

Unit 16 A star is born ... or made?

Adjectives to describe capacity and behavior

Learn the expressions

1 In this unit, we studied adjectives that describe different celebrities. Now let's look at more adjectives to describe people and their behavior. Answer the questions with the adjectives in the box. Write one word in each space. Check your answers in the Answer Key on this page.

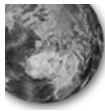
adept	clumsy	competent	crude	graceful
incapable	inept	refined	sloppy	witty

How do you define someone who . . .

- is particularly intelligent and skillful at something? adept
- is polite and pleasant all of the time? _____
- has enough knowledge or skills to do something satisfactorily? _____
- uses language in a funny and clever way? _____
- moves in a smooth and stylish way? _____
- has no qualification or training to do a certain job? _____
- is completely unskilled at doing something? _____
- moves in an awkward way and tends to break things? _____
- is offensive and rude around other people? _____
- is usually not neat, careful, or thorough? _____

Answer Key

- | | |
|--------------|--------------|
| 1. adept | 6. inept |
| 2. refined | 7. incapable |
| 3. competent | 8. clumsy |
| 4. witty | 9. crude |
| 5. graceful | 10. sloppy |



Use the expressions

2 Complete the sentences with the words in the box.

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1. Maybe Jason should take tennis lessons. He does a lot of things very well, but as a tennis player, he's truly _____ .
2. Pat was transferred because she was too _____ to handle sensitive files. In fact, she misplaced two important contracts that could never be found again.
3. Max and Laura are a strange couple, aren't they? She's often _____ --and has terrible manners--and he's extremely _____ --and is always polite and seems very well educated.
4. Paula is a very _____ marketing manager. Since she took over the position two years ago, the company has almost doubled its sales.
5. When Mario was a teenager, he was extremely _____ -- always bumping into things and tripping over his own feet.
6. Karen has a way with words; she's _____ and articulate, and somehow she manages to have the last word in every discussion.
7. Grasso and Sons has _____ workers that do satisfactory work. If you want a truly great paint job, however, pay a little more and hire Premier Painting.
8. If you are _____ of showing sympathy for other people, perhaps you should reconsider your choice of professions. Why did you want to be a doctor in the first place?
9. It is a joy to see *Swan Lake* performed by the ballet company's most _____ dancers.

Make the expressions your own

3 Use five adjectives in Exercise 2 to describe people you know. Give details and explain why each person deserves the adjective you chose for him or her. Use your sense of humor!