

24 CHARACTERISTICS THAT GENIUSES HAVE IN COMMON

"Most people have the mistaken idea that geniuses are born, not made. But if you look at the lives of the world's greatest geniuses you discover they all had 24 personality traits in common. These are traits that anyone can develop. It makes no difference how old you are, how much education you have, or what you have accomplished to date. Adopting these personality characteristics enables you to operate on a genius level." —Dr. Alfred Barrios.

Here are the 24 characteristics Dr. Barrios lists which enable geniuses to come up with, develop, and operate new and fruitful ideas:

1 DRIVE

Geniuses have a strong desire to work hard and long. They're willing to give all they've got to a project. Develop your drive by focusing on your future success, and keep going.

2 COURAGE

It takes courage to do things others consider impossible. Stop worrying what people will think if you are different.

3 DEVOTION TO GOALS

Geniuses know what they want and go after it. Get control of your life and schedule. Have something specific to accomplish each day.

4 KNOWLEDGE

Geniuses continually accumulate information. Never go to sleep at night without having learned at least one new thing that day. Read. And question people who know.

5 HONESTY

Geniuses are frank, forthright and honest. Take the responsibility for things that go wrong. Be willing to admit, "I goofed," and learn from your mistakes.

6 OPTIMISM

Geniuses never doubt they will succeed. Deliberately focus your mind on something good coming up.

7 ABILITY TO JUDGE

Try to understand the facts of a situation before you judge. Evaluate things on an open-minded, unprejudiced basis and be willing to change your mind.

8 ENTHUSIASM

Geniuses are so excited about what they are doing, it encourages others to cooperate with them. Really believe that things will turn out well. Don't hold back.

9 WILLINGNESS TO TAKE CHANCES

Overcome your fear of failure. You won't be afraid to take chances once you realize you can learn from your mistakes.

10 DYNAMIC ENERGY

Don't sit on your butt waiting for something good to happen. Be determined to make it happen.

11 ENTERPRISE

Geniuses are opportunity seekers. Be willing to take on jobs others won't touch. Never be afraid to try the unknown.

12 PERSUASION

Geniuses know how to motivate people to help them get ahead. You'll find it easy to be persuasive if you believe in what you're doing.

13 OUTGOINGNESS

I've found geniuses able to make friends easily and be easy on their friends. Be a "booster," not someone who puts others down. That attitude will win you many valuable friends.

14 ABILITY TO COMMUNICATE

Geniuses are able to effectively get their ideas across to others. Take every opportunity to explain your ideas to others.

15 PATIENCE

Be patient with others most of the time, but always be impatient with yourself. Expect far more of yourself than of others.

16 PERCEPTION

Geniuses have their mental radar working full time. Think more of others' needs and wants than you do of your own.

17 PERFECTIONISM

Geniuses cannot tolerate mediocrity, particularly in themselves. Never be easily satisfied with yourself. Always strive to do better.

18 SENSE OF HUMOR

Be willing to laugh at your own expense. Don't take offense when the joke is on you.

19 VERSATILITY

The more things you learn to accomplish, the more confidence you will develop. Don't shy away from new endeavors.

20 ADAPTABILITY

Being flexible enables you to adapt to changing circumstances readily. Resist doing things the same old way. Be willing to consider new options.

21 CURIOSITY

An inquisitive, curious mind will help you seek out new information. Don't be afraid to admit you don't know it all. Always ask questions about things you don't understand.

22 INDIVIDUALISM

Do things the way you think they should be done, without fearing somebody's disapproval.

23 IDEALISM

Keep your feet on the ground—but have your head in the clouds. Strive to achieve great things, not just for yourself, but for the betterment of mankind.

24 IMAGINATION

Geniuses know how to think in new combinations, see things from a different perspective, than anyone else. Unclutter your mental environment to develop this type of imagination. Give yourself time each day to daydream, to fantasize, to drift into a dreamy inner life the way you did as a child.

GLOSSARY

Genius

1. Exceptional intellectual or creative power or other natural ability
2. A person who is exceptionally intelligent or creative
3. A guardian spirit associated with a person, place, or institution
4. The prevalent character or spirit of something such as a nation or age

Adaptability

Your ability to change to successfully handle new situations

Betterment

The act of improving something

Booster

Someone who helps and encourages others

Courage

Your bravery and ability to face difficulty or danger without fear

Devotion

Dedicating yourself fully to a belief or activity

Dr. Barrios

The psychologist and author of the article 24 Qualities That Geniuses Have in Common

Drift into a dreamy inner life

To use your imagination to create new ideas, pleasant possibilities, and desirable goals, often in ways different from anything seen or known before

Drive

The energy and determination you have to achieve things as well as your strong desire for success

Dynamic

Characterized by constant change, activity, and progress. Positive in attitude and full of energy and new ideas

Endeavors

Serious efforts to do something, especially something new or difficult

Energy

The power within you that you use to get things done

Enterprise

Your ability and desire to solve problems in smart new ways and do difficult things

Fantasize

To imagine doing things that are imaginative, creative, or incredible

Flexibility

The willingness to change and try different things

Forthright

Honest and direct in your speech and choice of words

Frank

Speaking openly about how you feel without hesitation

Fruitful

Producing many useful results

Goofed

Made a careless or stupid mistake

Head in the clouds

Lost in your own thoughts and imagination

Origin of the word Genius

Origin late Middle English: from Latin, 'attendant spirit present from one's birth, innate ability or inclination,' from the root of *gignere* 'beget.' The original sense 'tutelary spirit attendant on a person' gave rise to a sense 'a person's characteristic disposition' (late 16th century), which led to a sense 'a person's natural ability,' and finally 'exceptional natural ability' (mid 17th century).

Individualism

Your ability to think and do things in your own way, not imitating others

Inquisitive

Having a desire to know more and asking many questions

Keep your feet on the ground

Acting in a realistic way and seeing things the way they are

Mediocrity

The fact of being average or not very good

Motivate

To give someone a reason to do something

Open-minded

Willing to listen to and think about different ideas and opinions

Optimism

Your hopefulness and feeling that good things will happen and you will be successful

Outgoingness

Your ability to be friendly and enjoy meeting and talking to people

Perfectionism

Your desire for things to be complete or perfect

Persuasion

Your ability to use advice and reason to cause others to believe or do something

Sense of Humor

Your ability to say funny things and enjoy the funny side of things

Strive

To try very hard to achieve something

To Judge

To form an opinion about something after careful thought

Tolerate

To accept something the way it is without complaining

Traits

Qualities that make one person different from another

Unclutter

To get rid of things that are in the way and make it hard to get things done

Unprejudiced

Not having or showing an unfair feeling of dislike for a particular person or group

Willingness

Being ready and prepared to do something