

# CHARACTER TRAITS

## QUALITIES, ATTRIBUTES, AND CHARACTERISTICS

A trait tells the way a character usually is, not just a temporary feeling.

**accepting** tolerant, receptive, allowing differences

**aggressive** combative, hostile, belligerent

**ambitious** enterprising, aspiring, wanting success

**arrogant** overly proud, haughty, boastful

**average** unremarkable, typical, normal

**benevolent** kindhearted, charitable, kindly

**boisterous** rowdy, very loud, clamorous

**brave** courageous, daring, valiant, dauntless

**bright** smart, intelligent, alert, astute, quick

**calm** serene, not disturbed, tranquil, placid, peaceful

**capricious** impulsive, whimsical, unpredictable

**carefree** unworried, not troubled or preoccupied

**cautious** careful, prudent, wary, watchful

**chivalrous** noble, brave, loyal, respectful

**clever** smart, quick, practical, adroit

**cold** uncaring, heartless, unresponsive

**compassionate** caring, empathetic, sympathetic

**conceited** vain, egotistical, smug, narcissistic

**confident** sure of oneself, self-assured

**considerate** thoughtful, thinking of others

**cooperative** helpful, working well with others

**courteous** polite, gracious, well-mannered

**creative** inventive, original, imaginative

**cruel** merciless, pitiless, causing pain

**cynical** contemptuous, distrusting, scornful

**dashing** elegant, daring, stylish, rash, lively

**deceitful** dishonest, deceptive, untruthful

**dedicated** purposeful, zealous, committed, resolved

**depraved** very evil, wicked, corrupted, debased

**dignified** serious, noble, distinguished, worthy

**disrespectful** rude, contemptuous, impolite

**elusive** hard to catch, evasive, clever

**energetic** active, vigorous, lively

**fastidious** particular, meticulous, dainty, finicky

**fierce** ferocious, wild, savage, menacing

**foolish** silly, senseless, imprudent, not wise

**friendly** outgoing, affable, amicable, pleasant, caring

**frugal** thrifty, careful with money

**generous** giving, sharing, warmhearted

**gentle** kind, peaceful, docile, considerate

**gloomy** depressed, pessimistic, melancholy

**greedy** acquisitive, covetous, avaricious, grasping

**honest** truthful, upright, honorable

**hubristic** overconfident, foolishly proud

**humble** modest, meek, self-effacing, not arrogant

**immature** childish, thoughtless, callow

**inquisitive** curious, questioning, prying

**insolent** disrespectful, rude, bold

**just** fair, impartial, honorable, unbiased

**malicious** mean, spiteful, malevolent

**mischievous** annoying, causing problems

**naive** inexperienced, unsophisticated, gullible

**optimistic** hopeful, confident, cheerful

**outspoken** frank, candid, opinionated, not shy

**perceptive** insightful, observant, discerning

**persevering** steadfast, persisting through difficulties

**plodding** slow, careful, hardworking

**prejudiced** biased, irrationally discriminating

**reasonable** sensible, fair, rational

**resilient** able to recover easily from adversity

**resourceful** creative, able to "make do" during difficulties

**respectful** showing esteem, deferential, proper, courteous

**responsible** dependable, reliable, steady, trustworthy

**selfish** inconsiderate, not caring about others

**self-disciplined** mature, self-controlling

**self-reliant** independent, not dependent on others

**shallow** without deep thoughts or feelings

**solemn** serious, somber, grave, dignified

**suave** socially adept, smooth, affable

**timid** shy, fearful, hesitant, anxious, lacking courage

**unmotivated** unfocused, blasé, indifferent

**vengeful** spiteful, vindictive, wanting revenge

**willful** stubborn, obstinate, headstrong, obdurate

**wise** intelligent, sagacious, discerning, insightful

**witty** funny, clever, and quick to respond

*Synonyms have different shades of meaning. Often they are not interchangeable. For a writing test, use words you are familiar with, in order to avoid usage errors.*