

## 6.1 The quiet revolution

GOALS ■ Describe character ■ Talk about similarities and differences

### Vocabulary & Reading adjectives for describing character

- 1a Work with a partner. Match the adjectives in the box to the descriptions.

quiet clever/smart lazy tidy patient honest shy  
sociable creative confident

How do you describe a person who ...?

- 1 doesn't say very much
  - 2 is often nervous about speaking to people
  - 3 enjoys being with other people
  - 4 has a lot of new ideas or is good at making things
  - 5 likes everything to be in the right place
  - 6 doesn't mind when things take a long time
  - 7 is sure they can do things well
  - 8 is good at learning and understanding things
  - 9 always tells the truth
  - 10 doesn't like working
- b Work with a partner. Take turns to ask and answer the questions in exercise 1a.
- 2 Match four of the words from exercise 1a to their opposites below.
- |                |              |
|----------------|--------------|
| a stupid       | c unsociable |
| b hard-working | d untidy     |
- 3 6.1 ))) Listen to three speakers talking about people they know. Match each person to two adjectives from exercises 1a and 2.
- a Speaker 1's flatmate, Max
  - b Speaker 2's sister, Lena
  - c Speaker 3's business partner, Nico
- 4a Think of the character of a person you know and write down some adjectives that describe him/her.
- b Work with a partner and each describe your person. Ask and answer questions to find out more information.

- 5a Work with a partner. Read the definition of 'introvert'. Then read the sentences below and decide how true they are.

**introvert** /'ɪntrəvɜ:t/ *noun* [C] a quiet, shy person who prefers to be alone than with other people **OPP**  
extrovert ► **introverted** *adj*

- 1 Most people are introverts.
- 2 Extroverts are more confident than introverts.
- 3 Introverts are naturally more creative than extroverts.

- b Read the article and check your answers.

- 6a Read the article again and make notes under these headings.
- a characteristics of introverts
  - b problems they have
  - c what they are good at
- b What do you think about the ideas in the article?

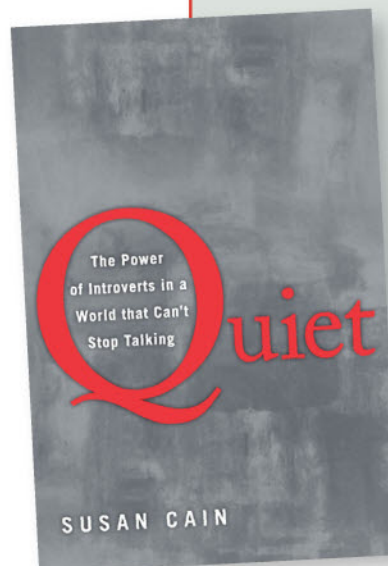
### The Power of the Introvert

What do Barack Obama, J.K. Rowling and Einstein have in common ...? They are all introverts, according to Susan Cain, author of the best-selling book *Quiet: The Power of Introverts ...*

Cain says many people think introverts are not as confident as extroverts and that they are unsociable.

However, they are just as confident as extroverts. They are simply quieter and need time to think carefully before they speak or act. They are sociable but prefer being with close friends or family to loud parties full of strangers. They also enjoy spending time alone.

According to *Quiet*, a third to a half of us are introverts. However, the western world is an extrovert's world. In the USA especially, many schools, universities and workplaces are less interested in



**Grammar & Speaking** making comparisons

7a Find the comparative and superlative forms of these adjectives in the article and underline them.

quiet new unusual happy interested confident

b Add examples to the Grammar focus box from exercise 7a.

**GRAMMAR FOCUS** making comparisons

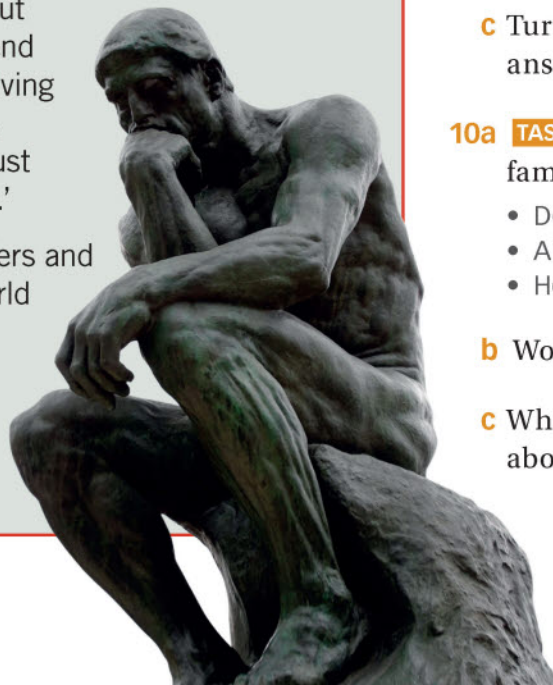
- We use comparative adjectives (+ *than*) to compare people and things with other people and things.  
With short adjectives, add *-er* to the end of the adjective, e.g. 1 \_\_\_\_\_.  
With short adjectives ending in *-y*, take off *-y* and add *-ier* to the adjective, e.g. 2 \_\_\_\_\_.  
With longer adjectives use *more/less* + adjective, e.g. 3 \_\_\_\_\_.
- We use superlative adjectives (usually with *the*) to compare people and things with a whole group.  
With short adjectives, add *-est* to the end of the adjective, e.g. 4 \_\_\_\_\_.  
With short adjectives ending in *-y*, take off *-y* and add *-iest* to the adjective, e.g. *laziest*.  
With longer adjectives use *most/least* + adjective, e.g. 5 \_\_\_\_\_.
- We use *(not) as ... as* to say that people and things are (not) the same in some way. We often put *just* before *as ... as*.  
*They are just as successful as extroverts.*

→ Grammar Reference page 144

introverts than in extroverts. At Harvard University, for example, 50% of a student's grade is based on speaking well in class. Job adverts often ask for people with 'great communication skills'. The result is that introverts have to learn how to act like an extrovert.

But in fact, the newest and the most unusual ideas often come from introverts. Not because introverts are naturally more creative than extroverts, but because they are happier to spend time alone, creating ideas or solving problems. Einstein himself said, 'It's not that I'm so smart, it's just that I stay with problems longer.'

Some politicians, business leaders and heads of schools around the world who have read *Quiet* are now changing their practices. Cain has started a Quiet Revolution.



**PRONUNCIATION** *as* and *than*

8a 6.2 ))) Listen and write down the four sentences you hear. How do we pronounce *as* and *than*?

b 6.3 ))) Listen again and repeat the sentences.

9a The questionnaire below is adapted from Susan Cain's website. Complete the statements with the correct form of the adjectives in brackets. Add *as* where necessary.

**Are you an introvert, an extrovert or an ambivert?**

	YES	NO
1 I'm _____ in a one-to-one situation than in a group. (happy)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
2 I'm not _____ in being rich or famous as my friends are. (interested)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
3 I often find it _____ to express myself in writing than speaking. (easy)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
4 For me, being alone is _____ as spending time with others. (enjoyable)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
5 People tell me I'm _____ at listening than other people. (good)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
6 I'm not _____ as other people when taking risks. (confident)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
7 I'm _____ than others when doing jobs that take a long time. (patient)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
8 I like to celebrate my birthday with just my _____ friends or family members. (close)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
9 My voice isn't _____ as most people's. (loud)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
10 I am _____ to give my opinion than most because I like to think before I speak. (slow)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

b Work with a partner and do the questionnaire together.  
*Are you happier in one-to-one situations than in a group?*

c Turn to page 128 and read the analysis of your partner's answers. Do you both agree with your results?

10a **TASK** You are going to talk about some members of your family. First make notes in answer to the questions.

- Describe each person's main personal characteristics.
- Are they introverts or extroverts?
- How do they compare to you?

b Work in a group and talk about your families.

c What is the most interesting new thing you have learned about the other students in your group?

**VOX POPS VIDEO 6**