

Character and personality

Game

Are we the kind of people we are because of the time of the year we were born? See if you can complete the adjectives below at home over the next day or so. Each one has a clue beside it to help you and a dot for each letter that you need to add.

ARIES (Mar 21 – Apr 20)

You won't find him in the corner at the party.
That's her doing the can-can on the table.
She has no problems.
He never frowns.
She tells no lies.
He has few secrets.
He'll tell you if he doesn't like your make-up.
She'll tell you if she doesn't like your after-shave.
He's the person to ask for that five pounds you are owed.

o.tg.i.g
ex...v.rt
c.. ef. ee
l...t-h.a.t.d
t.u.hf..
o..n
c.n.id
f...k
e..y-g...g

TAURUS (Apr 21 – May 20)

He knows what he wants and he usually gets it.
She never gives up without a fight.
He knows he's good.
She knows she's as good.
She likes to be the boss, the one on top.
He wants to be even bigger, even better – the best
and expects high standards of performance from others.
He works 18 hours a day, jogs, and plays squash.
She hates to lose, in business or at tiddlywinks.

s.r.n-wi..ed
d.t.r.i.ed
s.l-as.u..d
s.l-co..i..nt
d.m.n.nt
am..t.o.s
d.m.n.i.g
e.e.ge..c
c.mp...t..e

GEMINI (May 21 – Jun 20)

She thinks she's good.
He thinks he's superior to everyone.
'As the most experienced and sensible person
present, I ...'
'Of course, I could have beaten him even more
easily, but I wanted to give him a chance.'
She won't share her presents with her sister.
He spends half the day in front of the mirror.
She thinks the whole world revolves around her.
He thinks he's the centre of the universe.
She looks down on anyone who hasn't got a
heated indoor swimming pool at home.

p.o.d
a.r.g..t

p.mp..s

b..stf.l
s..f..h
v..n
s..f-c.n.r.d
e.oc..t..c

s.o.b..h

CANCER (Jun 21 – Jul 20)

She seems to enjoy finding fault with others.
He'll take off marks if you don't dot your i's.
She can only ever see one side of things.
He always likes the fat taken off his bacon.
He's like a donkey.
She's like a mule.
He loves money, loves having 'things'.

c.it...l
p.t.y
na...w-m.n..d
f.s.y
s.u.b.r.
o.s.in.t.
m.t.r.a.i.t.c

Oh yes, he'll help you – if you make it worth his while.
She never lets her husband out of her sight.

m.r.en.ry
p.ss.ss..e

LEO (Jul 21 – Aug 21)

You never know what he's going to do.
He never knows what he's going to do.
There are two things I don't like about her – her face!
Be careful what he's saying about you behind your back.
Be careful what she's doing while your back is turned.
He behaves like the weather in April.
She behaves like the proverbial prima donna.
He says what I want to hear, not what he thinks.
He never does all the things he says he'll do.

u.p.ed.ct..le
i.d.c.s.ve
t.o-f...d
h.po.r.t.c.l
d.sh.n..t
cha.g.a.le
t.m.p.r.m..t.l
i.s.nc.r.
u.r.l.a.l.

VIRGO (Aug 22 – Sep 22)

Other people's points of view always impress him.
She'd believe you if you told her pizzas grew on trees.
She lacks will-power.
He lacks courage.
He doesn't do much – he just sits back and watches.
She'll do what she's told.
You never know what he's thinking.
'It was an honour just to be on the same court as McEnroe.
How I beat him 6-0, 6-0, 6-0? It was just luck.'

i.p.e.s.on..le
g.ll.ble
w..k-w....d
c.w..d.y
p.s..v.
ob.d...t
s.cr.t..e
h.mb.e
m.d..t

LIBRA (Sep 23 – Oct 22)

He uses his common sense.
She never does silly things under pressure.
She's like the Libran symbol of the scales.
She'd solve all the problems on a desert island,
and nothing would upset her.
He'd be a good judge or referee.
She's got both feet on the ground and is really down-to-earth.
His heart rarely rules his head.
I think, therefore I am. That's my approach.

s.n.i.le
l.v.l-h..d.d
w..l-b.l.n.ed
p.ac..c.l
c..m
f.r-m..d.d
r.al..t.c
r.t.n.l
l.g.c.l

SCORPIO (Oct 23 – Nov 22)

Keep out of her way when she loses her temper.
He's always the first one to put his fists up,
and he's quick to use them – to the full.
He may even add a boot or two for good measure.
She won't let anything stand in her way.
He has no principles about hurting other people.
He almost seems to enjoy causing trouble.
She's a strong believer in an eye for an eye,
and a tooth – or, in her case, teeth – for a tooth.

a.gr.s.v.
v..l.nt
b.u.al
v.c.o.s
r..hl..s
u.sc.u.u.ous
m.l.c.ous
sp.t...l
v.n.i.t.ve

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23 – Dec 20)

Those with some Latin blood in their veins.
They are fiery and emotional.
She's not afraid to go mountain climbing,
or to join a mountain rescue team.
He wants to go to wild and unexplored places.
They're vivacious, like champagne bubbles.
She puts her heart and soul into her profession.
On the sinking ship, the dog never left its master's side.
These friends do not desert you in a crisis.

p.s.i.n.t.
h..- bl..d.d
b.a.e
c.ur.g...s
a.v.n.t.r..s
l.v.l.
d.d.c.t.d
d.v.t.d
l.y.l

CAPRICORN (Dec 21 – Jan 19)

He'd always stop to help a disabled person across the road.
That's her on the beach wiping oil off the sea-birds' feathers.

c.ns.d....e
t.nd..

She wouldn't hurt a fly.
 He leaves £10 tips.
 He wouldn't mind if she dyed her hair green.
 She lets him sleep when he gets back from a hard day's work.
 He defends her in any argument.
 She kisses him on the cheek every minute or so.
 She always sends a card on her parents' anniversary.

g.nt..
g.n.r..s
t.l.r.t
u.d.rst.n.i.g
p.o.ect.ve
a.f.c.i.n.te
th..g.tf.l

AQUARIUS (Jan 20 – Feb 18)

If she likes you, she'll fling her arms around you and say so.
 He jumps into the bath without testing the water.
 Lose your way with *her* in the car? You'd better not!
 He's constantly like a child on Christmas Eve.
 He's a typical 'angry young man'.
 She's Trotsky, Castro and Guevara all rolled into one.
 He's got a memory like a sieve.
 He thought a double brandy would help the baby sleep.
 If she gets an idea in her head, there's no stopping her.

i.p.l.i.e
i.p.t.ous
i.p.t.e.t
ex.i.abl.
r.b.l.i.us
r...lut.o..ry
f..g.tf..
i.res...s.ble
u.c.n.r.l.a.l.

PISCES (Feb 19 – Mar 20)

There she is, over there, on her own in the corner.
 He's afraid that the whole world is looking at him.
 She peeps round her front door like a mouse.
 He's always the last to introduce himself.
 Be careful not to upset her. It's easily done.
 He can see beauty in a pile of rubbish.
 He can then turn the pile of rubbish into a work of art.
 I was moved to tears by the beauty of his sculpture.
 He doesn't know who he is, where he is, what to do or why.

s.y
s.l.-c..s..ous
t.m.d
r.s..ved
s.n.i..ve
i..gin....e
c.e.t.v.
em.t.... l
u.sta.le

Practice

- 1** Ladies and gentlemen, which of these traits of character do you most dislike in a partner? Place them in order.

vanity	hypocrisy	pomposity	stubbornness
obstinacy	selfishness	dishonesty	pettiness
arrogance	snobbishness	timidity	possessiveness
shyness	meanness	rashness	aggressiveness

Ladies and gentlemen, which of these qualities is most important for you in a partner? Place them in order of importance.

compassion	vivacity	frankness	self-assurance
tolerance	patience	generosity	ambition
sincerity	imagination	passion	humility
modesty	sensitivity	courage	creativity

- 2** Discuss or write down the personal characteristics (good and bad) that you would expect to find in these people.

- 1 a nurse
- 2 the chairman of a multinational company
- 3 an actor
- 4 a politician
- 5 a teacher

3 Discuss or write answers to these questions.

- 1 How would you say your **national character** is different from that of people in the immediately neighbouring countries?
- 2 How do you think your character has changed or developed over the years? Are there any aspects of your personality you still don't like?
- 3 Write a sentence to describe the character of each of your fellow students or family. Then read the sentences to them. See if they can identify each person.
- 4 Choose two of the star-signs and write a paragraph for each, as if for a magazine, analysing personality. Use the adjectives in those sections to give you some ideas.
- 5 'The weaker sex? The fairer sex? Not any more!' Write an article of 250 – 300 words contrasting the image of women today with that of a few hundred years ago.

■ Add any other expressions about personality and character as you meet them.

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