

## Lesson 1: Birth or Upbringing?

### Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

- Relate birth order to personalities
- Recognize and employ personality adjectives
- Reinvest the target language in speaking

A) Look at the list of adjectives below. Those adjectives describe personality. Divide them into positive or negative personality characteristics. Which of the adjectives can you use to describe yourself?

**cynical; nervous; conscientious; conservative; dominant; experienced; dependent; outgoing; ; sensitive; thorough; demanding; humble; independent; sociable; honest; self- centered; diligent; power-oriented; open; predisposed (towards leadership); frivolous; paranoid**

Positive characteristics	Negative characteristics

B) How are the personalities of family members different? Do you think that the role in the family influences people's personalities?

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C) Read the descriptions of three people. Answer the questions below and explain your answers.

**Catherine:** I'm a creative and talkative person because I love meeting new people. I like exciting adventures and I'm really energetic. I'm not super responsible so it's sometimes difficult for me to find a job.

**John:** I'm an organized and tidy person who doesn't like mess. I'm quiet, but I'm a good listener and I'm helpful. I also think I'm an intelligent person because I like to learn new things.

**Chia-Ling:** I'm generous and I like to give presents. I may be shy at first, but when you get to know me, I'm honest and loyal. That's why I have a lot of good friends. I also think that I'm clever because I have a lot of great ideas.

Who would be...

- the best boss? • the best friend? • the best colleague? • the best travel blogger? • the best partner?
- the best party entertainer?

### Listening comprehension (video)

**1. Read the sentences (1-6). The words in bold are used in the video. First guess the meaning of the words. Then match the words with their definitions (a-f).**

1. Some scientists believe that the order in which we were born to a family **affects** our personality.
2. For the middle children the **pace** of development is higher.
3. Only children are often **pampered** by their parents
4. Studies have a number of **inaccuracies**.
5. Research doesn't **take into account** important social factors such as ethnicity, education, and relationships within a family.
6. The **upbringing** that children receive in their homes is a much more important factor in shaping their lives as individuals.

- a) the way people are treated or educated when they are young
- b) giving someone special treatment, giving someone everything the person wants
- c) the speed with which something moves
- d) has an influence on something or someone
- e) to consider something
- f) a situation in which something is not completely correct

**2. Watch the video “How birth order can shape your personality?”**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kcXTGFrKx5A> and **categorize the adjectives** from the list above into three groups: personality characteristics of the oldest child, a middle child, the youngest child, an only child. Do you think the description is true for you? Why or why not?

the oldest child	the middle child	the youngest child	an only child

**3. Watch the video and say if the statements are true or false. Correct the false statements.**

1. There is a stereotype that the oldest child in the family tends to be very irresponsible.
2. The Birth Order Theory was developed by Alfred Adler, Sigmund Freud's colleague.
3. According to Adler, the oldest child tends to be sociable and dependent.

4. Oldest children often take responsibility for the younger siblings, so they are likely to take initiative when they grow up.
5. Middle children often struggle to surpass their parents.
6. Middle children are more likely to set unreasonably high goals for themselves.
7. As a rule, the youngest child gets little care and attention from parents and even older siblings.
8. Only children are pampered by their parents.
9. Only children are often independent and people-centered.
10. The only child often has difficulty interacting with other children. Many children who have no siblings become perfectionists, and they usually achieve their goals no matter what.

### Personality adjectives

#### 1. Replace the words in bold with a synonym from the box:

**aloof – confident – determined – opinionated – reliable – stubborn – unpredictable**

1. Jen is quite **stand-offish**. She's never friendly : => aloof
2. You can confide in Jake. He's very **trustworthy**. \_\_\_\_\_
3. It's not worth discussing anything with Helen- She's so **dogmatic**. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Simon studies a lot, so he is very **self-assured** when speaking out in class. \_\_\_\_\_
5. Mr. Smith is **capricious**. He accepted Anna's excuse, but rejected the same one from Alan. \_\_\_\_\_
6. Pattie is very **resolute**. She applied for the scholarship again after being rejected.
7. Peter can be **uncompromising**. He refused to change his plan although there's an easier option. \_\_\_\_\_

#### 2. Match the adjectives (1-11) with their synonyms (A-K). Decide if each pair is positive or negative and write them in the chart.

1. angry

A. rational

**Positive**

**Negative**

angry – furious

2. calm

B. shy

3. vain

C. obstinate

4. intelligent

D. conceited

5. timid

E. clever

6. selfish

F. furious

7. impolite

G. egotistical

8. irritable

H. amiable

**9.** sensible

**I.** grumpy

**10.** stubborn

**J.** easy-going

**11.** friendly

**K.** rude

### 3. Complete the blog profiles with words from the box:

charismatic – conceited –  
considerate – down to earth – happy-go-lucky  
– pretentious – quick-witted –  
spontaneous

#### Karina George:

I enjoy doing things without a lot of planning, so I think I'm a 1-\_\_\_\_\_ person. My friends also think I'm 2-\_\_\_\_\_ because I don't worry about the future. I know things will be fine even if they are not going well at the moment. I value friends who are 3-\_\_\_\_\_ since it's important to be sensible and realistic in life. I don't have time for 4-\_\_\_\_\_ people- I can tell if someone is trying to impress me by appearing important or by wearing expensive clothing or jewelry.

#### Desmond Fenty:

If more people thought about others, there would be fewer problems in the world. So I think being 5-\_\_\_\_\_ is one of the most important things in life. My favourite quality about my character is that I am 6-\_\_\_\_\_. I'm fairly intelligent, and I can see the funny side of things easily. At least my friends have told me as much, and that's a great compliment. I also think I'm quite 7-\_\_\_\_\_ because people seem to like me and I make friends easily. Actually, I've been called 8-\_\_\_\_\_ but I don't believe this is true because I've never thought I'm better than anyone else.

### 4: Match the following words to their correct definitions.

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|----------------------------|--|
| 1. trait (noun)            | a. a new plan for achieving a particular purpose   |
| 2. genetic (adj)           | b. a particular quality in your personality  |
| 3. <u>u</u> prising (noun) | c. a person who makes money by starting or running businesses                                      |
| 4. nurture (verb)          | d. connected with units inside a cell of a living thing which have been passed on from its parents |
| 5. <u>a</u> ptitude (noun) | e. natural ability or skill  |
| 6. entrepreneur (noun)     | f. the quality that makes you continue trying to do something even when this is difficult          |
| 7. determination (noun)    | g. the way in which a child is cared for and taught how to behave while it is growing up           |
| 8. initiative (noun)       | h. to care for and protect somebody (or something) while they are growing and developing           |

**5) Choose the correct word from part A to fill in the gaps.**

1. A personality \_\_\_\_\_ can be positive or negative.
2. Some people demonstrate an \_\_\_\_\_ for learning languages from a young age.
3. The girl's medical problem was \_\_\_\_\_ ; her mother had the same disorder.
4. Climbing the mountain was difficult, but he had a lot of \_\_\_\_\_ , and eventually he managed to reach the top.
5. The employee showed \_\_\_\_\_ by suggesting a new way to display the products.
6. It is important to \_\_\_\_\_ the plants carefully, or they may not survive.
7. I had a very traditional \_\_\_\_\_ , but nowadays I lead a less traditional lifestyle.
8. An \_\_\_\_\_ must be prepared to take financial risks at times.

**Writing: Write an “”essay about this topic:**

### **Can Birth Order Determine Success or Failure?**

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