

Lesson 11: Personality & Character

And now let's learn some words about human character and personality.

Intelligence (Интеллэкт)

Let's start with a person's intelligence. A very common word to describe an intelligent person is 'smart' ('**у́мный**'). We can describe a creative person who can find unique and unexpected solutions to problems as '**нахо́дчивый**'. Someone who has lots of life experience, knowledge, and ability to make good decisions is 'wise' (**му́дрый**).

The opposite of 'smart' is 'stupid' (**глу́пый**) or dumb (**тупо́й**). Please, note that these words are strong and insulting. 'A fool' in Russian is **дура́к** – it describes a person who lacks common sense, and who does foolish things. This is also a strong and insulting word.



Work Ethic (Отноше́ние к рабо́те)

A person's work ethic is their attitude towards work. A company wants to hire people who are hard-working (**трудолю́бный**), reliable (**отвэ́тственный** – meaning you can depend on them; you know they will get things done) and diligent (**ста́рательный**).

There is also a word 'ambitious' (**амбицио́зный**) meaning someone who strongly desires a lot of success. That can be considered a good or bad trait depending on the means a person uses to achieve his or her goals.

The opposite of 'hard-working' is 'lazy' (**ленíвый**) – a person who is not active and doesn't like to work. The opposite of 'reliable' is 'unreliable' (**безотвэ́тственный**). You can't have certainty that an unreliable person will do their job.

Another bad characteristic for a worker is 'careless' (**невнимательный**) – the opposite of 'careful'. A careless person doesn't pay attention, increasing the possibility of making mistakes.



Трудолюбивый

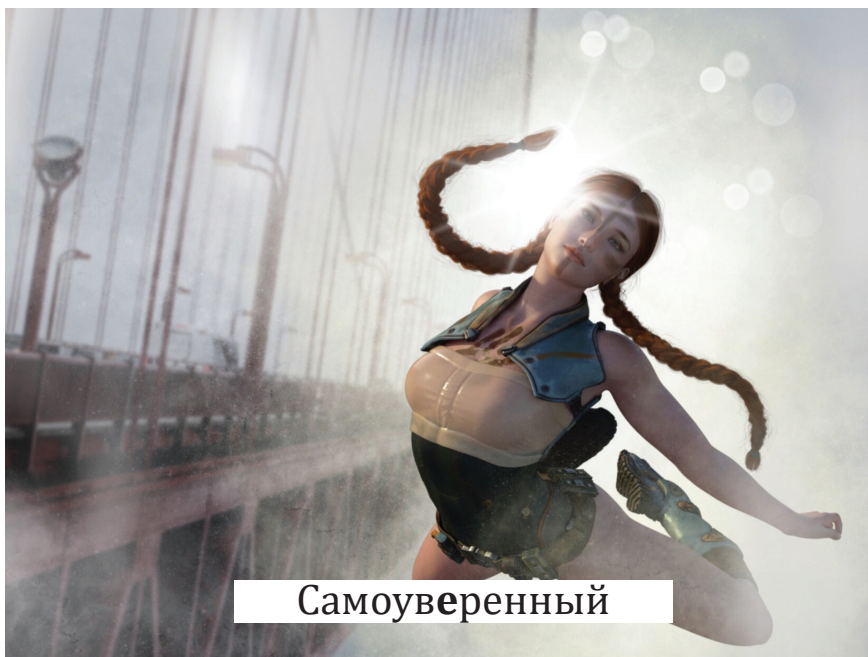


Ленивый

Confidence (Увѣренность)

A self-confident person is called '**самоуверенный**'. This word has a bit negative meaning. If a person has too much self-confidence and feels superior to others, such person is 'arrogant' (**высокомерный**). And someone who cares too much about their appearance is 'vain' (**тщеславный**). The opposite of 'arrogant' is 'humble' (**скромный**) – someone who is modest and who does not call to attention to their own greatness.

People's confidence affects the way they make decisions. Someone who is 'decisive' (**решительный**) makes firm decisions and is confident about them. The opposite is an 'indecisive' (**нерешительный**) person – someone who feels 'insecure' (**неуверенно**) (not confident) and has difficulties making final decisions, or who constantly jumps from one option to another without any commitment. An insecure person (**неуверенный в себе**) may also be 'sensitive' (**чувствительный**) (meaning their feelings are easily hurt).



Самоуверенный

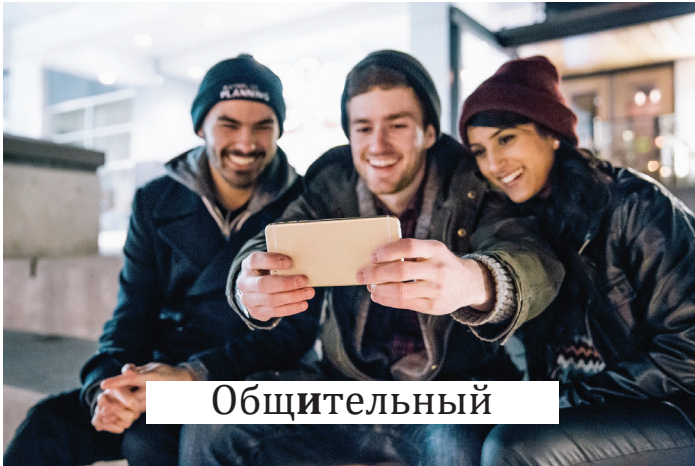


Скромный

Social Relations (Социальные отношения)

Different people react to social situations differently. Someone can be 'outgoing' (**общительный**) or 'extroverted' (**экстрове́рт**), and loves being in social situations and interacting with other people. Outgoing people are often 'talkative' (**разговóрчи-вый**) or even 'chatty' (**болтли́вый**) – meaning they talk a lot!

The opposite is someone who is 'reserved' (**за́мкнутый**) or 'shy' (**стесни́тельный**) – this is a quiet person who doesn't like being the center of attention and prefers being alone.



Общительный



Замкнутый

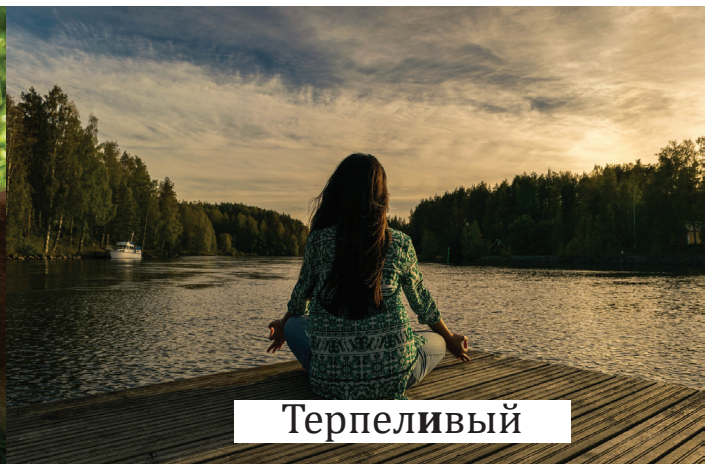
As for the way to treat other people, it's good to be 'kind' (**добрый**) (someone who treats others well), 'nice' (**хороший**) (meaning 'pleasant' (**сла́вный**) and 'friendly' (**дружелю́бный**)) and 'considerate' (**такти́чный**) – someone who thinks about people's feelings and tries not to hurt them). 'Polite' (**ве́жливый**) is a great word too.

The opposite of 'kind' is 'mean' (**злой**) or 'nasty' (**скве́рный**) (someone who treats other people badly). And even stronger word is 'cruel' (**жесто́кий**) – a person who intentionally causes others to suffer. And it's not good to be 'rude' (**гру́бый**) or 'inconsiderate' (**беста́ктный**) – meaning someone who is not polite and who doesn't think about others' feelings.

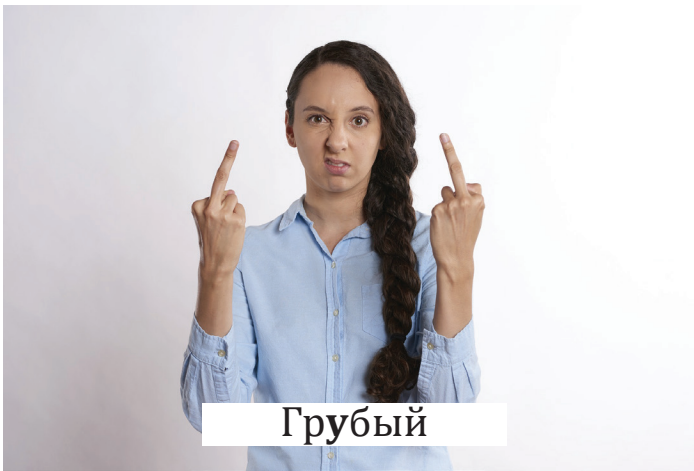
If someone is easily irritated, such person is 'short-tempered' (**вспы́льчивый**). The opposite is 'patient' (**терпели́вый**) and 'easy-going' (**споко́йный**) – an easy-going person is relaxed, flexible and easy to relate to.



Добрый



Терпеливый



Грубый



Жестокий

Money (Дéньги)

There are some words describing attitude towards money and resources.

Someone who likes to share and give away their money, time, and possessions is called 'generous' (**щéдный**), and someone who prefers to keep everything for themselves is 'selfish' or 'greedy' (**жа́дный**). Another word for such person is 'stingy' (**скупóй**).



Щедрый



Скупой

Challenge (Вы́зов)

Finally, let's talk about a person's reaction to challenges and difficulties (**слóжность**).

Someone who loves having new experiences is 'adventurous' (**рискóванный**), and someone with a lot of courage is 'brave' (**хра́брый**). A stronger word for 'brave' is 'fearless' (**бесстра́шный**) – someone who seems not to know what the fear is.

The opposite of being brave is being a coward (**трус**) – someone who has no courage.

We often use slang expressions, for example, we say a person "doesn't have guts" (**кишкá тонкá**) to do something, or he/she is too weak for this (**емý/ей слабó**).



Храбрый



Бесстрашный

Упражнения по произношению (Pronunciation practice)

Интеллэ́кт, у́мный, нахо́дчивый, му́дрый, глúпый, тупо́й, дура́к, отноше́ние к рабо́те, трудолю́бный, отве́тственный, стара́тельный, амбицио́зный, лени́вый, безответсте́нный, невнима́тельный, уве́ренность, самоуве́ренный, высокоме́рный, тщесла́вный, скро́мный, решíteльный, нерешíteльный, неуве́ренно, неуве́ренный в себе́, чувствíteльный, социа́льные отноше́ния, общíteльный, экстрове́рт, разгово́рчивый, болтли́вый, за́мкнутый, стесни́тельный, добрый, хороший, сла́вный, дружелю́бный, такти́чный, ве́жливый, злой, скве́рный, жесто́кий, гру́бый, бестáктный, вспы́льчивый, терпели́вый, споко́йный, ще́дный, жа́дный, скупóй, в́изов, сло́жность, риско́ванный, хра́брый, бесстра́шный, трус, кишкá тонкá, емý слабó, ей слабó.

Quiz 1. A Story

Умный, глупый, рискованный, трус, славный, щедрый, добрый, честолюбивый, бесстрашный, скупой.

I don't like с _____ people who have a lot of money, but never spend it easily. What's the point of having money if you don't spend it? I don't think they are very у _____.

I also do not understand р _____ people, who risk their life for a momentary surge of adrenaline. Do they picture themselves as б _____? Doesn't it look like they are ч _____? I am not a т _____, I think I am too г _____ to understand it.

I love д _____ people who are kind not only to people, but animals too. I know a lot of с _____ guys and girls who help others. They are extremely щ _____ with their time and resources.

Quiz 2. Fill in the blanks

У него кишка тонка, болтливый, ленивый, тактичный, трудолюбивый, грубый, терпеливый, общительный, самоуверенный, мудрый.

1. Far in the mountain, lived a very _____ oldman.
2. I don't think he has enough courage to do it, _____.
3. He is so _____, I was shocked to see how calmly he speaks with him!
4. I don't think he can do it. He is too _____ and it is bad for a representative.
5. He is a great diplomat! He is _____ so everyone just falls for him.
6. She is exhausted, I don't know how someone can be that _____.
7. I cannot gather myself for a month already, why am I so _____?
8. I have a headache each time I talk to him. He is so _____.
9. He is very _____, one day he will make a mistake that will cost him dearly.
10. She is so _____, she has more than a hundred real friends she can spend time with!

Quiz 3. Match the words

Match the word from the left column to the words in the list.

Храбрый, умный, решительный, трудолюбивый, злой, скромный, замкнутый, тактичный, щедрый, дурак.

Добрый	
Жадный	
Трус	
Бестактный	
Общительный	
Высокомерный	
Нерешительный	
Ленивый	
Глупый	
Мудрый	

Keys to the Quiz 1. A Story

I don't like скупой people who have a lot of money, but never spend it easily. What's the point of having money if you don't spend it? I don't think they are very умный.

I also do not understand рискованный people, who risk their life for a momentary surge of adrenaline. Do they picture themselves as бесстрашный? Doesn't it look like they are честлюбивый? I am not a трус, I think I am too глупый to understand it.

I love добрый people who are kind not only to people, but animals too. I know a lot of славный guys and girls who help others. They are extremely щедрый with their time and resources.

Keys to the Quiz 2. Fill in the blanks

1. Far in the mountain, lived a very мудрый oldman.
2. I don't think he has enough courage to do it, у него кишка тонка.
3. He is so терпеливый, I was shocked to see how calmly he speaks with him!
4. I don't think he can do it. He is too грубый and it is bad for a representative.
5. He is a great diplomat! He is тактичный so everyone just falls for him.
6. She is exhausted, I don't know how someone can be that трудолюбивый.
7. I cannot gather myself for a month already, why am I so ленивый?
8. I have a headache each time I talk to him. He is so болтливый.
9. He is very самоуверенный, one day he will make a mistake that will cost him dearly.
10. She is so общительный, she has more than a hundred real friends she can spend time with!

Keys to the Quiz 3. Match the words

Добрый	Злой
Жадный	Щедрый
Трус	Храбрый
Бестактный	Тактичный
Общительный	Замкнутый
Высокомерный	Скромный
Нерешительный	Решительный
Ленивый	Трудолюбивый
Глупый	Умный
Мудрый	Дурак