

Vocabulary People

Social Types

A. Match the words on the left with the definitions on the right:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| 1. early bird | a) doesn't fit in socially, for a variety of reasons |
| 2. big spender | b) stays at the edge or outside a group of people, looking on |
| 3. killjoy | c) moves from town to town and job to job without purpose |
| 4. the strong silent type | d) always purchasing new things |
| 5. wallflower | e) stops other people from having fun |
| 6. mother hen | f) an untrustworthy person who will probably betray you |
| 7. misfit | g) is nosey regarding what is going on in their neighbourhood |
| 8. curtain twitcher | h) tries to make money from a variety of small-time hustles |
| 9. ray of sunshine | i) works well at night or spends all night out partying |
| 10. wet blanket | j) a hard-working person |
| 11. grafter | k) makes sure that everybody in the group is having fun |
| 12. boy racer | l) enjoys getting up with the dawn |
| 13. drifter | m) spends most of their time alone |
| 14. snake in the grass | n) generous with money for themselves and/or others |
| 15. wheeler-dealer | o) spreads joy and happiness by being fun and positive |
| 16. night owl | p) can't stop talking – always has something to say |
| 17. the life and soul of the party | q) young guy who loves speeding around suburbs in his car |
| 18. loner | r) stands around silently looking mean and moody |
| 19. chatterbox | s) never wants to do anything fun with their group |
| 20. shopaholic | t) takes care of everybody's needs in their group |

B. Correct the sentences:

1. Barry is an **early bird** because he hates getting up early for work.
2. My cousin is such a **ray of sunshine** – I can't stand listening to her constant moaning.
3. Annie is a **loner** who is always the **life and soul of the party**.
4. Tom is always suggesting fun new places for us to visit. What a **killjoy**!
5. My mum looked like a **big spender** because she wouldn't give the waitress a tip.
6. Graham always sticks to the speed limit, so we call him '**boy racer**'.

C. Discuss the following questions with your partner or small group:

1. Which social types do you feel are positive / negative / neutral?
2. Which are the best / worst social types in your opinion?
3. Which social types are similar / opposite?
4. How does a person become one of these types?
5. Can a person be more than one type? Give examples.
6. Can a person change type – i.e., break away from the stereotype? How? Give examples.
7. Which social type are you? Which one describes: a) your friends, b) your parents, c) your boss, d) your mother-in-law, e) your teacher, etc. Give examples of their behaviour.
8. When are you a _____ [social type]? Give examples.
9. When have you been a _____ [social type]? Describe what happened.
10. Can you think of any more English social types?
11. Tell me about the social types in your culture. Do you have the same or different types?
12. Make ten sentences: 'My _____ is a _____, because...'
13. Write a sentence with each social type.
14. Think of characters from your favourite TV shows or movies. What social types are they?
15. Imagine a short story or film featuring two of more of these types. Think of the plot, actors, setting, etc.

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Answers:

A.

1. l) 2. n) 3. e) 4. r) 5. b) 6. t) 7. a) 8. g) 9. o) 10. s)
11. j) 12. q) 13. c) 14. f) 15. h) 16. i) 17. k) 18. m) 19. p) 20. d)

B.

1. An **early bird** loves getting up early.
2. A **ray of sunshine** would never moan.
3. A **loner** can't be **the life and soul of the party** unless they change their attitude.
4. A **killjoy** wouldn't suggest fun new places to visit.
5. A **big spender** would definitely give a waitress a good tip.
6. A **boy racer** rarely sticks to the speed limit!

C.

Answers will vary. Here are some example answers:

1. For example, **Positive:** early bird, mother hen, ray of sunshine, grafter, the life and soul of the party; **Negative:** killjoy, curtain twitcher, wet blanket, boy racer, snake in the grass; **Neutral:** big spender, misfit, wheeler-dealer, loner, chatterbox.
2. —
3. For example, **Similar:** big spender, shopaholic; **Opposite:** early bird, night owl.
4. —
5. For example, a person could be a boy racer and the life and soul of the party.
6. —
7. —
8. —
9. —
10. For example, odd bod (strange), wrong'un, bad apple (both = bad character), grifter (small-time swindler), big head (egotistical), petrol head (obsessed with motor vehicles), and so on.
11. —
12. For example, 'My auntie is a mother hen, because she has to make sure that everybody is happy when we go for a night out.'
13. For example, 'I noticed that Phil spent the entire school prom being a wallflower; not once did he enter the dance floor.'
14. —
15. —