

The right personality

Language focus

- Adjectives describing personality
- The world of work

1 Introduction

Discuss these questions.

- What do you do for a living?
- Do you think you are well suited to your job?
- What personal qualities do you need to do your job?



2 Vocabulary

Decide if these adjectives describe positive or negative personal qualities.



level-headed
ruthless
industrious
morose
sullen
diligent
driven
verbose
cunning

talkative
pushy
shrewd
dogged
sly
resolute
stubborn
pig-headed
garrulous

thorough
tolerant
open-minded
unprincipled
unscrupulous
idealistic
dogmatic
inflexible
chatty

3 Discussion

In which jobs would it help to be any of the above and in which would it be a problem?



4 How might someone that you could describe with the adjectives in Exercise 2 find themselves in the following situations?

- Becoming a victim of bullying
- Handing in their resignation
- Becoming a bully
- Being put on sick leave
- Suffering a nervous breakdown
- Suing their employer for unfair dismissal
- Being fired

5 Why an employee thinks they've been dismissed may not be why their employer says they dismissed them.

Look at the survey below on the most common reasons a group of employers give for why they fired the last person they fired, and the reasons why the dismissed employees think this happened.

Compare and contrast the results of the two groups. How can you explain the difference in how they understood the most common reasons?



Why the employers said they had fired the last employee they fired

- 57% attitude issues
- 41% personality issues
- 40% not completing their assigned duties
- 34% poor attendance
- 31% violating company policy
- 23% asked for a raise
- 20% stealing
- 18% being late for work



Why the fired employees believe they were fired

- 30% personality conflicts
- 23% boss was an idiot
- 19% office politics
- 18% poor performance
- 15% budget issues
- 15% late for work
- 12% not liked by management
- 7% underqualified for the job

Sources: Airtasker, 2019. No job, now what?

Available at: <https://www.thebalancemoney.com/top-reasons-for-getting-fired-2060732> [accessed: 13/02/2024]