

Personality Problems- Giving Advice

Imagine you have a problem with the personality of someone, e.g. someone you know through your work. Make a sentence explaining the problem, choosing one of the personality words below, and ask your partner's advice. Listen to their suggestions and respond, continuing until you agree on a good solution. Then switch roles and do the same again.

Useful language for explaining the problems

Personality problems to talk about

... am/ is (too)...

... 'm not/ isn't... (enough)

adaptable/ flexible – unadaptable/ inflexible

ambitious – unambitious

amusing/ humorous/ funny – serious

careful – careless

confident – nervous

conservative/ traditional – adventurous/ radical

creative – uncreative

direct – indirect/ diplomatic

dynamic/ a self-starter – passive

efficient – inefficient

energetic – unenergetic

friendly – unfriendly

hard working – lazy

helpful – unhelpful

intelligent/ smart – unintelligent

knowledgeable – ignorant

moody/ unpredictable

motivated/ driven – unmotivated

optimistic – pessimistic

polite – impolite/ rude

positive – negative

practical – impractical

punctual – unpunctual

quiet – loud/ noisy

relaxed – stressed

reliable – unreliable

shy – outgoing

sociable – unsociable

strict – easy-going

superstitious – unsuperstitious

Possible people to complain about

I...

My colleague/ One of my colleagues...

The person at the next desk...

The head of my team/ section/ department/ division/ company...

A member of my team/ section/ department/ division/ company...

My direct boss (= My line manager)...

New employees...

Young employees...

(Middle) managers...

Executives/ Directors...

The person in charge of...

The new...

A customer/ client...

A supplier/ service provider...

One of my business contacts...

My husband/ wife...

One of my children...

My father/ mother...

My local...

My (next door) neighbour...

My (English) teacher...

Asking for advice

What do you think I should do?

Do you have any advice (for me)?

What would you recommend that I do?

What's the best solution?

How can I solve this problem, do you think?

Useful language for giving advice

You (really) should...

I recommend...

My recommendation is to...

Useful language for reacting to advice

Thanks. That's a good idea.

I'll try that.

I'll do that.

Are you sure that's a good idea? Wouldn't it make more sense to...?

I'm not so sure that will work. Do you have any other ideas?

Choose one of the people above, e.g. "line manager", and select a top ten most important characteristics and ten worst characteristics for that person to have.

Personality word synonyms and opposites

Without looking above for now, write at least one word in each gap below.

adaptable/ flexible – _____ / _____

ambitious – _____

amusing/ humorous/ funny – _____

careful – _____

confident – _____

conservative/ traditional – _____ / radical

creative – _____

direct – _____ / diplomatic

_____ / a self-starter – passive

efficient – _____

energetic – _____

friendly – _____

hard working – _____

helpful – _____

intelligent/ _____ - unintelligent

_____ – ignorant

moody/ _____

motivated/ driven – _____

optimistic – _____

polite – impolite/ _____

positive – _____

practical – _____

punctual – _____

quiet – loud/ _____

relaxed – _____

reliable – _____

_____ – outgoing

sociable – _____

_____ – easy-going

superstitious – _____

Compare your answers with the last page. Other answers are possible.