

Exploring Character & Personality

VOCABULARY & CRITICAL THINKING WORKSHEET • CEFR
B1–C1

Student:Date:

Class:Score:

PART 1: NUANCE & CONNOTATION (TWO SIDES OF A COIN)

Personality traits often exist on a spectrum where a positive quality, when taken to an extreme or seen critically, takes on a negative connotation. Pair each trait from the pool below with its opposite perspective.

Trait Pool: **Meticulous • Reckless • Assertive • Stingy • Arrogant • Gregarious • Bossy • Fussy • Thrifty • Confident • Courageous • Loud**

Positive / Constructive +	Critical / Extreme -	Core Behavioral Characteristic
Confident	1. _____	Belief in one's own competence and value
2. _____	Bossy	Willingness to take charge and express desires directly
Thrifty	3. _____	Careful and mindful with financial expenditure
4. _____	Fussy / Picky	Deep attention to fine details and standards
Courageous	5. _____	Willingness to face danger or take high risks
Gregarious	6. _____	Extremely social, talkative, and energized by groups

PART 2: CONTEXTUAL ANALYSIS & APPLIED SCENARIOS

Read each behavioral scenario carefully. Choose the most precise adjective from the box that best encapsulates the person's character.

conscientious • empathetic • eccentric • cynical • resilient • diplomatic

1. Even after her start-up failed and she lost her initial investment, Maya refused to stay defeated. She quickly analyzed her missteps, enrolled in management courses, and rebuilt the enterprise stronger than before.
Trait: _____
2. Julian always remembers his colleagues' deadlines and never submits sloppy work. He double-checks every report, ensures all data citations are verified, and respects everyone's time.
Trait: _____
3. Whenever tensions rise during department disagreements, Elena finds a way to bridge opposing viewpoints with tact, ensuring neither side feels alienated or insulted.
Trait: _____
4. When someone performs a charitable deed, Arthur immediately suspects they are doing it solely for publicity or personal financial gain; he doubts genuinely altruistic motives.
Trait: _____
5. Professor Sterling wears a brightly patterned velvet cape to university lectures, keeps three antique clocks in his briefcase, and only conducts meetings while riding an exercise bicycle.
Trait: _____
6. Without needing words, Sarah senses when someone in the room is carrying grief or feeling excluded. She listens deeply and mirrors their feelings with genuine warmth and care.
Trait: _____

PART 3: PSYCHOLOGY CASE STUDY & CHARACTER BREAKDOWN

Psychologists and writers examine real behaviors to construct multi-dimensional personality profiles. Read the clinical vignette below and answer the analytical questions.

Case Vignette: "David's Leadership Style"

David leads a high-pressure biomedical research laboratory. In team meetings, he speaks measuredly and rarely shows irritation, maintaining composure even when critical deadlines collapse. He expects perfection from his associates and frequently reorganizes equipment if it is placed even a centimeter off-center. While he seldom joins informal after-work dinners, he remembers every technician's family milestones and discreetly arranges quiet support when anyone faces personal hardship. However, he refuses to adopt new software until it is proven across years of trials, expressing deep skepticism toward trendy innovations.

Target Dimension	Selected Adjective	Evidence from the Vignette
Emotional Stability		
Work Demeanor		
Interpersonal Warmth		
Openness to Change		

PART 4: THE LEXICAL UPGRADE (INTERMEDIATE → ADVANCED)

Upgrade each common, overused adjective with a more sophisticated, precise equivalent. Match the common word on the left with its literary/formal counterpart on the right.

Basic Adjective	Match	Advanced Personality Adjective
1. Shy / Hesitant to speak	[]	A. Affable / Gregarious (warm, conversational, easygoing)
2. Friendly & Easy to talk to	[]	B. Reticent / Diffident (restrained, quiet, self-effacing)
3. Stubborn / Unwilling to budge	[]	C. Astute / Shrewd (sharp-minded, quick at noticing reality)
4. Clever & Perceptive	[]	D. Volatile / Mercurial (unpredictable, rapid mood shifts)
5. Moody & Unpredictable	[]	E. Intransigent / Tenacious (unyielding, firmly resolute)

PART 5: COMMUNICATIVE SELF-REFLECTION & SYNTHESIS

Writing & Discussion Task:

Select **two adjectives** from this worksheet that genuinely describe your greatest strengths, and **one adjective** representing an area where you occasionally struggle or go to an extreme. Write 3–4 thoughtful sentences explaining your choices with concrete examples.

Teacher / Self-Check Key: Part 1: 1. Arrogant, 2. Assertive, 3. Stingy, 4. Meticulous, 5. Reckless, 6. Loud. • Part 2: 1. Resilient, 2. Conscientious, 3. Diplomatic, 4. Cynical, 5. Eccentric, 6. Empathetic. • Part 4: 1-B, 2-A, 3-E, 4-C, 5-D.