



# Words Describing Character

Complete each of the following sentences with the correct word from the given list.

|               |                 |                  |
|---------------|-----------------|------------------|
| contemptible  | cynical         | self-opinionated |
| loquacious    | temperamentally | demure           |
| sophisticated | indomitable     | subservient      |
| depraved      | malignant       | enigma           |
| imperturbable | propensity      | vindictive       |
| commitment    | condescending   | obsequious       |
| pragmatism    | uncompromising  |                  |

- 1 The taxi driver, a \_\_\_\_\_ fellow, tried to strike up a conversation with the rather taciturn passenger.
- 2 He could not cover up his \_\_\_\_\_ intentions for long; eventually, he was exposed.
- 3 The new government's policies are guided more by political \_\_\_\_\_ rather than religious zeal.
- 4 Do husbands prefer their wives to be \_\_\_\_\_ and submissive rather than outspoken and assertive?
- 5 Since her divorce, Rosalind has become very \_\_\_\_\_ about marriages.
- 6 He surrendered to protect the community, but he was portrayed as a \_\_\_\_\_ coward.

## Vocabulary Builder

- self-opinionated - thinking that your opinions are always right
- loquacious - talkative
- demure - quiet and well-behaved
- sophisticated - having more experience and able to make better judgments about socially important things
- indomitable - having great courage and determination
- subservient - obedient all the time
- depraved - very evil
- malignant - having a strong wish to do harm
- enigma - something that is hard to understand
- imperturbable - always staying calm even though there are problems
- propensity - naturally wanting to behave in a certain way
- vindictive - cruel and unfair towards others
- commitment - loyalty towards an organisation, etc.
- condescending - behaving as though you are better than others
- obsequious - eager to please those in power
- uncompromising - not willing to change your mind
- taciturn - speaking very little
- zeal - eagerness to do something
- submissive - always obeying others even when they are unkind
- outspoken - giving your honest opinion
- assertive - bold and confident

- 7 The majority of the smaller nations in the UN have adopted a/an \_\_\_\_\_ stance on nuclear disarmament.
- 8 Susan is \_\_\_\_\_ unsuitable for the job of manager as she is too hotheaded.
- 9 It was the climber's \_\_\_\_\_ spirit that helped him to finally succeed in conquering the world's highest peak.
- 10 Voters nowadays are more \_\_\_\_\_ and will not be easily hoodwinked by crooked politicians.
- 11 How could anyone so vicious and \_\_\_\_\_ be voted into the residents' welfare committee?
- 12 Mr Maxwell was bohemian and eccentric and the neighbours regarded him as something of a/an \_\_\_\_\_.
- 13 The new boss finds the \_\_\_\_\_ behaviour of some of the staff extremely irritating.
- 14 The speaker, an eminent scientist, was extremely \_\_\_\_\_ towards the audience.
- 15 The introduction of the performance bonus was one of the measures aimed at securing the workers' \_\_\_\_\_ to the company.
- 16 James is so \_\_\_\_\_ that nobody wants to discuss anything with him.
- 17 She had such a/an \_\_\_\_\_ attitude towards her bosses that she hardly spoke her mind.

- disarmament - when a country reduces the size of its army or the number of weapons it has
- hotheaded - doing things without thinking
- hoodwink - to trick someone so as to get something for yourself
- vicious - violent and cruel
- welfare - the condition of your happiness, health and wealth
- bohemian - living in a relaxed manner without following the usual rules in society
- eccentric - behaviour that is different from most people
- eminent - famous and important
- secure - to get

## Vocabulary Builder

- 18 You will be a happier person if you can be more forgiving and less \_\_\_\_\_ to those who have wronged you.
- 19 The child psychologist could not explain the boy's \_\_\_\_\_ for disruptive behaviour.
- 20 Mr Liston's company is beset with problems, yet he remains \_\_\_\_\_, believing that he can ride out the storm.

- wrong - to make a mistake in what they think about you
- disruptive - causing problems and preventing things from continuing smoothly
- beset - full of
- ride out - to get through a difficult time

### Exercise 18

- 1 loquacious
- 2 malignant
- 3 pragmatism
- 4 demure

- 5 cynical
- 6 contemptible
- 7 uncompromising
- 8 temperamentally

- 9 indomitable
- 10 sophisticated
- 11 deprived
- 12 enigma

- 13 obsequious
- 14 condescending
- 15 commitment
- 16 self-opinionated

- 17 subservient
- 18 vindictive
- 19 propensity
- 20 imperturbable

Adapted:

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