

Describe a Person

You might have to describe a person and the relationship that you have with them. There are several possible questions. For example:

1. Describe a person you are very close to.
2. Describe a family member who you spend the most time with.
3. Describe a person you admire.
4. Describe a teacher who had an influence of you.

Look at these two examples, and note the vocabulary used.

Describe a person you are very close to. You should say:
who this person is
when you met them
where you met them
and say what it is about them you like so much.

I am really close with my friend Abby. We go back years. We first became friends in primary school, so we've known each other for over twenty years now. We've had lots of up and downs, but we still get on well. She just moved to a new with her husband, but we still keep in touch. I went to visit her last weekend.

I like Abby because we have a lot in common. For example, we both love shopping and going to nice cafes. We are both ambitious, so we give each other tips about how we can progress our careers. She has a great sense of humour and knows how to make me laugh. Also, I think it's important to have a friend who knows you inside out. Abby knows my personality and life history, so she can give me great advice.

to go back years: to have known someone for a long time.
to have ups and downs: to have good and bad times.
to get on well with: to understand someone and enjoy similar interests.
to keep in touch with: to keep in contact with.
to have a sense of humour: the ability to understand funny things.
to know someone inside out: to know everything or nearly about someone.

Describe a person you admire. You should say:
who the person is
what he or she is like
how often you see this person
and why you admire him or her.

I'm going to talk about my father because he has been a major influence in my life. My father was always a good role model for me as I was growing up. He's hard-working, patient and understanding. He's also got a good sense of humour and seems to get on well with everybody. Hopefully, I've inherited some of these traits.

I admire my father because I think he brought me and my brothers/sisters up well; he was quite strict but always fair, and he has always been someone I can turn to for advice. I think my father set a good example by working hard and having a positive outlook on life. I remember that he used to leave for work early and come home quite late, but he always made time for me and my brothers/sisters.

to be an influence: the power to have an effect on people or things
to be a good role model: a person who someone admires and whose behaviour they try to copy.
to inherit traits: a trait or character than is passed down through genetics.
to bring up: to bring (a person) to maturity through care and education.
to turn to for advice: to ask a person or for help or support.
to set an example: to behave in a way that other people should copy.
to have a positive outlook on life: to expect good things to happen.
to make time: to make certain you have some time to do something you think you should do.

Practice Question

Describe a family member you spend the most time with.
You should say:
Who this person is
What kind of person they are
What you usually do together
And explain why you spend the most time with them.