

Top 10

Character Traits for Success



Having good character means that you have the traits people generally expect to see in a “good” person. The following 10 positive character traits will help you succeed in school, in a career, and in life.

1. **Honesty:** being truthful in your actions, communication, and dealings with others
2. **Integrity:** sticking to your values, even when it’s difficult
3. **Kindness:** demonstrating empathy and concern for the well-being of others, and being willing to offer help and support
4. **Respect:** treating others with dignity, regardless of their background or beliefs
5. **Responsibility:** following through on your commitments, working hard, and being accountable for everything you say and do
6. **Fairness:** treating others equitably, and being impartial and just in decision-making
7. **Patience:** staying calm and understanding in challenging or difficult situations
8. **Tolerance:** respecting diverse opinions and beliefs, even when they differ from your own
9. **Generosity:** being willing to share your time, resources, and support with others
10. **Citizenship:** working to make the world a better place for everyone

Ways to Build Good Character

Smile and greet others. It seems simple, but offering a smile and a greeting to someone in the hall or on the street can be enough to brighten their mood—and yours!

Give your time. There are many groups and organizations that need helpers. Find one that “speaks” to you and volunteer an hour or two each week.

Have good manners. Open and hold the door for people. Say *please* and *thank you*, and don’t interrupt when someone else is talking. Just try to always do what feels right and good.

Follow through on obligations. Be on time for activities and appointments, return the things you borrow, and do the work or chores you promise to do.

Be kind online. Be careful with what you post, and only use social media for positive purposes and to support others.

Embrace differences. Look at the differences you see in others as opportunities to learn and grow. Be open to cultures, perspectives, and experiences that are different from your own.

Think before you act. Taking the time to stop and think can help you avoid costly outcomes.

Accept consequences. If you’ve done something wrong, don’t make excuses or blame someone else. Accept the consequences for your actions, and strive to do better.

For tips on making smart decisions, check out this short video.

