TOPIC 1

Be + personality adjective

He is honest, humorous and outgoing

Personality adjectives normally follow **am/is/are**. Use these structures to describe friends with adjectives such as **energetic, outgoing, honest, humorous, selfish, punctual, easygoing, quick-tempered, flexible, stubborn, reliable, supportive** and **understanding**. Some qualities are also expressed through fixed phrases such as **have a good sense of humor** or **be keen on** something.

MODEL

Ted is an energetic and outgoing boy.

Mrs. Collins is kind, talkative and cheerful.

Pattern	Example	Meaning
be + adjective	Ted **is outgoing**.	personality
be + adjective list	She **is kind, talkative and cheerful**.	several traits
have + noun phrase	He **has a good sense of humor**.	personal feature
be keen on + noun	They **are keen on basketball**.	interest

1. Ted **is energetic and outgoing**.
2. Mrs. Collins **is kind, talkative and cheerful**.
3. A reliable friend **is honest and supportive**.

Adjectives follow be:She is supportive. · not “She supportive.”

TOPIC 2

Be for build/age — have for hair, eyes and features

He is tall — She has long curly hair

Use **be** with height, build, age and general appearance: **tall, well-built, young, in his early fifties**. Use **have/has** with hair, eyes and visible features: **has green eyes, has long fair hair, has crinkles on her face**. Use these forms together when describing friends, teachers and people in pictures.

MODEL

He is tall and well-built with green eyes.

She has long, curly, dark hair.

Feature	Preferred structure	Example
height/build	be + adjective	He **is tall and well-built**.
age	be + age expression	He **is in his early fifties**.
eyes	have/has + noun	He **has green eyes**.
hair	have/has + adjective + hair	She **has long, curly, dark hair**.
face/detail	have/has + feature	She **has crinkles on her face**.

1. He **is tall and well-built** with green eyes.
2. She **has long, curly, dark hair**.
3. The woman **has crinkles on her face**.

Be have:He is tall. · **He has green eyes.**

TOPIC 3

Personality question or appearance question?

What is she like? — What does she look like?

What is... like? asks about personality or general character. **What does... look like?** asks about physical appearance. Another useful question is follow-up questions such as **What about her age?**, **What about her clothing style?** and **Does she have a good sense of humor?**

MODEL

What is she like? — She is kind, talkative and cheerful.

What does she look like? — She is tall with long curly hair.

Question	Asks about	Typical answer
What is she like?	personality	She **is kind and cheerful**.
What does she look like?	appearance	She **is tall and has curly hair**.
What about her age?	age	She **can't be older than 50**.
Does she have...?	a feature	Yes, she **has a good sense of humor**.

1. **What is she like?** — She is kind, talkative and cheerful.
2. **What does she look like?** — She is tall with a round face.
3. **Does she have a good sense of humor?** — Yes, she does.

Do not confuse the two frames:What is she like? = personality · **What does she look like?** = appearance.

TOPIC 4

Making present conclusions from evidence

She must be... / He can't be...

Use the grammar to look at visible clues and make conclusions. **Must be** expresses a strong conclusion that seems very likely. **Can't be** expresses a strong conclusion that something is impossible or highly unlikely. Both are followed by an adjective, noun phrase or age expression: **must be energetic, can't be exhausted, must be at least 70**.

MODEL

He must be energetic.

He can't be exhausted.

STRONG POSITIVE

must be + complement

He **must be energetic**.

STRONG NEGATIVE

can't be + complement

He **can't be exhausted**.

AGE

must/can't be + age expression

She **must be at least 70**.

STYLE / INTEREST

must be + adjective phrase

He **must be interested in outdoor style**.

1. He **must be in a good mood** because he is smiling.
2. She **must be at least 70** because she has crinkles on her face.
3. He **can't be in a happy mood** because he looks nervous.

Present conclusion uses be:must be energetic · can't be older than 55

TOPIC 5

Because, since and as

Sue is sociable because...

Because, since and **as** introduce reason clauses. The grammar explicitly practises all three: **Sue is sociable because she is willing to communicate with people**, **Alice is supportive since she gives help and encouragement**, and **Alex is sensible as he makes good decisions**. These connectors allow a personality judgment to be supported by evidence.

MODEL

Sue is sociable because she is willing to communicate with people.

Alex is sensible as he makes good decisions.

Connector	Function	Example
because	direct reason	Sue is sociable **because she communicates easily**.
since	reason / known background	Alice is supportive **since she gives help**.
as	reason	Alex is sensible **as he makes good decisions**.
because of	noun phrase, not clause	Their friendship grew **because of mutual respect**.

1. Sue is sociable **because she is willing to communicate with people**.
2. Alice is supportive **since she gives help and encouragement**.
3. Alex is sensible **as he makes good decisions**.

Connector + clause:because/since/as + subject + verb. Use **because of + noun phrase**.

TOPIC 6

Comparing friends and personal features

Similar in some ways, different in others

The descriptions in these structures compare friends directly. **As + adjective + as** expresses equality, while **not as + adjective + as** shows inequality. Another common form is **have a lot in common**, **differ from** and **whereas** to contrast personality and interests. These structures are useful when describing two friends in the same paragraph.

MODEL

He is not as humorous as you.

Ted is quick-tempered, whereas Mike is easygoing.

Structure	Meaning	Example
as + adjective + as	equal degree	He is **as supportive as** his friend.
not as + adjective + as	less degree	He is **not as humorous as** you.
whereas	contrast	Ted is stubborn, **whereas** Mike is flexible.
have a lot in common	similarities	Ted and Mike **have a lot in common**.
differ from	differences	They **differ from each other** in some points.

1. He is **not as humorous as you**.
2. Ted is quick-tempered, **whereas Mike is easygoing**.
3. Ted and Mike **have a lot in common**.

Keep as ... as complete:as reliable as · not as humorous as