

LEARN 11 USEFUL CHARACTER ADJECTIVES FROM THE MOVIES!

Do you ever have problems describing people? No worries! In this lesson, we'll give you 11 practical ways to define someone's personality using popular film characters to help you remember the words! So, join us at the cinema and learn **11 useful character adjectives from the movies!** by **Danielle Mistretta** [US spelling]



1 Forgetful

Meaning: If someone is *forgetful*, it's hard for them to remember things.

Example: In the movie *Finding Dory*, the main character Dory is a **forgetful** little blue fish. She has trouble remembering lots of things, including her name, her family and her past.

Film info: *Finding Dory* (2016) is directed by Andrew Stanton, and stars Ellen DeGeneres, Albert Brooks and Hayden Rolence



2 Narcissistic

Meaning: If someone is narcissistic, they think they're very special and more important than others.

Example: In the movie *Beauty and the Beast*, the villain Gaston is **narcissistic**. He's **obsessed with** himself and his appearance (he's always looking in the mirror), and he has a lack of **empathy** for others.

Film info: *Beauty and the Beast* (2017) is directed by Bill Condon and stars Emma Watson, Dan Stevens and Luke Evans



3 Hard-working

Meaning: If you're hard-working, you work a lot.

Example: In the movie, *Monsters University*, Mike is very **hard-working** and **studious**. He wants to help a team of **outsiders** win a contest and get back into the monster-college **Scare** Program.

Film info: *Monsters University* (2013) is directed by Dan Scanlon and stars Billy Crystal and John Goodman



4 Calculating

Meaning: If someone is calculating, they make careful plans so they can get what they want in life.

Example: In the movie *The Lion King*, the baddie Scar is extremely **calculating**. He **devises** a plan to kill his brother, King Mufasa. After doing that, he **blames** this on his nephew, Simba.

Film info: *The Lion King* (1994) is directed by Rob Minkoff and Roger Allers and stars Matthew Broderick and Jeremy Irons



5 Smart

Meaning: If you're smart, you're intelligent and you can learn and understand things quickly and easily.

Example: In the movie *Matilda*, the little girl Matilda is very **smart** for her age. She teaches herself to read at the age of 3 and she can read adult books by the time she's four.

Film info: *Matilda* (1996) is directed by Danny DeVito and stars Mara Wilson, Danny DeVito, Pam Ferris and Embeth Davidtz



6 Loyal

Meaning: If you're **loyal**, you give constant support to a person or group and always help them and act honestly towards them.

Example: In the movie *Toy Story*, Woody is loyal to his friends and owner, Andy. He always wants to **be there for** Andy, even when Andy grows up and goes to college.

Film info: *Toy Story* (1995) is directed by John Lasseter and stars Tom Hanks. Tim Allen and John Morris



8 Talented

Meaning: If you're **talented**, you have a natural ability or skill.

Example: In the movie *McFarland, USA*, coach White notices a group of talented runners in his gym class. He forms a **cross-country** team that competes in races against other schools with more experienced runners.

Film info: *McFarland, USA* (2015) is directed by Niki Caro and stars Kevin Costner, Carlos Chalabi and Hector Duran



10 Mean

Meaning: If someone is **mean**, they're unkind or cruel to other people.

Example: In the movie *Back to the Future*, Biff is a mean **bully**. For example, he gets George McFly and other students to do his homework for him.

Film info: *Back to the Future* (1985) is directed by Robert Zemeckis and stars Michael J. Fox and Christopher Lloyd



7 Nervous

Meaning: If you're **nervous**, you worry about things, or you're afraid of what might happen.

Example: In the movie *Inside Out*, the character Fear is always nervous. At the first sign of trouble, he becomes **anxious** and frightened. And he's always ready to make lists of everything that could possibly go wrong.

Film info: *Inside Out* (2015) is directed by Pete Docter and stars Amy Poehler, Phyllis Smith and Bill Hader



9 Demanding

Meaning: If someone is **demanding**, they have very high standards and want everyone else to have these standards too.

Example: In the movie *The Devil Wears Prada*, the boss Miranda Presley is very demanding. She has always worked very hard, and she expects everyone else to do the same.

Film info: *Devil Wears Prada* (2006) is directed by David Frankel and stars Meryl Streep, Anne Hathaway and Emily Blunt



11 Naive

Meaning: If someone is **naive**, they're very innocent and have a lack of experience in life.

Example: In the movie *Elf*, Buddy is a naive character. He's a human who grew up in the North Pole with **elves**. One day, he goes to New York City for the first time and soon realises that things are very different there.

Film info: *Elf* (2003) is directed by David Berenbaum and stars Will Ferrel and Zoey Deschanel



GLOSSARY

a character ⁿ

1. a person in a film or book; 2. your "character" is the way you are and the things that make you different from other people

trouble ⁿ

if you have "trouble" doing something, that thing is difficult for you

obsessed with ^{exp}

if someone is "obsessed with" something, they think about that thing all the time

empathy ⁿ

if you have "empathy" for others, you can understand and feel the things other people feel

studious ^{adj}

a "studious" person is someone who reads and studies a lot

an outsider ⁿ

an "outsider" is someone who is different from other people and who isn't accepted in a group

to scare ^{vb}

to frighten

a baddie ⁿ

the bad, evil person in a film or book

to devise ^{vb}

if you "devise" a plan, you think of it and prepare it

to blame ^{vb}

if you "blame" Person A for something bad, you say that Person A did this bad thing

be there for someone ^{exp}

if you "are there for someone", you're always ready to help and support this person

anxious ^{adj}

someone who is "anxious" is nervous and worried about things

a coach ⁿ

the person who trains and prepares a sports team

cross-country (race, sport, etc.) ^{adj}

a "cross-country" sport or race involves running or skiing over the countryside

a bully ⁿ

a person who attacks or abuses a younger or weaker person, or a person in a weaker position

an elf (elves) ⁿ

a magical, imaginary person who play tricks on humans or who helps Santa Claus

LEARN 11 USEFUL CHARACTER ADJECTIVES FROM THE MOVIES! EXERCISES



Now try these exercises to see how much you can remember!

Answers on page 44

1 Description completion

Write a word from below next to each definition.

demanding **calculating** **loyal** **naive** **smart** **nervous**

mean **narcissistic** **hard-working** **forgetful** **talented**

1. If you're like this, you worry about things, or you're afraid of what might happen = _____
2. If someone is like this, they're unkind or cruel to other people = _____
3. If you're like this, you work a lot = _____
4. If you're like this, you always act like a friend to someone, even in difficult times = _____
5. If someone is like this, it's hard for them to remember things = _____



6. If someone is like this, they expect the best from everyone else, and they aren't easily pleased = _____
7. If you're like this, you're intelligent and you can learn and understand things quickly and easily = _____
8. If someone is like this, they think they're very special and more important than others = _____
9. If someone is like this, they're very innocent and have a lack of experience in life = _____
10. If you're like this, you have a natural ability or skill = _____
11. If someone is like this, they make careful plans so they can get what they want in life = _____

2 Gap fill

Write a character word from the previous activity next to each sentence.

1. She always stands by her friends and family, even in difficult times. She's _____.
2. He can never remember his password. He's _____.
3. She forces the other students to do her homework. She's _____.
4. She taught herself to read at the age of 3. She's _____.
5. He's really good at writing poems and short stories. He's _____.
6. He does more than 15 hours a day in his job. He's _____.
7. He only stopped believing in Santa last year at the age of 19! He's so _____.
8. She devised a cunning plan to take control of the business. She's _____.
9. At the first sight of trouble, he becomes anxious and frightened. He's _____.
10. He's always looking in the mirror, and he thinks he's the most amazing person in the world. He's _____.
11. She's never satisfied with our work – it's a nightmare. = She's very _____.

