

# 24 CHARACTERISTICS THAT GENIUSES HAVE IN COMMON

"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 that if observed, studied, and practiced will enable anyone to come up with, develop, and effectively operate with new and productive 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 Definition

1. The inherent, innate potential within all people to do extraordinary things
2. Demonstration of brilliant intellectual or creative power or other natural ability
3. A person who demonstrates such an ability
4. A guardian spirit associated with a person, place, or institution
5. The prevalent character or spirit of something such as a nation or age

## Adaptability

Your ability to change to successfully handle new situations

## Adopting

Accepting a new attitude or behavior and using it as your own

## Betterment

The act of improving something for the enhancement of everyone involved

## Booster

Someone who helps and encourages others to achieve their innate genius potential

## Courage

Your inherent bravery and ability to face difficulty or danger without fear

## Devotion

Dedicating yourself fully to a belief or activity without doubt or reservation

## Dr. Barrios

The psychologist and author of the article 24 Qualities That Geniuses Have in Common, which highlights the innate genius potential in everyone

## 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 – an ability you used as a child and can use today

## Drive

The energy and determination you have to achieve things as well as your strong desire for success, the key to developing your drive is focusing on your future 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 and ultimately achieve your purpose

## 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 – a skill you can use frequently

## Flexibility

The willingness to change and try different things

## Forthright

Honest and direct in your speech and choice of words – never allow fear to keep you from being honest

## Frank

Speaking openly about how you feel without hesitation – always do so respectfully

## Fruitful

Producing many useful results

## Goofed

Made a careless or stupid mistake – and always learn from your blunders

## Head in the clouds

Lost in your own thoughts and imagination – splurge on this innate skill

## Genius Word Origin

We found that in Southern Europe, between 1200 - 700 BC, the word *gigno* meant “to give birth to” or “to create.” *Gigno* evolved into the Latin word element *gen-*. Connecting *gen-* to *-ius*, indicating a person, creates *genius*, “a person who creates.” *Genius* has been understood as the guardian spirit attendant to every single person upon birth; and as “the innate nature, the spirit, the protecting spirit of a human being.” The innate nature of *genius* means you have the right and power to create.

## Individualism

Your ability to think and do things in your own way, not imitating others – always be true to yourself

## 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 – use your perception and see things as they are, without bias

## Mediocrity

The fact of being average or not very good, the word *mediocre* comes from the Latin word *mediocris*, “halfway to the top,” always strive to do better

## Motivate

To give someone a reason to do something to be more successful

## 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 – the earliest meaning of *op-* in the word *optimism* is “to work, produce in abundance

## Outgoingness

Your ability to be friendly and enjoy meeting and talking to people and being a booster

## Perfectionism

Your desire for things to be complete or perfect and moving closer to excellence

## Persuasion

Your ability to use advice and reason to cause others to believe or do something to help them get ahead

## Sense of Humor

Your ability to say funny things and enjoy the funny side of things, even if it means laughing at yourself

## Strive

To try very hard to achieve something

## To Judge

To form an opinion about something after careful thought and weighing the facts of the matter

## Tolerate

To accept something the way it is without doing something to improve it

## 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 with intention