



M1: What is a characterization?

A characterization is a written portrait of a person from a book that aims at drawing a complete picture of how this person is, behaves, acts, looks and thinks. In order to do this, we have to look at different aspects:

- **appearance and physical aspects:** What does the character look like? What are the character's physical attributes?
- **social background, family and friends:** How is the character's relationship to other characters in the story? What kinds of friends does he/she have? How does he/she treat other people? What is his/her family background?
- **behaviour:** How does the character behave? How does he/she act and react in certain situations? How does the character's behaviour change throughout the story?
- **feelings and thoughts:** What does the character think or feel most of the time? How do his/her feelings change? How does the character deal with his/her own feelings? What is the character's attitude towards other characters?

Most of the time, the narrator does not tell us all of these things directly. Instead, we have to draw conclusions about the character's personality traits ourselves by interpreting his/her actions and thoughts.

M2: Tips for writing your characterization

Your characterization should not just be a simple list of character traits. Instead, you should show and make clear how all of the different characteristics relate to one another and work together to create this character.

Before you start writing your characterization, take notes and collect examples and evidence from the text. Make sure to focus on the most important facts and character traits. It is not necessary to mention every single detail.

Use connectors (at first, moreover, finally, etc.) to structure your text.

M3: How to structure your characterization

1. Introduction

In the introduction, you should mention all of the important facts about a person that need to be known (name, age, hometown, etc.).

2. Main part:

In the main part, you present all the important character traits by giving examples and showing how these are related to each other. One character trait should be presented in one paragraph.

3. Conclusion:

The conclusion should round off your findings by giving a short summary of the things mentioned earlier (Be careful to not just repeat what you've already said!).



M4: Wordbank

Positive character traits:

Pete is
The protagonist is
The girl is described as
None of the characters are

altruistic.
brave.
charming.
cheerful.
good-natured.
open-minded.
reliable.
self-assured.
self-confident.
sensible.
thrifty.

Charaktereigenschaften

uneigennützig
tapfer
charmant
fröhlich
gutmütig
aufgeschlossen
zuverlässig
selbstsicher
selbstbewusst
vernünftig
sparsam

Rule: In compounds with self-, the main stress is never on self-, but always on the word that follows.

Negative character traits:

The antagonist is
The main character is

arrogant.
cunning.
deceitful.
devious.
an egotist.
egotistic.
full of himself.
really mean.

überheblich, eingebildet
gerissen
betrügerisch
hinterhältig
Egoist
egoistisch
ein Wichtigtuer
geizig / gemein

The author portrays the hero as

selfish.
insecure.
jealous of his brother.
narrow-minded.
self-conscious.
a show-off.
spiteful.
superficial.
unforgiving.
unreliable.
unscrupulous.

stellt dar
selbstsüchtig, eigennützig
unsicher
eifersüchtig auf
engstirnig
gehemmt
Angeber
boshaft, gehässig
oberflächlich
nachtragend
unzuverlässig
skrupellos

A	flat round	character is	presented without individualizing detail. highly individualized.	flach, eindimensional komplex, vielseitig
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M5: Using Linking Words

Here is a list of useful connectives/ linking words. Look at the linking words in the box and put them under the correct heading below.

similarly, for instance, consequently, notably,
besides, eventually, alternatively, in order to

- **To add information:**
and *also *as well as * moreover * furthermore
- **To give events or ideas a sequence:**
firstly * secondly * thirdly * finally * then * meanwhile * while
- **To compare**
equally * likewise * as with * like * in the same way
- **To contrast**
although * whereas * instead of * otherwise * or else * unlike * but * on the one hand * on the other hand * even if
- **To show cause and effect**
because * since * therefore * thus * as a result
- **To further explain an idea**
however, * nevertheless * unless * yet *as long as * if
- **To emphasize**
above all * in particular * especially * significantly * indeed
- **To give an example**
for example, * such as * in the case of * as revealed by * namely

M1: Wordbank for describing a character

adaptable	conservative	forceful	materialistic	sensitive
adventurous	considerate	gentle	mean	shy
affable	convivial	good	miserly	sincere
affectionate	courageous	greedy	modest	sociable
aggressive	courteous	gregarious	moody	straightforward
agreeable	cowardly	grumpy	narrow-minded	sympathetic
ambitious	creative	gullible	overcritical	thoughtful
amiable	cruel	hard-working	overemotional	thoughtless
amicable	cunning	harsh	parsimonious	tidy
arrogant	cynical	helpful	passionate	timid
belligerent	deceitful	honest	patient	touchy
big-headed	decisive	humorous	patronizing	tough
boastful	detached	imaginative	persistent	truculent
bone-idle	determined	impartial	perverse	unassuming
boring	diligent	indecisive	pessimistic	understanding
bossy	diplomatic	independent	philosophical	unkind
brave	discreet	indiscreet	powerful	unpredictable
broad-minded	dishonest	inflexible	practical	unreliable
callous	dogmatic	intellectual	pro-active	untidy
calm	domineering	intelligent	pusillanimous	untrustworthy
cantankerous	dynamic	interfering	quick-witted	vague
careful	easygoing	intolerant	quiet	vain
careless	emotional	intuitive	rational	vengeful
changeable	energetic	inventive	reliable	versatile
charming	faithful	irresponsible	reserved	vulgar
clinging	fearless	jealous	resourceful	warmhearted
communicative	finicky	kind	romantic	weak-willed
compassionate	flirtatious	lazy	self-confident	willing
compulsive	foolhardy	loving	self-disciplined	witty
conscientious	foolish	loyal	sensible	

Adjectives for characterization

mood / state of mind - Gemütslage	specific - präzise	blind - blind
passionate - leidenschaftlich	controlled - beherrscht	humorous - humorvoll
vivid – lebhaft	sober - besonnen	unhumorous - humorlos
lively - temperamentvoll	cheerful - heiter	emotional aspects – emotionale Aspekte
balanced - ausgeglichen	jolly - vergnügt	sensitive – empfindlich
choleric - cholerisch	boring - langweilig	sensible – empfindsam
happy – fröhlich	moody - launisch	irritable – erregbar
irascible - jähzornig	melancholy - melancholisch	cool – kühl
doleful – trübsinnig	bad-tempered - missmutig	lively – munter
self-confidence - Selbstbewusstsein		bright – strahlend
independent – selbstständig	dependent – unselbstständig	tender - zärtlich
self-confident - selbstsicher	brave - mutig	affectionate – liebevoll
servile - unterwürfig	unconcerned - unbekümmert	ardent – leidenschaftlich
hesitating – zögerlich	nervous - nervös	social aspects – soziale Aspekte
cowardly – feige	rebellious - rebellisch	successful - erfolgreich
thoughtful - grüblerisch		devote - anhänglich
moral orientation – moralische Ausrichtung		pleasant - sympathisch
of strong character – charakterstark, charakterfest		social - gesellig
moral – moralisch einwandfrei, integer		talkative - gesprächig
scrupulous - gewissenhaft	unscrupulous - skrupellos	good-natured - gutmütig
virtuous – tugendhaft	noble - edelmütig	superior - überlegen
gone to rack - heruntergekommen		servile - kriecherisch
straightforward - ehrlich	mendacious - verlogen	open-minded - offen
dutiful – pflichtbewusst	neglectful - pflichtvergessen	tolerant - tolerant
responsible - verantwortungsvoll		understanding - verständnisvoll
irresponsible – unverantwortlich, verantwortungslos		petty-minded – engstirnig, borniert
grateful – dankbar	ungrateful - undankbar	sophomoric - angeberisch
faithful – true	unfaithful - untreu	boastful - prahlerisch
careful - sorgfältig	sloppy - schludrig	arrogant - arrogant
intellectual abilities – geistige Fähigkeiten		presumptuous - anmaßend
ambitious – ehrgeizig	resigned - resigniert	pretentious - überheblich
knowledgeable - kenntnisreich		jealous - neidisch
ignorant – unwissend	imaginative - fantasievoll	patronizing - gönnerhaft
intellectual – intellektuell	unimaginative - ideenlos	unselfish - uneigennützig
simple-minded, plain - geistig schlicht		helpful - hilfsbereit
clever, wise, learned - klug		kind - gütig
narrow-minded – beschränkt, engstirnig		merciful - barmherzig
illiterate – ungebildet	immature - unreif	strict – streng
witty – geistreich	dull - geistlos	relentless - gnadenlos
naïve - naiv	sober - überlegt	soft - nachgiebig
reasonable – vernünftig	unreasonable - unvernünftig	peaceful – friedlich
rational – überlegt	irrational - töricht	placable – versöhnlich
sensible - verständig	ignorant - unverständlich	nice - freundlich
prudent – einsichtig	undiscerning - uneinsichtig	stiff - steif
sharp-minded - scharfsinnig	superficial - oberflächlich	independent - eigenständig
charismatic - charismatisch	modest - bescheiden	unadapted - unangepasst
experienced - erfahren	inexperienced - unerfahren	ceremonial - zeremoniell
		insensitive - unsensibel
		hard-boiled – hartgesotten
		mellow - abgeklärt
		hot tempered - hitzig
		apathetic – apathisch, müde
		gloomy - finster
		crude – grob, derb
		rude – grob, unhöflich
		unsuccessful – gescheitert
		repulsive - abstoßend
		rejecting - abweisend
		rogue - einzelgängerisch
		modest - zurückhaltend
		spiteful - gehässig
		malicious - boshaft
		imperious – herrisch
		authoritative - bestimmend
		intolerant - intolerant
		unkind - ungefällig
		generous – großzügig
		ungenerous - knauserig
		calculating - berechnend
		boorish - flegelhaft
		resentful - nachtragend
		merciless - unbarmherzig
		generous - großzügig
		compassionate - mitleidig
		persistent - hartnäckig
		aggressive - aggressiv
		argumentative - streitsüchtig
		nasty - garstig
		easygoing - unkompliziert
		hostile - feindselig
		adapted - angepasst