



CHARACTERIZATION

Epiguide Chart

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<http://www.epiguide.com/ep101/writing/charchart.html>
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BASICS

Character's Full Name:

Nickname: (origin and meaning)

Birth Date:

Birth Place:

Ethnicity:

Religion:

Degree of religious practice:

Address:

Rent? Own?

Does s/he live alone? If not, who with?

Is this where s/he wants to live? If not, where?

Is s/he in city? Town? Rural? Other?

Home décor: Expensive? Inexpensive? Carefully planned? Comfortable? Neat? Cluttered?

Does s/he drive, own a car? If so, what kind?

Pets? What kind, how many?

If so, are they loved? Tolerated? Abused?

Current occupation: how long, location, job title

Job satisfaction:

Income:

Sexuality: Straight? Gay? Bi? Trans?

Marital status: single, divorced, married, remarried; how long for each?

Pet names for romantic partner, ages

Children: how many? how old?

Stepchildren: how many? how old?

How did s/he meet significant other?

PHYSICAL APPEARANCE?

Height: Weight? Body type (thin, athletic, overweight, curvy, muscular)

Eye color: Glasses? Contacts? Skin tone (pale, ivory, tan, olive, ruddy, brown, ebony...)

Face shape (round, oval, chubby, thin, long, square, heart...)

Prominent features (freckles, moles, tattoos...)

General health (good, excellent, poor, chronic, complicated...)

How does s/he dress?

Price:

Style:

Why does s/he dress this way? (to be noticed, creative, rich/poor, oblivious...)

Grooming: (fastidious, neat, average, clean, scruffy, dirty, unkempt...)

Hair style: (long, short, crewcut, dreadlocks, bangs, part, curly, straight...)

Hair texture:

Hair color: (natural? Dyed?)

SPEECH/LANGUAGE/COMMUNICATION:

Pace of speech: (fast, slow, average, thoughtful, shrill, high, low, squeaky, authoritative, mousy, cultured, hoarse, low, gravelly...)

Accent/dialect:

Favorite words, phrases:

General vocabulary? (educated, precise, pretentious, average, uneducated, vulgar, gracious...)

Mannerisms? Demeanor? (cool, confident, volatile, nervous, shy, aggressive, friendly, remote...)

Posture: (Stiff, straight but not stiff, average, varies with mood, slumped, defeated, slouchy, careless, Victorian, prim...)

Gestures: (barely, controlled, when excited, most of the time, wildly, rarely...)

Habitual gestures: (nail biting, hair patting, drumming fingers, clenched fists, hands in pockets, hands behind the neck...)

EVERYDAY BEHAVIOR / HABITS

Finances: (prudent, cautious, some debt, paycheck to paycheck, deep in debt, criminal...)

Personal habit: (smoking, drinking, drugs, gambling, any of them addictions?)

Morning routine: (rituals, wake-up time, anyone near by? Cheerful, tired, breakfast, no breakfast, coffee, tea, kids?)

Afternoon/Workday: (work outside home, office, transportation to and from, work day, difficult work? Easy work?)

Dinner: (eat out, cook from scratch, favorite meals, favorite restaurants, eat alone, eat with someone? Rushed? Leisurely? At the table, watching tv?)

Evening: (typical evening, where, with whom, how much does s/he enjoy the activities? Night owl, homebody...)

Sleep habits: (regular, whenever, easy to fall asleep, insomnia, dreams, lack of dreams, toss and turn, sleep like a log, wake up at the slightest sound or light)

Talents, skills:

What is s/he not skilled at:

Hobbies: (sports, games, arts, collecting...)

FAMILY OF ORIGIN

Mother's name (include maiden name):

Current status: (living, dead, age...)

Mother's occupation, if any:

Relationship between Mother and character is:

Father's name:

Current status: living, dead, age...

Father's occupation, if any:

Relationship between Father and character is:

Step-parents, foster parents, birth parents, adopted parents:

Siblings, gender and age:

Relationships between siblings and characters:

Nieces:

Nephews:

Aunts:

Uncles:

Grandparents:

In-laws:

THE PAST

Home town:

Childhood: (happy, troubled, dull, complicated, abusive, simple, traditional...)

Does s/he remember it at all? If so, accurately?

Earliest memory:

Happiest memory:

Saddest memory:

Schooling: (how much, where teachers' names, did s/he like school? Why, why not?)

Most significant childhood event?

Other important or significant events:

Significant jobs?

Police records: (arrests, convictions, sentences, served time where?)

First crush:

First romance:

First sexual experience: (positive? Negative?)

RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHERS

Who is his best friend?

Who are her other friends?

In general, how does s/he relate to

Friends:

Strangers:

Spouse/lover:

Children:

Family members:

People more successful:

People less successful:

The Boss:

Underlings at work:

Competitors:

Authority:

Same sex:

Opposite sex:

What do most people consider her most likeable trait?

What do most people consider his biggest flaw?

In romance, is she monogamous or uncommitted?

Any secret attractions or crushes?

Sexual behavior: (inhibited, average, experimental, reckless, does it change, why, why not?)

Person she likes the most, why:

Person he dislikes the most, why:

Most important person, why:

Person she most misunderstands or misjudges:

Person who most misunderstands or misjudges him:

Person she admires, why:

Person who has the biggest influence on him, why?

Has she lost touch with anyone significant in her life? Why?

Worst end of a relationship (friend, colleague, boss, family member...)

Whom does she rely on most for advice?

Whom does he rely on most for emotional support?

MENTAL ATTITUDE / PERSONAL BELIEFS

Any psychological issues (phobias, depression, paranoia, narcissism, little self-respect...)

Is s/he an optimist, pessimist, realist:

Meyers Briggs Personality Type (see <http://www.humanmetrics.com/cgi-win/jtypes2.asp>):

S/he is most comfortable when: (alone, w/friends, drinking, reading, boating...)

S/he is most uncomfortable when: (in a crowd, alone, speaking in public...)

Is s/he cautious, brave, reckless in his or her approach to life?

What does s/he value most in life? (family, money, success, religion, time alone...)

Whom does s/he really love the most?

Whom or what would s/he be willing to die for?

Is s/he generally compassionate or self-motivated?

Personal philosophy:

What is her most embarrassing moment?

What is his secret wish?

Is s/he prejudiced? (race, culture, sexuality, religion, gender...)

Political beliefs, if any:

Dose s/he believe in fate or destiny?

Is s/he superstitious?

His greatest characteristic:

Other good qualities:

Her greatest flaw:

Other character flaws:

What are his favorite attributes, physical and personal:

What are her least favorite?

Are these assessments accurate?

How does s/he think others perceive him or her? And is this accurate?

How does s/he perceive him- or herself? And it is this accurate:

Biggest regret:

Other regrets:

Proudest accomplishment:

Other accomplishments:

Quirks:

Biggest secret(s):

Who knows these secrets?

How does s/he react to a crisis?

What usually causes her problems: romance, finances, friends, rivals, colleagues personality flaws, health...)

What would he like change about himself? Why:

Write a paragraph about character describing him- or herself?

Short term goals:

Long term goals:

Does s/he think s/he can accomplish these goals?

Does s/he think s/he can't?

What is stopping him from completing the goal?

Will others be affected? How? Does she care:

What event or circumstance does s/he most dread or fear?

What does s/he actively work to gain, keep, or protect:

Which person in his life would he most like to emulate? Why?

Which person in her life would she least like to emulate? Why?

LIKES/FAVORITES

Food:

Book:

Music/Song

Motto/Quote:

Drink:

Film:

Sport:

Possession:

Color:

TV Show:

Hangouts:

Hobbies: