

# **CHARACTER TRAITS**



# WHAT ARE CHARACTER TRAITS?



**Definition:** Character traits are the behaviours and attitudes that make up your personality. It answers the question: What kind of person are they?

For example : “ **Peter is very compassionate. He always listens to his friends when they are feeling sad, and helps them in any way that he can.**”

In this example, the character trait is **COMPASSIONATE**. This trait is demonstrated through Peter's behaviour.

Most characters in fiction can be characterized by looking at their thoughts and actions, and labelling them with one or more character traits.

**Character traits can be POSITIVE, NEGATIVE OR NEUTRAL**

# EXAMPLES OF CHARACTER TRAITS

## Positive

Kind  
Compassionate  
Loyal  
Selfless  
Ambitious



Affectionate  
Fearless  
Witty  
Charismatic  
Nurturing

## Neutral

Shy  
Clumsy  
Thrifty  
Unpredictable  
Competitive  
Mysterious  
Mischievous  
Stubborn  
Cautious  
Defiant



## Negative

Dishonest  
Unprofessional  
Judgemental  
Jealous  
Arrogant  
Greedy



Selfish  
Lazy  
Disorganized  
Cowardly  
Hateful

**THERE ARE SO MANY MORE!**

# EXAMPLES OF CHARACTER TRAITS

## 1. Affectionate (Positive)

Everyday when my dad gets home for work, he gives me, my mom and my brother a **hug and kiss**, no matter what we are doing. When he leaves the house in the mornings, **he tells us that he loves us very much**. If I'm having a bad day, my dad **makes me a cup of hot chocolate**, and sits with me on the couch and tells me that everything will be ok.

This father always does things to show his family that he cares about them. Sometimes his gestures are physical, and sometimes they are emotional. This makes him an **AFFECTIONATE** man.

## 2. Unpredictable. ( Neutral)

My best friend Jackson always does strange things, and **I never know what to expect**. One day, he will dye his hair purple, and another day he will shave all his hair off. I remember when we were younger, **he suddenly decided** that he wanted to be a dancer, and he even took classes. The next year **he changed his mind** and said that he wanted to be a biologist, and went to the zoo almost every day. Sometimes I don't know what he will look like when I see him, or what new strange or even exciting things he will do.

Jackson, changes his mind and behaviour quite often. His friend never knows what to expect of him. This makes him **UNPREDICTABLE**

## 3. Dishonest (Negative)

Whenever Michelle is hungry, she sneaks into the kitchen to take some of her sister's snacks. Last week when she broke her mother's favourite cup, she pretended that she had been in her room the entire day. When her teacher asked her why she hadn't completed her homework, she lied and said that she did her homework, but that there was a flood in her house the night before, and all her books got wet.

These behaviours show that Michelle is a **DISHONEST** person, because she never tells the truth.