

## Take This Test: What's Your Mother-in-Law Personality?

Take our personality test to discover what kind of MIL you really are.

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### What Kind of Mother-in-Law (MIL) Are You?

Do you hug your in-laws, or are handshakes your thing? Do you roll up your sleeves, or do you lay off a little? Is your parenting style warm-n-fuzzy, fun-n-games, or something else entirely?

What kind of mother-in-law are you?

Take our personality test and find out! **Use a pen and paper to record your answers** as you go along. At the end, discover your MIL type.



### 1. It's your daughter-in-law's (DIL's) birthday! You:

- A) Send a flowery greeting card signed, "With love, Sherry."
- B) Take her to Unlimited Margarita Night at Friday's, your treat.
- C) Watch the kids so she can catch the new Sandra Bullock movie.
- D) Insist she come to your place – an hour away, on a Tuesday – for your famous red velvet cake.

### 2. Your five-year-old granddaughter is undersized for her age.



**You:**

- A) Bring it up to your son at the next holiday gathering.
- B) Get permission to pay for gymnastics classes, where her size is an asset.
- C) Start cooking! Kids love mac and cheese, and her parents could use a break from the stove.
- D) Find a nutritionist and have her call your daughter with tips.



**3. A recent doctor visit ended in a biopsy. You:**

- A) Don't mention it. You don't want to upset anyone, and it's your business, anyway.
- B) Round up the gang to do a fundraising cancer walk while you wait for results.
- C) Let the kids know, then research treatment and recovery, so you're prepared in case it is really something.
- D) Tell the family you're convinced you have cancer.



**4. You're retiring! What is your ideal party?**

- A) There's really no need to celebrate. You'll probably just read the paper.
- B) Karaoke barbecue! WOOOOO!!!
- C) Family potluck at the local park. Your grandkids can feed ducks!
- D) You're not sure, but it better be an expensive surprise.

**6. Your DIL stopped talking to you, without warning or explanation.**

**You:**

- A) Lay low until she gets over



whatever is bothering her.

- B) Send a cake with "I'm Sorry. Let's Talk." inscribed in frosting.
- C) Contact your son for details, then write a carefully worded, relationship-repairing letter.
- D) Show up at her doorstep demanding to know what the problem is.



**6. Your DIL and son are raising your grandkids vegetarian. (Gasp!) You:**

- A) Say nothing, but wonder how it will affect Thanksgiving.
- B) Three words: Indian. Food. Buffet.
- C) Suck it up and get to work perfecting your bean enchiladas.
- D) Sneak pureed beef into their pasta sauce. They need protein!



**7. The other grandparents get all the good holidays. You:**

- A) Deal with it. They live closer. It's inevitable.
- B) Create your own! Who could resist Ice Cream & Movie Day?
- C) Make a deal to have everybody – other grandparents included – at your house for Easter.
- D) Refuse to attend any more gatherings until Christmas is yours.

**8. School's ended. Your kids work, your grandchildren need supervision, and you're available. You:**



- A) Offer to babysit in an emergency, if other arrangements fall through.
- B) Adjust your schedule so you can watch the rugrats a couple of times per week.
- C) Put everything aside and take the kids, 24/7, no questions asked.
- D) Insist on moving in for the summer. It's easier for you, and the kids will always have someone around.



9. It's family vacation time! Where are you going?

- A) Some place with separate rooms from the kids. They're great, but so very noisy.
- B) Tijuana's out, right? Okay, how about South Beach? (Just kidding ... kind of.)
- C) Anything with the words "shore house," "lakeside cabin" or "camper van" is fine with you.
- D) It has to be warm with low humidity and not too much walking, because of your hip. Also, antique shopping and allergen-free pillows are a must, or you can't make it.



10. Your son-in-law (SIL) and daughter are getting amicably divorced after 12 years together. You:

- A) Take it in stride, then slowly and gently fade from his life.
- B) Make him a drink. Let him know he's still father to your grandkids, and the door is always open.
- C) Cry a little, but make sure your home is happy neutral ground, and he's invited to all holidays.
- D) Plead with them to stick it out, for the kids. They'll get over whatever the problem is.



Tally up your score!  
How'd you do?

**MOSTLY As:**

You are **DISTANT DORA**.  
Whether you're separated by actual miles or your own introversion, you don't engage much with your DIL or SIL. That's okay. We know you love them, and warm-n-fuzzy isn't for everyone. But hey, the occasional cheery phone call would be nice, even if you have to force it a little.

**MOSTLY Bs:**

You are **FUN FRANCINE**.  
Your grandkids adore you, your DIL wants to turn into you (though she might not admit it), and someday, your memoirs will put Keith Richards to shame. All good things. Just remember that it's okay to relax and connect on a quieter level. Sharing the wine is a good start.

**MOSTLY Cs:**

You are **PITCH-IN POLLY**.  
Thank goodness for you, Polly. You're the MVP of MILs - a meal-making, kid-watching, good-advice-doling wonder of nature who's there whenever needed, often bearing cupcakes. And if you don't feel appreciated, we know a certain grandparenting website staff that could use some of your patented, no-holds-barred nurturing.

**MOSTLY Ds:**

You are **OVERBEARING OLIVIA**.  
There's a fine line between healthy family participation and being all up in everybody's face. And that line? Let's just say you've tiptoed over it once or twice. Try stepping back - just a tad - and reinvesting that enthusiasm in your own life. We promise, the whole crew (and you!) will be happier for it.

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