

Personality Traits

Pre-task: Questionnaire about birth order and personality traits

Where do you come in your family? Do you believe that your birth order is related to your personality development? Please complete the questionnaire about your position in the family and say something about your personality traits.

Name:	Please tick your birth order: <input type="checkbox"/> First-born Child <input type="checkbox"/> Middle Child <input type="checkbox"/> Only Child <input type="checkbox"/> The youngest Child	
1. How many brothers and sisters do you have?	Description:	
2. Please take a look at the personality traits in the right column and tick the traits that describe you.	<input type="checkbox"/> Dependable <input type="checkbox"/> Well-organized <input type="checkbox"/> Responsible <input type="checkbox"/> Good self- control <input type="checkbox"/> High achiever <input type="checkbox"/> Cautious <input type="checkbox"/> Spoilt <input type="checkbox"/> Objective <input type="checkbox"/> Demanding <input type="checkbox"/> Conscientious <input type="checkbox"/> Independent <input type="checkbox"/> Self-confident <input type="checkbox"/> Reliable <input type="checkbox"/> High achiever <input type="checkbox"/> Serious <input type="checkbox"/> Supporter of law and order <input type="checkbox"/> Humorous <input type="checkbox"/> A perfectionist <input type="checkbox"/> Patient <input type="checkbox"/> Disorganized <input type="checkbox"/> Introvert <input type="checkbox"/> Dependent <input type="checkbox"/> Diligent	<input type="checkbox"/> Irresponsible <input type="checkbox"/> Spoilt <input type="checkbox"/> Impatient <input type="checkbox"/> Uncomplicated <input type="checkbox"/> Outgoing <input type="checkbox"/> Creative <input type="checkbox"/> A negotiator <input type="checkbox"/> Shy and quiet <input type="checkbox"/> Calm <input type="checkbox"/> Even-tempered <input type="checkbox"/> Competitive <input type="checkbox"/> Easygoing <input type="checkbox"/> Friendly <input type="checkbox"/> A peace-maker <input type="checkbox"/> A people-pleaser <input type="checkbox"/> A great listener <input type="checkbox"/> Responsible <input type="checkbox"/> Bossy <input type="checkbox"/> Intimidating <input type="checkbox"/> Competent <input type="checkbox"/> Studious <input type="checkbox"/> Extrovert <input type="checkbox"/> Messy <input type="checkbox"/> Amiable <input type="checkbox"/> Picky
3. Are there any other personality traits you have but cannot find on the list above? Please write them in the right column.		

Task 2: Questionnaire of your partner's birth order and personality traits

Do you want to know how your partner describes himself/herself? Please interview him/her and check his/her personality traits on the following chart by using the useful expressions or your own words.

Useful expressions for interviewing people	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Can you tell me what kind of person do you think you are? 2. Do you think you are...? 3. Can you describe yourself briefly? 4. Is there anyone saying you are...?
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Your partner's personality traits:

Your partner's name:	Please tick his/her birth order:	
	<input type="checkbox"/> First-born Child <input type="checkbox"/> Middle Child <input type="checkbox"/> The Only Child <input type="checkbox"/> The youngest Child	
1. How many brothers and sisters does your partner have?	Description:	
2. Please take a look at the personality traits in the right column and tick the traits that describe your partner.	<input type="checkbox"/> Dependable <input type="checkbox"/> Well-organized <input type="checkbox"/> Responsible <input type="checkbox"/> Good self- control <input type="checkbox"/> High achiever <input type="checkbox"/> Cautious <input type="checkbox"/> Spoilt <input type="checkbox"/> Objective <input type="checkbox"/> Demanding <input type="checkbox"/> Conscientious <input type="checkbox"/> Independent <input type="checkbox"/> Self-confident <input type="checkbox"/> Reliable <input type="checkbox"/> High achiever <input type="checkbox"/> Serious <input type="checkbox"/> Supporter of law and order <input type="checkbox"/> Humorous <input type="checkbox"/> A perfectionist <input type="checkbox"/> Patient <input type="checkbox"/> Disorganized <input type="checkbox"/> Introvert <input type="checkbox"/> Dependent <input type="checkbox"/> Diligent	<input type="checkbox"/> Irresponsible <input type="checkbox"/> Spoilt <input type="checkbox"/> Impatient <input type="checkbox"/> Uncomplicated <input type="checkbox"/> Outgoing <input type="checkbox"/> Creative <input type="checkbox"/> A negotiator <input type="checkbox"/> Shy and quiet <input type="checkbox"/> Calm <input type="checkbox"/> Even-tempered <input type="checkbox"/> Competitive <input type="checkbox"/> Easygoing <input type="checkbox"/> Friendly <input type="checkbox"/> A peace-maker <input type="checkbox"/> A people-pleaser <input type="checkbox"/> A great listener <input type="checkbox"/> Responsible <input type="checkbox"/> Bossy <input type="checkbox"/> Intimidating <input type="checkbox"/> Competent <input type="checkbox"/> Studious <input type="checkbox"/> Extrovert <input type="checkbox"/> Messy <input type="checkbox"/> Amiable <input type="checkbox"/> Picky

Task 1: Taiwanese celebrities' birth order and their personality traits

According to the discussion with your partner, do you believe birth order influences personality development? Some people do, others don't. Look at the Taiwanese celebrities below, then work with your partner and guess their birth orders according to the personality traits they have.

1.

<p>Name: Jay Chou</p>	<p>Personality Traits</p>
	<p>I am described as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • dependable • well-organized • responsible • independent • high achiever • demanding • unforgiving • sensitive
<p>Jay Chou is a pop singer. Chou's music mixes Western R&B and hip-hop with a distinctive Chinese flavour. "In order to be noticed in the West, Chinese culture is the starting point," he told Reuters in a recent interview.</p>	<p>Please guess and tick my birth order.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> First-born Child</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Middle Child</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Only Child</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> The youngest Child</p>

2.

<p>Name: Wang Yung-ching</p>	<p>Personality Traits</p>
	<p>I am described as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • responsible • conscientious • independent • a high achiever • natural leader • well-organized • reliable • punctual • bossy • moody • intimidating • a perfectionist • picky • competent
<p>Mr. Wang Yung-ching is an influential entrepreneur with a large business empire in Taiwan.</p>	<p>Please guess and tick my birth order.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> First-born Child</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Middle Child</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Only Child</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> The youngest Child</p>

3.

Name: Takeshi Kaneshiro	Personality Traits
	<p>I am described as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • selfish • disorganized • irresponsible • a risk-taker • impatient • uncomplicated • inattentive • unrealistic
<p>Takeshi, born and raised in Taiwan by a Taiwanese mother and Japanese father, plays the leading role in the kung-fu film <i>Flying Daggers</i>.</p>	<p>Please guess and tick my birth order.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> First-born Child</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Middle Child</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Only Child</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> The youngest Child</p>

4.

Name: Ang Lee	Personality Traits
	<p>I am described as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a negotiator • shy and quiet • calm • even-tempered • indecisive • friendly • a peace maker • a people-pleaser • a great listener
<p>Ang Lee, Taiwanese film director, is a critically and commercially successful in the film industry. His first Hollywood-mainstream movie was <i>Sense and Sensibility</i> (1995); others are <i>Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon</i> and <i>Hulk</i>.</p>	<p>Please guess and tick my birth order.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> First-born Child</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Middle Child</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Only Child</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> The youngest Child</p>

Reading

In-task

Task 4: Listen to teacher's reading

Are you ready to know how birth order influences your personality development? Before exploring the text, please listen to teacher reading the text for you first.

Task 5: Skimming for general understanding

Do you hear anything interesting or surprising in your teacher's reading? Now check the text and see more interesting and surprising points.

Birth order factor and your personality: 8 facts that might surprise you¹

Discover how your personality is influenced by your position in the family. Read this extract about the connection between birth order and personality and find out.

Only Children

Positives: Only children are the movers and shakers- task-orientated, highly organised, conscientious and reliable. They like concrete facts and details, and are comfortable with responsibility.

Negatives: The negative characteristics of only children can be difficult to put up with. Often unforgiving, they can be demanding and unwilling to admit it when they're wrong. They generally don't accept criticism too well. Other people may think of them as sensitive and indeed, their feelings are easily hurt.

First-borns

Positives: Natural leaders, first-borns are often high achievers- many politicians, spokespersons and managing directors are first-borns. They frequently have a sense of entitlement and possibly superiority. Some are compliant nurturers/caregivers, while others are aggressive movers and shakers. They are both in control, but use different methods. Generally, first-borns are picky, precise people that pay heed to details, tending to be punctual, competent and organised. They want to see things done correctly first time around and dislike surprises.

Negatives: They are frequently moody, and they occasionally lack sensitivity. They can be intimidating, especially by pushing people too hard or refusing to take no for an answer. They are sometimes a bit 'know-it-all' and are often poor at delegating –

¹ Based on an article by *Dr Kevin Leman*

http://www.ivillage.co.uk/relationships/famfri/family/articles/0,,163_559974,00.html

mainly because they don't trust others as much as themselves. They also tend to be bossy perfectionists and overly conscientious.

Middle-Borns

Positives: The classic middle child is very relational; a people-pleaser who usually dislikes confrontation. They basically need to keep life smooth, and their motto might be 'peace at any price'. They are usually very calm, will roll with the punches as amiable, down-to-earth people and great listeners. They are skilled at seeing both sides of a problem and keen to make everybody happy, making them good mediators and negotiators.

Negatives: They tend to be less ambitious or driven than first-borns, but much more eager to be liked— or, at least, to be happy with other people. They can have a difficult time setting boundaries, so they can drift into 'co-dependence' by trying to please everyone. They are not good at making decisions which offend others and tend to blame themselves for the failures of others.

Last-Borns

Positives: Last-borns are the cheerleaders of the world. They have good social skills and love to entertain and talk to other people. They make friends readily, and quickly make others feel at home. They're extrovert, energised by the presence of other people and probably not afraid of taking risks.

Negatives: Last-borns often tend to get bored fast. They are fearful of rejection and have a short attention span. When the fun stops, they've had enough and want to check out. To some extent they're self-centred. They can harbour unrealistic expectations of finding a relationship that's always fun, and, of course, such relationships simply do not last.

How do you fit into the mix? Do you think your birth order has influenced your personality?

Task 6: Reading comprehension

Do you find more interesting bits after reading the text? Please share what you find in the text with your partner and discuss the questions below. You can work out answers by referring to the text you read while discussing.

1. Did you guess right in **Task 3** according the reading? Based on the text you read, can you tell me who is first-, middle-, only-, and last-born?

Image you are a kindergarten teacher working with a group of children named Nick, Jennifer, Alan, Martin and Melissa. Read the following questions and think who best fits the situation below, according to what you read in the text.

2. One day Jennifer dragged Melissa to the teachers' office and asked teachers to discipline her? Would Jennifer be first-, only-, middle- or last-born?

3. Alan is a good helper, putting away scattered toys in the classroom. Would he be first-, only-, middle- or last-born?

4. Jennifer rarely comes back to class late after the break. Would she be first-, only-, middle- or last-born?

5. Melissa rarely concentrates during story time and is not willing to share toys with other children. Would she be first-, only-, middle- or last-born?

6. Martin stands on the playground and does not know what he should do, slide or swing? Would he be first-, only-, middle- or last-born?

7. Nick is friendly, and other children like to play with him. Would he be first-, only-, middle- or last-born?

Task 7: Clarifying meanings and grouping

After reading the text, you might notice personality traits can be positive, negative or neutral. Which traits do you think are positive, negative or neutral? Please discuss with your partner and tick (✓) in the bracket for positive, cross (×) for negative and leave in the bracket blank for neutral. Use your dictionary if not sure about meanings of the words or expressions.

() Dependable	() Independent	() Irresponsible	() Patient
() Well-organized	() Excellent in academic and professional achievements	() Spoilt	() Shy and quiet
() Responsible	() Self-confident	() Picky	() Calm
() Well-behaved	() Reliable	() Impatient	() Competitive
() Self-controlled	() High achiever	() Outgoing	() Easygoing
() Cautious	() Serious	() Amiable	() Friendly
() Objective	() Supporter of law and order	() A negotiator	() A peace-maker
() Demanding	() A perfectionist	() Diligent	() A
() Conscientious	() Bossy	() Self-centred	people-pleaser
() Subjective	() Competent	() Uncomplicated	() Even-tempered
() Hard-working	() Dependent	() Precise	() A great listener
() Selfish		() Disorganized	() Messy
() Extrovert		() Hot-tempered	() Studious
() Simple		() An effective team player	() Introvert
() Complicated			() Humorous
			() Intimidating

Task 8: Grouping-synonym and antonym

In the text, do you find words for personality traits description contradictory while others have similar meanings? Synonyms are words or expressions with same or similar meanings, antonyms mean opposite. Please work in pairs and categorize words or expressions above as synonyms or antonyms. An example is provided.

Example:

Synonym
1. Selfish
2. Self-centred

Antonym
1. Introvert
2. Extrovert

Synonym

Antonym

Synonym

Antonym

Synonym

Antonym

Synonym

Antonym

Synonym

Antonym

Synonym

Antonym

Task 9: Share in words/expressions grouping work

Listen to other groups' grouping work and compare theirs to yours. If you find any different answers between groups, please write them down.

Synonym
Antonym
Synonym
Antonym

Task 10: Learners' note

Do you learn new words from the texts you read? Do your peers teach you any new words? Do you know how to group negative, positive, and neutral personality traits? Are you happy with the synonym and antonym grouping activity? How will you put the new words and categorized personality traits in your vocabulary notebook and reorganize your vocabulary notebook? You can choose to follow the vocabulary notebook model below or else organize yours in your own way.

New Words	Definition	Sample sentences

Post-task

Task 11: Lexical-Grammar discovery

Do you notice that the phrase '*tend to*' appears in the text many times? Can you read the text again and circle '*tend to*' in the text when reading. Observe how it is used and discuss the following questions in class.

1. What does '*tend to*' mean in the text? For instance, only-borns are task-orientated; *tend to* be extremely well organised, highly conscientious and dependable. Does it mean most only-borns are likely to be organized? Or does it mean the opposite?

2. According to how 'tend to' is used in the text, please work out and formulate the usages of 'tend to'? When formulating the usages of 'tend to', please give examples in the text to support your formulation.

3. According to your observation and formulation above, please make four sentences by using 'tend to'?

Task 12: How about your student

Now do you believe that birth order affects people's personality traits? When you work at the kindergarten as a trainee, do you find birth order influences your students' behaviours? Now choose one child in your group at the kindergarten to discuss with your partner (about his/her personality) by using the words or expressions learned in the previous tasks. Please complete the personality chart below.

Your student's name:	Personality Traits
	He/She is described as:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • _____
<p>Please stick your student's photo in the column above.</p>	<p>Please guess and tick his/her birth order.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> First-born Child</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Middle Child</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Only Child</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> The youngest Child</p>

Task 13: Describe your student

After discussing your students with your partner, please use the finished personality chart and structure '*tend to*' in **Task 11**, plus words and expressions in previous tasks, to write a short paragraph to describe your student.
