. To wear your heart on your sleeve: C • To be set in your ways: A • To have a chip on your shoulder: B

Correct Matches: •
To wear your heart on your sleeve → To openly show your emotions •
To be set in your ways → To be resistant to change in habits or attitudes •
To have a chip on your shoulder → To be resentful or touchy, often due to past unfairness



Explanation:
Wearing your heart on your sleeve describes someone who does not hide how they feel. Being set in your ways is often associated with older or stubborn people who refuse to adapt. Having a chip on

your
shoulder
suggests an
ongoing
sense of
grievance
or
inferiority,
often
rooted in a
past
experience
of injustice.

Part 5: Sort the Values

- 41.** Correct Answer: Despite her outwardly confident demeanour, she is remarkably self-deprecating in private.  Explanation: The sentence opens with a concessive prepositional phrase using Despite, followed by a noun phrase her outwardly confident demeanour. The main clause follows with subject she, linking verb is, and the adverb-adjective pair remarkably self-deprecating. The adverbial phrase in private comes at the end to contrast with the opening idea.
- 42.** Correct Answer: His tendency to be overly scrupulous often makes decision-making unnecessarily difficult.  Explanation: The subject is the noun phrase His tendency to be overly scrupulous, where tendency is followed by a to-infinitive as a postmodifier. The frequency adverb often is placed before the main verb makes, and the object complement unnecessarily difficult follows the object decision-making.
- 43.** Correct Answer: She is widely regarded as one of the most empathetic leaders in the organisation.  Explanation: This is a passive construction using is regarded, modified by the adverb widely placed between the auxiliary and the past participle. The complement follows with as one of the most empathetic leaders, using a superlative structure, and ends with the prepositional phrase in the organisation.
- 44.** Correct Answer: What distinguishes him from others is his unwavering sense of integrity.  Explanation: This sentence uses a cleft-like nominal clause starting with What as the subject, followed by the verb distinguishes and its object and prepositional phrase. The main verb is then links to the complement his unwavering sense of integrity, emphasising the key quality.
- 45.** Correct Answer: Although he can appear aloof, his colleagues deeply value his candour.  Explanation: The sentence begins with an adverbial concessive clause introduced by Although, using the modal can to suggest habitual possibility. The main clause follows with subject his colleagues, adverb deeply placed before the verb value, and the object his candour, highlighting a character contrast.
- 46.** Correct Answer: Her innate resilience has allowed her to overcome every setback with remarkable composure.  Explanation: The subject noun phrase Her innate resilience is followed by the present perfect verb has allowed. The verb allow takes the pattern allow + object + to-infinitive, so her to overcome follows. The sentence ends with the manner phrase with remarkable composure, which modifies the act of overcoming.

47. Correct Answer: People who are genuinely altruistic rarely seek recognition for their good deeds. ✓

Explanation: The main subject People is modified by a relative clause who are genuinely altruistic. The frequency adverb rarely precedes the main verb seek, which takes the object recognition followed by the prepositional phrase for their good deeds indicating purpose or cause.

48. Correct Answer: It is his meticulous attention to detail that sets him apart from his peers. ✓ Explanation:

This is an it-cleft sentence used to emphasise the noun phrase his meticulous attention to detail. The structure It is + [emphasised element] + that + [rest of clause] highlights what distinguishes him, a common pattern in formal, nuanced writing about character traits.

49. Correct Answer: Being fiercely independent does not necessarily mean that someone is incapable of collaboration. ✓ Explanation:

The sentence begins with a gerund phrase Being fiercely independent acting as the subject. The main verb is the negative form does not mean, with the adverb necessarily placed after the auxiliary for emphasis. The object is a that-clause that someone is incapable of collaboration, using the adjective-preposition collocation incapable of.

50. Correct Answer: Her pragmatic approach to life is often mistaken for a lack of ambition. ✓ Explanation:

The subject noun phrase Her pragmatic approach to life uses postmodification with the prepositional phrase to life. The passive verb is mistaken is modified by the frequency adverb often. The phrasal verb collocation mistake for is followed by the noun phrase a lack of ambition, illustrating a common misreading of character.

Score Guide

45–50 Correct	Excellent! You have mastered this topic.
38–44 Correct	Very good! Review the rules you missed.
30–37 Correct	Good start. Re-read the lesson and examples.
0–29 Correct	Study the lesson again before retaking the test.