



What's Your Blood Type?

Intermediate Plus or Advanced Minus

Lesson Objectives

- To learn about personality characteristics by studying cultural anomalies of other countries.
- To learn new vocabulary pertaining to personality characteristics or traits.
- To practice using vocabulary and idioms in conversations about characteristics or traits.

Classroom Learning Activities

Activity 1—Warm-Up Activity

Define: What does “personality” mean? Can you use it in a sentence? Can you give examples?

Resources Needed for Activity

- Personality definition chart or white board and marker

Personality refers to individual differences in characteristic patterns of thinking, feeling and behaving. The study of **personality** focuses on two broad areas:

One is understanding individual differences in particular **personality** characteristics, such as sociability or irritability.

Some experts believe that a dog’s **personality** traits are 70 percent genetic, just like humans’.

Procedure for Activity

1. Instruct students to brainstorm and discuss with a partner(s) words and ideas associated with “personality.”
2. Direct students to share their ideas with the class (4 or 5 min).

Activity 2—Hand out article “What’s your Blood Type”

Resources Needed for Activity

- Article “What’s Your Blood Type.” Prepare enough copies to distribute to students. Retrieve the copies for the next class

Procedure for Activity

1. Read the Article with the students.
2. Using the vocabulary chart, define each word, correctly pronounce it, explain the meaning and/or usage, and offer an example sentence to the class.

ARTICLE (for teachers)

What’s Your Blood Type?

If you live in or visit Japan, you may be asked, “What’s your blood type?” When the average person asks the question, he isn’t referring to giving blood, illnesses, or medicine. There’s a popular notion that a person’s blood type influences his personality, character, and romantic compatibility. Although blood types and their effects on personality are far more popular than the usual idea of star signs in the West, it’s not so very different. In fact, it’s hugely popular. For example, four of the ten books to top the bestseller list in 2008 dealt with blood type and personality.

What can be said about personality types? Type A people are serious and creative, but also seek perfection. Type B people are spontaneous, but also selfish and irresponsible. Type O can be vain and rude. On the positive side, they are curious and generous. As for people who are type AB, they are arty, but tend to be moody as well.

Of course, the scientific community in Japan considers the idea ridiculous. Unfortunately, the general public seems to disagree. Matchmaking services look to blood types when introducing men and women, for example. Women’s magazines stock their pages with articles, romantic advice, and predictions too. Some companies have assigned projects based on the blood of employees. And more than a few employers regularly ask interviewees about their blood type, because they intend to determine which applicants may or may not provide a good fit in the company or department.

It comes down to discrimination, and even comes with a term: “bura-hara.” “Bura” stands for blood, and “hara” stands for harassment. It also doesn’t seem likely to diminish in popularity any time soon.

*Underlined words in red typeface are the recommended vocabulary for this lesson.

VOCABULARY

influence	Influence is the power to have an important effect on someone or something. If someone influences someone else, they are changing a person or thing in an indirect but important way. Sometimes a person who influences another doesn't intend to have any effect, but sometimes they are using influence to benefit themselves.
compatible	able to exist, live together, or work successfully with something or someone else
seek	attempt to find (something): "they came here to seek shelter from biting winter winds" synonyms: search for · try to find · look for · be on the lookout for · be after · hunt for ·
spontaneous	coming or resulting from a natural impulse or tendency; without effort or premeditation; natural and unconstrained; unplanned
vain	excessively proud of or concerned about one's own appearance, qualities, achievements
moody	(of a person) given to unpredictable changes of mood, especially sudden bouts of gloominess or sullenness
stock	the goods or merchandise kept on the premises of a business or warehouse and available for sale or distribution: "the store has a very low turnover of stock" · a person's ancestry or line of descent: "her mother was of French stock" ·
intend	to have in mind as something to be done or brought about; plan: We intend to leave in a month.
discriminate	to treat a person or particular group of people differently, especially in a worse way
Diminish	to make or cause to seem smaller, less, less important

Activity 3—Vocabulary Review

Resources Needed for Activity

- Vocabulary match chart
- True or False Chart

Procedure for the Activity

1. Vocabulary match: Match the words in column A (from the article) with the best choice in column B

a.	influence	q.	look for
b.	compatible	r.	self-loving
c.	seek	s.	well matched
d.	spontaneous	t.	decrease
e.	vain	u.	fill
f.	moody	v.	unplanned
g.	stock	w.	think of
h.	intend	x.	be prejudiced
i.	discriminate	y.	affect
j.	diminish	z.	emotional

2. True or False?: Answer whether the sentence is true or false. If false, correct the sentence.

1.Many people in Japan believe blood type affects personality.	T/F
2. According to the article, type A people aren't creative. They are moody too.	T/F
3. According to the article, type O people are curious and generous.	T/F
4. The scientific community in Japan supports the idea of blood types and personality.	T/F
5. According to the article, categorizing personalities based on blood is a form of discrimination.	T/F

Activity 4—Discussion

Resources needed

- Discussion Questions
- Idioms Chart

Procedure for the Activity

1. Place the discussion questions into 4 groups. Cut the groups into strips.
 - a. Arrange the students into pairs or groups depending on the number of students. Give each pair or group a set of questions to discuss.
 - b. Discuss the following questions in pairs/groups. Remember to support your answers!
 - c. After at least 5 to 10 minutes have each group report their discussion of their questions to the class.
2. Display idiom chart keeping the definitions covered at this time.
 - a. Have students repeat idioms for pronunciation.
 - b. Define what an idiom is. Idiom: a group of words that when stated together have a different meaning than individual words. Most idioms generate a word picture.
 - c. Ask students to guess what each idiom means.
3. Display idiom definitions. Ask students for a sample sentence or give them a sample sentence.

Discussion Questions

GROUP 1

1. What do you think about blood types? Do they really affect personality?
2. What do you think about signs? Do they really affect personality?
3. How accurate are horoscopes? Why do you think so?
4. Do you think some signs or blood types are more compatible in relationships?
5. Who was the worst person you have ever met? What was so terrible about his/her personality or character?
6. Who was the best person you have ever met? What was so wonderful about his/her personality or character?

GROUP 2

1. If a horoscope predicted love, money, or problems, would you look for love, money, or problems?
2. How would you feel if you were discriminated against because of your blood type or star sign?
3. Why do people follow horoscopes and pay attention to things like blood type?
4. Who was the best person you have ever met? What was so wonderful about his/her personality or character?
5. Who was the worst person you have ever met? What was so terrible about his/her personality or character?

GROUP 3

1. Your birth year has an effect on your personality. Why/not?
2. Your birth month has an effect on your personality. Why/not?
3. Your blood type has an effect on your personality. Why/not?
4. Horoscopes should be followed closely because they offer good advice.
5. Why do people follow horoscopes and pay attention to things like blood type?
6. Who was the best person you have ever met? What was so wonderful about his/her personality or character?

GROUP 4

1. There are certain colors, numbers, and animals that are luckier than other colors.
2. Your zodiacal sign (e.g., Pisces, Virgo, or Libra) influences who you are.
3. The sign of your birth year (e.g., rat, snake, or horse) influences who you are.
4. Why do people follow horoscopes and pay attention to things like blood type?
5. Who was the best person you have ever met? What was so wonderful about his/her personality or character?

IDIOM DEFINITIONS AND SAMPLE SENTENCES

MOVER AND SHAKER

“Martha is the **mover and shaker** in the department. She’s always got ideas to help move things forward.”

A **mover and shaker** is an active person who helps his or her company, organization, or group make progress.

DOWN-TO-EARTH

“I like working with Janet because she’s so **down-to-earth**. Her plans and expectations are very reasonable.”

A person who is **down-to-earth** is practical, sensible, and realistic. Being down-to-earth is the opposite of being a dreamer, visionary, or “having your head in the clouds.”

SOCIAL BUTTERFLY

“I’m more reserved, but my mother is a **social butterfly**.”

A **social butterfly** is an extroverted person who loves to socialize. Like a butterfly goes quickly from flower to flower, a “social butterfly” often goes around a room having conversations with many people.

DAREDEVIL

A daredevil is a person who takes unnecessary risks and does extremely dangerous activities just to seek attention.

Example : John’s daredevil stunts with the skateboard are sure to end in a disaster someday.

HIGH-HANDED

If someone is high-handed, they behave arrogantly and pompously.

DOWN IN THE DUMPS

Discouraged; depressed; or sad; melancholy; blue, down

Example *She’s been down in the dumps ever since she lost Her Friend.*

LAUGHING STOCK

If someone becomes a laughing stock they do something so stupid or wrong that no one can take them seriously and people scorn and laugh at them.

STICKLER FOR THE RULES

“Clean up the classroom after you’re done with your project. The teacher’s a **stickler for neatness**.”

Someone who is a “**stickler for [something]**” is a person who strongly insists on that quality or behavior, and wants or expects other people to maintain the same standard. People are usually sticklers for some rule of correctness, such as neatness/cleanliness, punctuality, correct grammar, tradition, accuracy, etc.

KNOW-IT-ALL / SMART ALEC / WISE GUY

“I tried to give advice, but my **know-it-all** co-worker wouldn’t even listen.”

A **know-it-all** is a person who thinks he/she knows everything, and that his/her opinions and ideas are the best. The idioms “**smart alec**” and “**wise guy**” are similar, but have more of a connotation of a person who demonstrates his/her cleverness in an arrogant or sarcastic way.

PARTY POOPER

“I hate to be a **party pooper**, but we should probably turn down the music – our neighbors are probably trying to sleep.”

Describes a person who discourages fun or enjoyment for other people, or who prevents other people from having fun, through his/her actions or his/her negative attitudes.

Mover and Shaker

Down-to-Earth

Social Butterfly

Daredevil

High-Handed

Down in the Dumps

Laughing Stock

Stickler for the Rules

**Know-It-All / Smart Alec
/ Wise Guy**

Party Pooper

STUDENT HANDOUT

What's Your Blood Type?

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best choice in column B

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