23 Common adjectives: people

In this unit, ** = normal, **** = stronger

Saying positive (+)/good things about people

Nice is the most common word used for people who we like / who are good. Mary's very nice.

Richard's a nice man.

If we want to make nice stronger, we can use wonderful.

nice (**) — wonderful (****)

Ron is a wonderful teacher. All the students love him.

But we don't say 'Mary is very wonderful', we just say 'Mary is wonderful'.

If someone is good to other people, we use kind.

She's very kind; she helps me with the children.

Other 'good' things about people

My teacher is a lovely man. (= very kind / I like him very much) That is

My friend Neil is very easy-going. (= relaxed, easy to be with)

Maureen's a happy person. (≠ an unhappy person)

All my friends are more intelligent than me. (= clever, good at school subjects, etc.)

Saying negative (-)/bad things about people

Marcia is not very nice.

not very nice (**) → horrible (****)

Margaret is a horrible woman; nobody likes her.

My uncle is a difficult person. He is never happy.

That waiter is **stupid**. I asked for coffee and he has given me tea! (**stupid** **** is a very strong word)

I don't like selfish people. (= people who think only of themselves)

C Little children

We often say that little children are good or well-behaved. If they are not, we say they are naughty.

Tim is very good / well-behaved, but his little sister is very naughty.



Prepositions

Jean was nice/kind/wonderful to me when I was in hospital.

You were horrible to me yesterday!

It was nice/kind of you to remember my birthday.

Exercises

23.1 What do you think B said? Complete the sentences.

- 1 A: Mary's very nice.
 - B: She's more than nice, she's!
- 2 A: Was George not very nice to you?
 - B: He was really!
- 3 A: Let me carry your bag.
 - B: Thanks, that's
- 4 A: Is your little brother well-behaved?
 B: No. he's



23.2 Complete the word puzzle. Use the letters of *selfish* and words from the opposite page.

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23.3 Circle the words that describe you.

I am: easy-going sometimes difficult kind to animals sometimes stupid happy intelligent selfish horrible to some people nice to my friends

23.4 Fill in the correct prepositions.

- 1 The teacher is never horrible ...to... the students.
- 2 It is kind you to help me.
- 3 Barbara was wonderful me when I needed a friend.
- 4 It was nice her to ring me.