

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.