

## A Your month of birth and your character

<b>January</b>	You are <b>good company</b> <sup>1</sup> but you may have a <b>selfish streak</b> <sup>2</sup> .	<b>July</b>	Although you can be <b>painfully shy</b> in social situations, at work you <b>give the impression of being supremely confident</b> .
<b>February</b>	You have an <b>outgoing personality</b> and a <b>good sense of humour</b> .	<b>August</b>	You <b>have a tendency</b> to make <b>snap decisions</b> <sup>4</sup> .
<b>March</b>	You <b>have a vivid imagination</b> , but you tend to <b>lose your temper</b> too easily.	<b>September</b>	You have a strong <b>sense of responsibility</b> and always <b>keep your word</b> <sup>5</sup> .
<b>April</b>	You are <b>highly intelligent</b> with a <b>razor-sharp mind</b> .	<b>October</b>	You are good at <b>keeping secrets</b> and never <b>bear a grudge</b> <sup>6</sup> .
<b>May</b>	You <b>set high standards</b> for yourself and are <b>fiercely</b> <sup>3</sup> loyal to your friends.	<b>November</b>	You find it hard to <b>keep your temper</b> <sup>7</sup> if you think someone is <b>making a fool out of you</b> <sup>8</sup> .
<b>June</b>	The best <b>aspect of your personality</b> is the way you always <b>put others first</b> .	<b>December</b>	You can be <b>brutally honest</b> <sup>9</sup> and sometimes <b>hurt others' feelings</b> .

- <sup>1</sup> people enjoy being with you  
<sup>2</sup> you sometimes act in a selfish way  
<sup>3</sup> stronger than *extremely*  
<sup>4</sup> quick decisions  
<sup>5</sup> do what you say you will do, keep your promises

- <sup>6</sup> resent for a long time bad things others have done to you  
<sup>7</sup> not get angry  
<sup>8</sup> trying to deceive or trick you  
<sup>9</sup> honest in a way that may hurt

## B Behaviour: verb + noun collocations

collocation	example	comment
play a joke/trick	The children <b>played a joke on</b> the teacher by hiding under their desks before she came into the room.	NOT <del>make</del> a joke/trick
take a joke	Fortunately, the teacher could <b>take a joke</b> and didn't punish them.	= didn't mind a joke being played on her
swallow your pride	Jane <b>swallowed her pride</b> and admitted that she was wrong.	= she did it even though it was embarrassing for her
throw a tantrum	The child <b>threw a tantrum</b> when I wouldn't buy him any sweets.	= behaved in a very uncontrolled manner
lose your patience	Finally I <b>lost my patience</b> and shouted at her.	= lost my temper, became angry
come to terms with	Nick has found it hard to <b>come to terms with</b> his illness.	= accept something psychologically
reveal your true character	Jack's failure to support her has certainly <b>revealed his true character</b> .	opposite = conceal/hide your true character

**TIP** Associating these collocations with people you know may help you to learn them.