



natural English
What's he / she like?

Use this question to ask about people's character. (*What's = What is*)

What's he like? He's hard-working.
He's quite funny.
~~NOT He's like...~~

What's she like? She's serious.
She's very nice.



natural English
quite / not very + adjective

Quite /kwɑ:t/ is not as strong as very.

not friendly (unfriendly)	not very friendly	quite friendly	very friendly
He's quite ambitious.		She's quite serious.	
They're quite hard-working.		He's quite organized.	

In negative sentences, use *not very*.

He's **not very** friendly. She's **not very** patient.



natural English
asking about the past and present

What happened to your sister?
Are you still interested in cars?
Do you still play a lot of football?



natural English
imagining someone else's situation

In his / her shoes, I'd probably do nothing.
(= if I were in his / her situation)
In his / her position, I might intervene.
If that were me, I'd definitely say something.



natural English
describing stereotypes

People often say that nurses are very caring.
Actors are supposed /sə'pəʊzd/ to be very emotional.
Teachers are said to be very hard-working.



9. "WHAT'S THE GOSSIP?"



What's the context?

These *natural English* phrases could be used:

- at a school reunion
- at work
- at school
- with family

Look through the *natural English* boxes. Find *natural English phrases* that you could use in each of the different contexts above.

Example: at a school reunion – **Do you still play tennis?**



Study the *natural English* phrases

Match the gossip with the response.

Example: **What's he like? He's very ambitious.**

Gossip

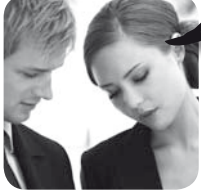
1. **What happened** to your friend Mike?
2. **What's** the new boss **like**?
3. Do you think she's going to be happy with Wayne? Look at his job!
4. Apparently, Donna's new neighbour is really, really noisy.
5. **Does she still** like rock climbing?
6. Have you heard about Vanessa's problems at work?
7. I've heard his girlfriend is really horrible to him, despite her job.
8. Is he still good at tennis?

Response

- a) Yes, terrible. **If that were me, I'd definitely** leave my job.
- b) Well, **people often say that traffic wardens are very reliable**, so she should be ok!
- c) Yes, she still does it whenever she can.
- d) Oh, he got a job in Canada. We still keep in touch.
- e) I know. **In her shoes, I'd probably** say something to him.
- f) Really? But nurses are said to be very kind and gentle.
- g) Yeah, he's **still quite good**.
- h) Well, she's **very organised**, but **quite serious** and **not very friendly**.

50 natural English Tips

9. "WHAT'S THE GOSSIP?"



Activate the *natural English* phrases

'School reunion'

You are at a school reunion. You are going to have a conversation with an old school friend (or two). You have information and gossip about some of your old school friends, and you want to know about others who you have lost contact with.

Study your card information below. Based on the prompt question and *natural English phrases*, prepare what you are going to say and ask your partner. You want to tell and find out as much gossip as possible!

Student A

You know that ...

- ANTONIO has just come out of prison. (Why was he in prison?)
- OLGA has just been offered a good job in Hollywood. She can't decide whether to leave Britain and take the job or not. (What would you do? **In her shoes, I'd...**)
- MARTIN has become a clown. (**People often say that clowns are...**)

You want to know about...

- FRANK, who **wasn't very ambitious**. (**What's he like now?**)
- SARAH, who loved plants and animals. (**Does she still...?**)
- BERNADETTE, who was very good at maths. (**Is she still...?**)

Student B

You know that ...

- FRANK married a doctor. (Doctors **are supposed to be ...**)
- SARAH moved to Australia 5 years ago. (What does she do there?)
- BERNADETTE is a millionaire at the age of 35. She's trying to decide whether to retire. (What would you do? **In her position, I'd...**)

You want to know about...

- MARTIN, who was very serious and hardworking. (**Is he still...?**)
- ANTONIO, who enjoyed spending time on his own. (**Does he still...?**)
- OLGA, who loved watching films. (**Does she still...?**)

Student C

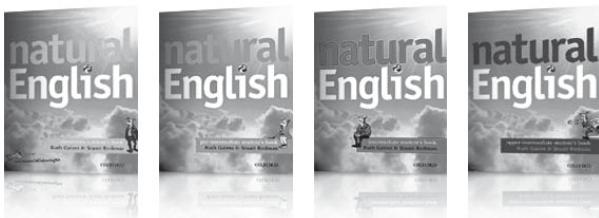
You know that ...

- OLGA has just fallen in love with an accountant in London (Accountants **are said to be...**)
- BERNADETTE is thinking of giving all her money to charity (Why? What would you do? **If that were me, I'd definitely...**)
- FRANK is just starting university, at the age of 35. (What's he studying?)

You want to know about...

- SARAH, who hated flying. (**Does she still...?**)
- MARTIN, who didn't know what he wanted to do. (**What happened to Martin?**)
- ANTONIO, who was very interested in cars. (**Is he still...?**)

When you are ready, have your conversation in pairs (or groups of three). Try to tell and find out as much gossip as possible!



These tips are brought to you by *natural English*, the course where students use English naturally.