**Personal Characteristics**

Personal characteristics can be divided into two main areas - appearance and personality. There are many ways to describe a person. One common way to describe somebody is based on appearance. Physical characteristics are what you see with the naked eye. The first thing you see when you look at someone could be their hair, clothes, nose, or figure. Among other things, you can also describe their height, their weight, or complexion. So, there are certain physical characteristics that you are born with but you can also change the way you look and e.g. dye your hair, get contact lenses, get a tan, etc.

We are all more obsessed with our appearance than we like to admit. Concern about appearance is quite normal and understandable. Attractive people have distinct advantages in our society. Studies show that attractive children are more popular, both with classmates and teachers. Attractive applicants have a better chance of getting jobs, and of receiving higher salaries. In court, attractive people are found guilty less often, etc.

The term personality has been derived from a Latin word ‘persona’- means ‘mask’. In olden days, while playing dramas, in order to give good effects to the roles played by them, the Greek actors used to wear masks.

What makes you who you are as a person? You probably have some idea of your own personality type — are you cheerful or reserved, sensitive or stubborn? Psychologists who try to tease out the science of who we are define personality as individual differences in the way people tend to think, feel and behave.

There are many different personality types, and it is sometimes difficult to classify a person into a single type as there are many different personality traits you can possess.  
Some personality traits are positive:

* Being honest no matter what the consequences are is one personality trait people should aspire to.
* Having responsibility for all of your actions.
* Having the drive to keep going, and having compassion and understanding.
* Patience is a virtue and also another trait.
* Getting up the courage to do what’s right in those tough situations and loyalty to your friends and loved ones are also personality traits.

However, let's face it! Not everyone is perfect. Even the most charming people are guilty of at least a few negative personality traits. The worst qualities in a person generally make them act in ways that is offensive, unsafe, selfish, or annoying. We can probably all name typical bad qualities in a person.

We tend to think of personality traits as "good" and "bad". Being kind and humble is good, for example, but being lazy and pessimistic is "bad". Things aren't always so cut and dry, though. Here are some traits that people often see as negative, but can actually be good.

* Being a little messy is hardly a deadly sin. In fact, many people with messy desks are more creative and risk taking.
* Sure, it's bad to think of yourself and ignore others. On the other hand, many of us could stand to be a little more selfish and learn how to say no.
* Too many people view shyness as a weakness. Sure, being overly shy can cause you to miss certain opportunities, but shy people are often better listeners.
* Taking criticism is hard, so the world tells you to build up a thick skin. And sure, that's good—but ignoring criticism entirely will get you nowhere. So, learn to accept criticism without taking it personally—and use it to make yourself better.

**Vocabulary**

angry/furious [ˈæŋgrɪ /ˈfjʊərɪəs] – naštvaný, rozzuřený

rude/cheeky [ruːd / ˈtʃiːkɪ] – drzý, sprostý, hubatý

big-headed [ˈbɪgˌhedɪd] - namyšlený

exhausted - [ɪgˈzɔːstɪd] - vyčerpaný

stubborn [ˈstʌbən] - tvrdohlavý

moody [ˈmuːdɪ] - náladový

cowardly [ˈkaʊədlɪ] - zbabělý

selfish [ˈselfɪʃ] - sobecký

jealous [ˈdʒeləs] - žárlivý

warm-hearted [wɔːmhɑːtɪt] - srdečný

shy [ʃaɪ] – stydlivý

reserved [rɪˈzɜːvd] - zdrženlivý

polite [pəˈlaɪt] – zdvořilý, slušný

reliable [rɪˈlaɪəbəl] - spolehlivý

loyal [ˈlɔɪəl] – věrný, oddaný

talkative [ˈtɔːkətɪv] - upovídaný

easy-going [ˈiːzɪˈgəʊɪŋ] – pohodový, klidný

patient [ˈpeɪʃənt] - trpělivý

cheerful [ˈtʃɪəfʊl] - veselý

generous [ˈdʒenrəs] - štědrý

penetrating eyes [ˈpenɪˌtreɪtɪŋ] – pronikavé oči

protruding ears [prəˈtruːdɪŋ ɪəz] – odstávající uši

chubby cheeks [ˈtʃʌbɪ tʃiːk] – baculaté tváře

prominent nose [ˈprɒmɪnənt nəʊz] – výrazný nos

smooth/rosy complexion [smuːð / rəʊzɪ kəmˈplekʃən] – hladká/zdravě vypadající pleť

bushy eyebrows [ˈbʊʃɪ ˈaɪˌbraʊz] – husté obočí

double chin [ˈdʌbəl tʃɪn] – dvojitá brada

curly/straight hair [ˈkɜːlɪ / streɪt heə] – kudrnaté/rovné vlasy

high forehead [haɪ ˈfɔːˌhed] – vysoké čelo

pointed jaw [ˈpɔɪntɪd dʒɔː] – špičatá čelist

pretty/handsome [ˈprɪtɪ / ˈhændsəm] – hezký

**Conversation questions**

1. What's your Zodiac sign? Do you believe in horoscopes?

2. How are male and female personalities different?

3. Is your character similar to your mother or father’s character? In what ways are you like them and in what ways are you different?

4. What is your blood type? Do you help others by donating blood?

5. Is your true personality always on show or do you hide parts of it?

6. Do you know anyone who has a split personality or multiple personalities? Can you explain these terms?

7. Have you ever taken a personality test?

8. Would you prefer to be intelligent or beautiful?

9. What is the first thing you notice about a person?

10. How long does it take you to get ready in the morning?

Explain these phrases: dressed up to the nines, face only a mother could love, (all) skin and bone, to be a bad egg, make your ears burn,to be an eager beaver, to be a busybody