

## TEXT 4 PARENTS AND CHILDREN – ALLIES OR FOES?

The main causes for problems between parents and children:

Legal responsibilities of parents for their children:

Parents' expectations of their children:

Newborns:

Toddlers:

3-year-olds:

6-year-olds:

10-year-olds:

14-year-olds:

18-year-olds:

### Describing people – character

**Keywords: character, appearance, personality, look, behaviour, relations, children, teenagers, adolescents, adults**

Obey, annoy, polite, honest, proud, conscience, violent, brave, bad-tempered, determined, lazy, reliable, cheerful, frank, mean, selfish, considerate, honest, punctual, sympathetic, ambitious, greedy, polite, sociable, brave, imaginative, proud, grateful, kind, snobbish, tolerant, strict, selfish, sentimental, aggressive, courageous, cheerful

**A) Intellectual ability** (+ intelligent, bright, clever, smart, shrewd, able, gifted, talented)  
(- stupid, foolish, half-witted, simple, silly, brainless, dumb)

**B) Attitudes toward life** Looking on the bright side/black side of things = optimistic/pessimistic  
Outward-looking/inward-looking = extroverted/introverted  
Relaxed x tense  
Romantic, sensitive, sensible, practical, down-to-earth

### C) Attitudes towards other people

enjoying others' company (sociable, gregarious), disagreeing with others (quarrelsome, argumentative), taking pleasures in others' pain (cruel, sadistic), relaxed in attitude to self and others (easy-going, even-tempered), not polite to others (impolite, rude, ill-mannered, discourteous), telling the truth to others (honest, trustworthy, reliable, sincere), unhappy if others have what one does not have oneself (jealous, envious)

**Be careful: some characteristics can be either positive or negative depending on your point of view!**

Determined (obstinate, stubborn, pig-headed)

Thrifty/economical (miserly, mean, tight-fisted)

Self-assured (self-important, arrogant)

Assertive (aggressive, bossy)

Original (peculiar, weird, eccentric, odd)

Frank/open/direct (blunt, abrupt, brusque, curt)

Broad-minded (unprincipled, permissive)

Inquiring (inquisitive, nosy)

Generous (extravagant)

Innocent (naïve)

Ambitious (pushy)

*(see Vocabulary in Use Upper-Intermediate, CUP)*