Describe Someone

CASAS Competencies:
- 0.1.2 Identify or use appropriate language for informational purposes
- 4.1.7 Identify appropriate behavior and attitudes for getting a job
- 7.5.1 Identify personal values, qualities, interests, abilities, and aptitudes

Outcomes:
- Describe self, a friend, a boss, a neighbor, a spouse or other family member

Teacher Preparation and Materials:
- Overhead Projector
- Overhead transparency and class copies of *Transparency 1A and 1B/Handout 1A and 1B: What is She Like? What is He Like?*
- Class Copies of *Handout 2A and 2B: The Best and Worst Person*
- Allow 60 to 90 minutes
- Write on board:
    What would you like?
    What do you like?
    What is he/she like?
    What does he/she look like?

Why?

Warm up: Do you know how to describe yourself or another person? Today we are going to talk about ways of describing yourself and people you know. But before we begin that, do you know the difference between the following questions?

    What would you like? (desire)
    What do you like? (to do, to have)
    What is he/she like? (personality)
    What does he/she look like? (appearance)

Explain the difference:

- 'What would you like?' Is really just another way of asking, "What do you want."
- 'What do you like?' is really a way of asking what you like to do, or to have—what your preferences are.
- 'What is he/she like?' is a way of asking about a person's personality, character, or 'inner self.'
- 'What does he/she look like? is a way of asking about how a person looks—physical characteristics.

What?

Presentation: Today I'm going to ask you to describe your opinion of the best spouse, neighbor, boss and friend.

For example: *I really like my boss. He is organized and compassionate. He cares about me and the people I work with. If I do something wrong, he will call me into his office and we will talk about what I did and how I can avoid doing it again.*

However, once I had a boss who never told me what to do and then got angry if I didn't do what he wanted. He was rude and disrespectful and complained about everything I did. I had to quit that job!

Use *Transparency 1A and 1B / Handout 1A and 1B* to introduce other words and grammar used to describe people.

Do!

Controlled Practice: Ask students to repeat all of the adjectives on *Handout 1A and 1B / Transparency 1A and 1B.* Select a few of the words and call on students, asking them to use the adjectives with the recommended grammar. Ask students if a trait is positive, negative, or neutral.

Pair Practice: Organize students into pairs. Pass out *Handout 2A and 2B*. Have students in pairs form sentences describing the 'best' and 'worst' in each category. Model by asking a talkative student: What is the best neighbor like? What is the worst boss like?

Tell them that later they will be asked to use some of the new words to describe what their partner thinks is the best or worst in one of the categories.

So What?

Assessment: Students pair up with another pair. Partner 1 (of Pair 1) describes one of the people that Partner 2 told him or her about. The second pair (Pair 2) listens and writes answers to questions about what the speaker from Pair 1 says on Handout 2B, Part E.

Follow up: Ask for volunteers to share their descriptions with the whole class. Listeners write answers to questions about what the speakers say on Handout 2B, Part F.

What Is She Like?
What Is He Like?

Adjectives to Describe Personality

Which are _positive_? Which are _negative_? Which are _neutral_?
You could use these adjectives to describe your or another person's character, perhaps in a job interview. We usually use them with the verb **to be**.

I am . . .   She is . . .
He is . . .

For example: She is outgoing**,** funny**,** and successful.

Don't forget to use commas and 'and' if you list more than two adjectives.

Choose one, two, or three **with different meanings** to describe a person.

talkative	lazy	serious	courageous
shy	intelligent	inconsiderate	organized
funny	outgoing	selfish	compassionate
quiet	successful	trustworthy	diplomatic
loud	hardworking	sincere	friendly
athletic	rude	sensitive	easygoing
critical	stuck-up	supportive	daring
self-centered	mean	thoughtful	sensible
adventurous	curious	practical	prompt
romantic	respectful	generous	

You can use both physical and personality adjectives together in one sentence, especially when describing people you know well, like friends and family members.

For example: He is **handsome**, **athletic**, and **sincere**.

Verbs and Adjectives to Describe Feelings

A **verb** directly expresses your feelings about a person.

I _____ her.
I _____ him.

love	like	adore	dislike
hate	admire	trust	respect

You might use an **adjective** to describe how you feel or how another person makes you feel at a particular time.

I am _____.   She is _____.
I feel _____.   He is _____.

He makes me feel _____.   He makes her feel _____.
She makes me feel _____.   She makes him feel _____.

Choose one, two, or three.

sad	bored	scared
angry	disappointed	frustrated
secure	embarrassed	content
ashamed	relaxed	proud
jealous	nervous	confused
upset	stupid	excited
confident		

When we aren't sure about how another person feels we can use ***seems to be*** or ***appears to be*** with an ***adjective.***

For example: *She **appears to be** confused. He **seems to be** bored.*

Marital Status

Sometimes, when we describe a person, we refer to **marital status.**

She is . . .   He is . . . .

Choose one.

married	engaged	divorced (not always polite)
single	widowed	

Profession

We may also use the name of a profession when we describe someone.

For example:

He's **a doctor**.
She's a **home health care aide**.

THE BEST AND WORST PERSON

Part 1: Pair Discussion   With a partner, come up with a description of the best and worst person in each category. Add an emotional component to your description. How does he or she make you feel? ***DON'T WRITE! TALK!***

For example: My best friend is ***sincere***, ***sensitive***, and ***trustworthy***. He or she makes me feel ***relaxed***.
.
A. What **is** the best . . .

> spouse like?
>
> neighbor like?
>
> boss like?
>
> friend like?
>
> you like?

Why?

B. What **is** the **worst** . . .

> spouse like?
>
> neighbor like?
>
> boss like?
>
> friend like?
>
> you like?

Why?

C.   Describe one person you really know and like. Who is it? What are some things you like about him or her? How does he or she make you feel?

D. Describe one person you really know and don't like. Who is it? What are some of the reasons you don't like him or her?   How does he or she make you feel?

Part 2: Report. Speak, Listen and Write. Take turns telling another pair about the people you and your partner described. Choose one person to speak at a time.

E. Listen to one person i**n your small group** describe someone.

Write the answers to these questions:

Which words or phrases did he or she use to describe the person?

_____

Did he or she use new words that you learned today?

_____

Would you like or dislike the person he or she described?

_____

F. Listen to one classmate describe someone **in front of the class**.

Write the answers to these questions:

Which words or phrases did he or she use to describe the person?

_____

Did he or she use new words that you learned today?

_____

Would you like or dislike the person he or she described?

_____