

23 Common adjectives: people

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

A 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)

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.)

B 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.

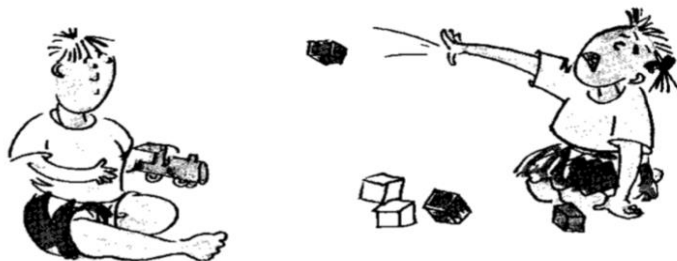
That waiter is **stupid**. I asked for coffee and he has given me tea! (**stupid** **** is a very strong word)

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**.



D 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.

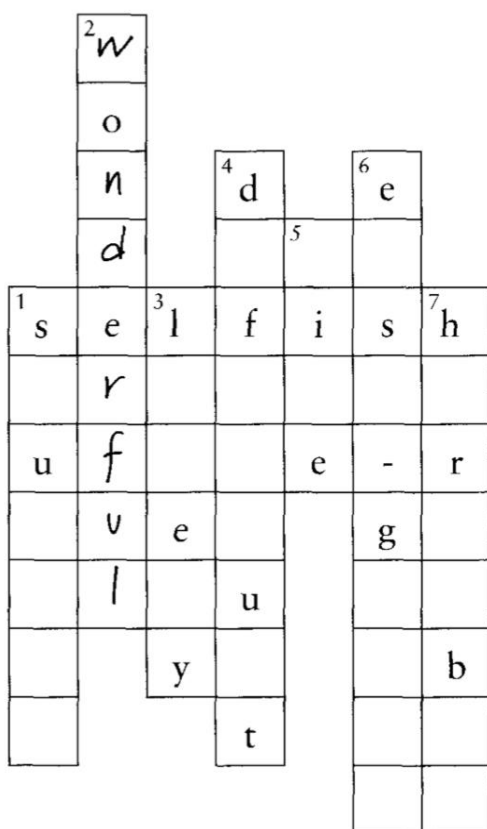
Exercises

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.



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.