

Can you describe yourself/your appearance?

What are you like? Tell me something about your personal qualities. *good/bad* qualities?

What is your best friend like? Tell me about him/her.

What do you like most about your best friend? Why?/Tell me more about it.

Do you prefer working/studying in a team or alone? Why?

Can you describe one of your classmates to me? What does *he/she* look like?

Which member of your family do you get on best with? Why?

Can you describe a member of your family?

Do you have a good relationship with your parents/classmates? Why?/Why not?

Do you think appearance is more important than character? Why?/ Why not?

What was your favourite primary school teacher like?

What was *the last/the best* thing you did together with your friends? Tell me about it.

As a child, what job did you dream about? Why?/Tell me more about it.

What did you like doing when you were a child? Tell me about it.

What should your ideal friend/partner be like? Why?

What should your best friend be like? Why?

Would you like to change some of your qualities? Which one(s)?/Why?/Why not?

Do you want to study in the future? Why?/What?/Why not?

Would you like to study/work abroad? Why?/ Why not?

Have you ever made a friend on the Internet? Tell me about it./Why not?

In your opinion, is the Internet a safe/*the best* place to make friends/find a partner? Why?/Why not?

### Helping others

Imagine the following situation:  
I am your English speaking friend and we would like to help others. First, we should agree on which activity to do and then talk about the details of it. I will start the dialogue.

#### Possible activities:

- volunteer work at a hospital
- helping at an animal shelter
- organizing a concert to raise money for a children's home
- other?

- What?
- Why?
- Where?
- When?
- What will we need?
- Other

Have you already thought about the activity we could do to help the others?

# Speaking Card 11: People, Looks, Feelings

## Gate

### • Can you introduce yourself?

My name is... / I'm... 14 years old / a 13-year-old boy / girl. I go to elementary school / grammar school. I come / I'm from Prague / a medium-sized city / a small town / a village. In the north / south / west / east of the Czech Republic. I come from Bohemia / Moravia / Silesia. I speak English / My second language is English / French / German / Polish / Slovak.

### • How would you describe what you look like?

I'm... tall / medium height / short. My height is... 160 cm / I am 160 cm tall. I have a normal / medium-sized figure. I am slim / thin / well-built / muscular / a bit overweight / fat. I have short / long legs / small / big feet.

### • How would you describe your face?

I have... an oval / heart-shaped / round / square face. I have short / medium-length / shoulder-length hair. My hair is... straight / curly / wavy / brown / blond / red. Sometimes I wear braids (AmE) / a ponytail. I dye / colour my hair. I have blue / brown / green eyes. I have a button / small / large nose and a small / large chin.

### • Do you have any special features?

I have freckles / a mole. I wear braces / I have a tattoo / piercing. I wear glasses / contact lenses / I am in a wheelchair.

### • How would you describe your personality / or what you are like?

I think I am sometimes messy / I like studying. I am sometimes happy / not very organised. I sometimes laugh. I am happy / fun. I like being with my friends / I have a good sense of humour / I like working alone / I am a bit shy / I don't like big groups. I am helpful / I am a bit selfish / get angry quickly.

### • What good things would other people say about you?

My friends would say that... I am happy / helpful / I help my friends / fun to be with / work hard / I'm a bit quiet but once I get to know you I am more confident / I am good at maths / languages / sport / dancing / art. My parents would say I am kind / smart / fun / lively / helpful / I help my brother and sister.

### • What bad or negative things would other people say about you?

Some people might say that I am too loud / sometimes I get angry quickly / I am emotional / I get jealous / I can be moody. My brother / sister / parents would say that I am annoying / bossy / lazy / stingy (don't share) / I don't help.

### • What makes you happy?

I'm happy when I am with my friends / family / dog / siblings / seeing my grandparents. I like travelling / visiting family / going on trips at the weekend / see movies / playing computer games with friends / hanging out at friends' houses / playing sports / music.

### • What makes you sad?

I don't like it when I argue with my friends / family / siblings. I don't like... watching sad things on TV like poor children / reading books that are sad / when I see animals get hurt. I am sad when I can't go out / I am not allowed to see my friends.

### • What qualities do you look for in a friend?

A friend should be someone you can trust / who is reliable / friendly. They should be fun / work hard / have the same / similar interests / hobbies as me. She / he should be kind / nice / make me laugh / help me feel better when I feel sad / always be there for me in good times and bad times.

Underlined vocabulary is above the A2 CEFR level – to be explained.

January–February 2014

# Maturita Card: Personal Identification

## Bridge

### Vocabulary

**Physical Appearance:** tall / short / average / medium height / blonde / brunette / ginger / light-/dark-/red-/fair-/grey-haired / blue-/green-/brown-/hazel-eyed / slim / thin / muscular / chubby / overweight / cute / handsome / gorgeous / stunning / average / bearded / clean-shaven / tattooed  
**Personality:** outgoing / social / shy / reserved / sensitive / confident / arrogant / independent / sensible / strict / responsible / opinionated / clever / smart / kind / easy-going / silly / self-conscious / lazy / selfish / rude / (un)reliable

**Interests:** to be (not very/all that) interested in / quite keen on (BrE) / fond of / completely / totally obsessed with / passionate about / excited about / bored by / I can't wait to / am looking forward to / am dreading

**Feelings:** very / fairly / quite\* well / all right / happy / relaxed / calm / (not too) bad\* / (just) fine\* / okay\* / a bit depressed / worried about / stressed (out) about / upset about / confused by/about / overwhelmed by / embarrassed by/about / annoyed with/about/at (AmE) / angry with/about/at (AmE) / sorry for/about

### Pair Discussion

Imagine that you are going to meet two friends at a café. They've never met each other before. You may be late, but you want your friends to find each other if they arrive on time. Describe to one friend what the other

### Personal Questions

- What does your mother/your best friend/boyfriend/girlfriend look like?
- What is he/she like?
- What do you (and your friends) like/enjoy doing?
- How are you? / How have you been?

"He's/She's... quite tall / very short... with short, dark, curly hair / light green eyes..."

one looks like. You can also tell your friend a little bit about the person so that they have something to talk about until you get there. At the end, check to make sure your friend remembers what you have told them.

\* You can find a sample dialogue on the September 2017 CD.

### Language for Describing People

He's/She's quite a/an [adjective] person...  
He/She is one of the [superlative] people I know / I've ever met...

Most of my friends/classmates are interested in / fond of...

When we were younger, my brother/sister/best friend was more...  
You'll recognize his/her...

### Language Points

• We can modify almost any feeling, such as "I'm feeling **fairly** relaxed." or "I'm doing **quite well**." But we don't usually use these modifiers with the words **fine** and **okay**. For a neutral response to "How are you?" you can say "I'm (doing) **fine**," "I'm **okay**," "thanks," or "Not (too) bad."

• In a speaking exam, you can show that you truly understand the meaning of an adjective of personality by using the word to describe someone, and then giving **examples** that show that you're correct. e.g. James is really reliable. I know that I can really count on him to follow through on his promises.

"He's/She's confident / opinionated / shy... He/She always / usually / never + [examples that show the meaning of the words]... My brother/sister/friend used to be/was really lazy / very outgoing when he/she was young, but now he/she/they are more..."  
"I'm interested in... / excited about... / passionate about... languages / going to the cinema... / I can't wait to... graduate from high school / I'm looking forward to... going to university..."  
"I'm fine / not bad / quite well... To be honest, I've been a little... I'm confused by / annoyed with..."

September 2017