

DESCRIBING A PERSON

Read the text below and label the paragraphs:

- a) Physical appearance.
- b) Introduction and background information.
- c) Conclusion: comments and feelings about the person.
- d) Personality traits.
- e) Habits, activities, hobbies...

"My Next-door Neighbour"

Mavis has been my neighbour for six years. I first met her when she knocked on my door and asked for a spade because she hadn't yet unpacked hers. She had only moved in two days before.

Physically, Mavis looks younger than most other women in their late sixties. She is of average height, neither fat nor thin. Her plump round face is framed by a mass of wavy white hair and her sparkling blue eyes show her humour and friendliness. She prefers wearing casual, comfortable clothes. I don't think I have ever seen her in a perfectly ironed suit.

As for her personality, Mavis's most striking characteristic is her generosity. My house, as well as most of our neighbours', nearly always has a vase of flowers from her garden in the living room. Mavis is very good-natured and always has time for a chat. She is also patient. She hardly ever gets annoyed about anything, except when children pick her favourite roses and lilies. However, she tends to be quite stubborn — once she has made a decision, nothing can change her mind.

Mavis always seems to be busy doing something. She spends a lot of her time looking after her garden and often participates in local flower shows. When she is not in her garden she is usually off somewhere raising money for one charity or another.

All in all, Mavis is the perfect next-door neighbour. Since the day she moved in, we have grown very close and I am very fond of her, even if I am woken up by the noise of her lawnmower early in the morning!



Write a description of a person you know or you knew.

- ✓ Use the same paragraph layout.
- ✓ Use a variety of structures to talk about habits: will/would, tend to, is prone to... *My grandfather would always give us pocket money whenever we visited him... He was prone to telling us off when we misbehaved.*
- ✓ Avoid very general adjectives (kind, nice, good, bad...) Use more specific ones (good-natured, charming, well-behaved, naughty...)
- ✓ Support your description with examples: *She is very popular with her neighbours because she is so helpful. She will always baby-sit for you when you need it.*
- ✓ Hand in your text within the deadline!

