

Frasier's nosiness, as is everyone's, is based on his unquenchable thirst for human nature. He is constantly amazed at how people act, not only in certain situations, but also in dealing with themselves. As a psychiatrist, it's his job to poke and pry at people's foibles. To get involved in somebody else's problems makes it easier to avoid his own. He is a successful man, yet solving, not dealing with, problems seems to be the only thing he's good at. Not that he's a big nut, but with a guy like Frasier, you can tell it's not enough. Maybe his nosiness is a reflection of his father's lack of attention when he was a kid. That's not placing blame, he and his father are very different now and were probably even more so then. But perhaps the lack of attention makes Frasier want to get involved in everyone's life, unlike his father who, to this day, would prefer to be left alone.

Frasier is more or less a product of these tabloid times, when knowing everything about everybody is considered the norm. His father even says to him, "There's a big difference between knowing everything about everybody and *wanting* to know everything about everybody." It's odd, in fact, because his father is the one who watches TV and would seem to be more susceptible to gossip. But Frasier, who prides himself on his lack of showbiz and gossip knowledge, is the first one to get involved where he doesn't belong. This drives his father crazy and gets him into trouble more often than not. His nosiness is a direct result of his job. Like a lot of people, he brings his work home with him and it invades his private life. Martin has a hard time understanding this because in his day, even though he was a cop, when you left work the work left you.

Being nosy, in my own experience, fills a void left by a non-existent personal life. The nosy people I have known have been the ones with absolutely no interesting home life to speak of and they get their jollies dragging you into the gutter with them. It is human nature to be negative, so falling into this trap is very easy. I have this discussion with Denise all the time and the theme seems to be exactly that. Gossip rules in the work place. The first thing people do when a co-worker leaves a conversation is talk about them. Insecurity propels us towards that self-doubting abyss. In Frasier's fragile ego business, where the appearance of a total stranger can rock every host to the core, this is doubly true. Add to that the fact that it's "talk" radio, where people make their living speaking, thereby making Frasier a talk show radio psychiatrist, and you've got the recipe for nosiness disaster.

I feel that Frasier's nosiness is based upon a few things: 1) his empty social life, 2) his need to make people feel he's interested in their problems due to his father's lack of attention during his childhood, and 3) the fact that he's a talk show radio host, and a psychiatrist at that.

Martin says to Frasier at one point, "You know, down at the stationhouse we had a word for people like you: women."

The theme of this show has got to be Frasier's inability to put an end to his snooping (Martin: Even Charles Schulz isn't as snoopier as you). He claims he's doing it to get people to "open up." They tell him "the best way to get people to open up is to shut up." He should take his radio tag line, "I'm listening," to heart and use it more often.

Everyone gets on his case and he even gets injured because of it. Just as you think he's learned his lesson, he spots something weird through the telescope. He ignores it at first, but then brings it up to his father. They have a heated discussion about it and his father, still fuming from the Eddie incident, doesn't believe him and tells him to stop looking. Frasier storms down the hall in his wheelchair.

