

Activity Type

Vocabulary and Speaking Activity: mill-drill, asking and answering questions from prompts, freer practice, providing vocabulary

Focus

Personality traits

Personality adjectives

Present simple yes/no questions and short answers

Aim

To ask and answer questions about personality traits.

Preparation

Make one copy of the worksheet for each student.

Level

Upper-intermediate (B2)

Time

40 minutes

Introduction

In this describing personality activity, students practice asking and answering questions about personality traits.

Procedure

Give each student a copy of the worksheet. Go through the language on the worksheet and elicit the questions the students need to ask in order to do the activity, e.g. 'Do you like to try new or exciting things?'

Demonstrate the activity by writing the first item on the board and adding a 'Name' and 'Example' column beside it.

Ask a student in the class: Do you like to try new or exciting things? If they answer 'No, I don't', repeat the question with other students until one of them says 'Yes, I do'.

Write this student's name in the appropriate column on the board and ask: Can you give me an example? Put their answer in the 'Example' column, e.g. 'Last week, he went skydiving'.

Once the students understand the idea, let them start the activity. Tell them to go around the classroom, asking and answering the questions and completing the worksheet with answers.

It is important to tell the students that they can only have the same name once (or twice if the class is small). This is to encourage them to speak to as many different partners as possible.

When everyone has finished, go through each item and elicit the adjective that describes the personality trait. Then, ask the students to give feedback to the class on what they found out about their classmates. Ask them to share any interesting examples and encourage the students to discuss them in more detail.

Answer key:

Adventurous: likes to try new or exciting things

Energetic: has a lot of energy and is very active

Clumsy: always accidentally breaking or hitting things

Fair: treats everyone equally and in a reasonable way

Ambitious: determined to be successful, rich or famous

Concerned: worried about something

Hard-working: always working very hard

Sympathetic: easily understands the feelings of other people

Bossy: likes to tell other people what to do

Decisive: makes choices or decides what to do quickly and confidently

Easygoing: relaxed, calm, and easy to get along with

Curious: always wants to find out about something

Funny: makes other people laugh

Polite: shows good manners and respect for other people

Bold: confident and not afraid of people

Cautious: careful to avoid problems or danger

Find someone who...	Name	Example
... likes to try new or exciting things.		
... has a lot of energy and is very active.		
... is always accidentally breaking or hitting things.		
... treats everyone equally and in a reasonable way.		
... is determined to be successful, rich or famous.		
... is worried about something.		
... is always working very hard.		
... easily understands the feelings of other people.		
... likes to tell other people what to do.		
... makes choices or decides what to do quickly and confidently.		
... is relaxed, calm, and easy to get along with.		
... always wants to find out about something.		
... makes other people laugh.		
... shows good manners and respect for other people.		
... is confident and not afraid of people.		
... is careful to avoid problems or danger.		