

# How to use compound adjectives to describe a person

Positive adjectives : **Approving**  
Negative adjectives: **Disapproving**

**blink·ered** /'blɪŋkəd; NAmE -kərd/ *adj.* (*disapproving*) not aware of every aspect of a situation; not willing to accept different ideas about sth **SYN** **narrow-minded**: *a blinkered policy/attitude/approach*

**feisty** /'faɪsti/ *adj.* (**feist-ier**, **feisti-est**) (*informal, approving*) (of people) strong, determined and not afraid of arguing with people

# Definition of Compound Adjective

A compound adjective is an adjective that comprises more than one word. Usually, a hyphen (or hyphens) is used to link the words together to show that it is one adjective.

For example:

I am a **42-year-old** teacher.

( Compound Adjective )

**See sb as sth** : to believe that someone or something has a particular quality

His colleagues see him as a generous person.

I see myself as a generous person.

**Be drawn to sb** : be attracted to sb

I'm drawn **to** men who are considerate.

***Considerate adj. : always thinking of other people's wishes and feelings.***

**Get up sb's nose** : to annoy sb

She gets up my nose.

**Narrow-minded adj. (disapproving)**

**Not willing to listen to new ideas or to  
the opinions of others.**

**SYN: Intolerant**

# Open-minded adj.

Willing to listen to, think about or accept different ideas.

**SYN: Tolerant**



## **Absent-minded adj.**

**Tending to forget things, perhaps because you are not thinking about what is around you, but about sth else.**

**SYN: forgetful**

**Sharp-eyed adj.**

**Able to see very well and quick to  
notice things.**

**SYN: observant**

**Eagle-eyed adj.**

**Are good at noticing things.**

**SYN: observant**

**Thick-skinned adj.**

**(of a person) not easily upset by  
criticism or unkind comments.**

**Thin-skinned adj.**

**(of a person) easily upset by  
criticism or unkind comments.**

**SYN: Sensitive**

**Quick-witted adj.**

**Able to think quickly; intelligent**  
**SYN: intelligent**

***Wit (noun): the ability to say or write things that are both clever and amusing.***

**Slow-witted adj.**

**Not able to think quickly; slow to learn or understand things.**

## **Strong-willed adj.**

**Determined to do what you want to do,  
if even other people advise you not to.**

**SYN: Determined**



**Weak-willed adj.**

**lacking the ability to resist the influence of other people or to control one's own impulses.**

**Bad-tempered adj.**

**Often angry; in an angry mood.**

**Good-tempered adj.**

**Cheerful and not easily made angry.**

**Happy-go-lucky adj.**

**Not caring or worrying about the future**

**SYN: Unserious**

**Easy-going adj.**

**Relaxed and happy to accept things  
without worry or getting angry.**

**SYN: Even-tempered**

**Laid-back adj.**

**Calm and relaxed.**  
**SYN: Easy-going**

**Down-to-earth adj.**

**Sensible and practical, in a way that  
is helpful and friendly.**

**SYN: Sensible**

**Good-hearted adj.**

**Kind, willing to help other people.**

**SYN: Kind**



**Sensible adj.** : (of people) able to make good judgement based on reason and experience rather than emotion; practical.

**For example: She's a sensible sort of person.**

**Sensitive adj.** : aware of and able to understand other people and their feelings.

**For example: He is a sensitive and caring man.**

# **NOUNS TO DESCRIBE CHARACTER AND PERSONALITY**

# **Goody-goody noun (disapproving)**

**(used especially by and about children)  
a person who behaves very well to  
please people in authority such as  
parents or teachers.**

**Cowarded** /'kaʊəd/ noun (disapproving)

**A person who is not brave or who does not have the courage to do things.**

**Liar noun**

**A person who tells lies.**

**Gossip noun (disapproving)**

**A person who enjoys talking about  
other people's private lives.**

**Couch potato noun (disapproving)**

**A person who spends a lot of time  
sitting and watching TV.**