

character**1. ['kærɪktə] n**

1) 1) характер; нрав

2) сильный характер

a man of character - человек с (сильным) характером, волевой человек

he has no character at all - он человек безвольный, он тряпка

3) честность; моральная устойчивость

character building - воспитательная работа; воспитание характера, формирование морального облика (*ребёнка и т. п.*)

2. характер; качество; природа

the character of the northern plains is different from that of the South - по своему характеру северные равнины отличаются от равнин юга

to see a thing in its true character - видеть вещь в её истинном свете

people of this character - люди такого рода /склада/

advertising of a very primitive character - реклама самого примитивного пошиба

3. официальное качество; положение; статус, достоинство, ранг, звание, сан

under the character of - в качестве; под именем

he spoke in the character of lawyer - он выступал в качестве адвоката

4. 1) характерная особенность; отличительный признак; свойство

the trunk is a character found only in elephants - хобот - это характерная особенность, встречающаяся только у слонов

2) *биол.* признак

innate characters - наследственные /врождённые/ признаки

acquired character - приобретённый признак

dominant [recessive] character - доминантный [рецессивный] признак

5. 1) репутация

character assassin - злостный клеветник

character assassination - злостная клевета; подрыв репутации

he has an excellent character for honesty - он имеет репутацию безукоризненно честного человека, он славится своей честностью

he has gained the character of a miser - он заслужил славу скряги

left without a shred of character - потеряв доброе имя

2) письменная рекомендация; характеристика; аттестация

character rating - *амер.* служебная характеристикаcharacter certificate - *воен.* служебная характеристика; аттестация

the servant came with a good character - слуга пришёл с хорошей рекомендацией

she gives you a bad character - она вас не хвалит

6. 1) фигура, личность

a bad character - тёмная личность

public character - общественный деятель

he was a great character in his day - в своё время он был крупной фигурой

2) *разг.* чудака, оригинал, своеобразная личность

quite a character - большой оригинал

a bit of a character - человек со странностями /с причудами/

7. 1) *лит.* герой, персонаж; тип; образ, действующее лицо2) роль (*в пьесе*)

to play the character of Macbeth - исполнять роль Макбета

8. 1) литера; буква; цифра; печатный знак

2) иероглиф; идеограмма

Chinese has no alphabet and is written in characters - китайский язык не имеет алфавита и пользуется иероглифической письменностью

3) шрифт; графика; письмо

a book in Gothic character - книга, напечатанная готическим шрифтом

Runic character - руническое письмо

4) знак (*астрономический и т. п.*); условное обозначение

magic characters - магические знаки /символы/

5) символ (*в языке ЭВМ*)

command character - управляющий символ

character display - текстовый дисплей

character graphics - символьная графика, псевдографика

character mode - текстовый /символьный/ режим

9. опознавательный знак; клеймо, марка, тавро

stamped with the character of sublimity - *образн.* отмеченный печатью величия

10. шифр, код; тайнопись

11. кабалистический знак

◇ to be in character (with) - соответствовать (*чему-л.*)

that is quite in character with the man - это очень на него похоже; для него это типично

to be out of character (with) - не соответствовать (*чему-л.*); не ввязаться, быть несовместимым (*с чем-л.*)

it is out of character for small children to sit still for a long time - маленьким детям несвойственно долго сидеть смирно

2. ['kærɪktə] a *темп.*

характерный

character actor [actress] - характерный актёр [-ая актриса]; актёр [актриса] на характерных ролях
character part - характерная роль

3. ['kærɪktə] v

1. характеризовать; давать характеристику, оценку (кому-л., чему-л.)
2. *арх.* описывать; изображать
3. *арх.* надписывать; вырезать надпись; гравировать

character

Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary 8th Ed.

char·ac·ter [character characters] *BrE* ['kærəktə(r)] [■] *NAmE* ['kærəktər] [■]

noun



QUALITIES/FEATURES

1. **countable, usually singular** all the qualities and features that make a person, groups of people, and places different from others
 - to have a **strong/weak character**
 - **character traits/defects**
 - The book gives a fascinating insight into Mrs Obama's character.
 - Generosity is part of the American character.
 - The character of the neighbourhood hasn't changed at all.
2. **countable, usually singular, uncountable** the way that sth is, or a particular quality or feature that a thing, an event or a place has
Syn: ↑nature
 - the delicate character of the light in the evening
 - The police pointed out the illegal character of the protest action.
 - buildings that are very simple **in character**
3. **uncountable (approving)** strong personal qualities such as the ability to deal with difficult or dangerous situations
 - Everyone admires her strength of character and determination.
 - He showed great character returning to the sport after his accident.
 - Adventure camps are considered to be **character-building** (= meant to improve sb's strong qualities) .
4. **uncountable (usually approving)** the interesting or unusual quality that a place or a person has
 - The modern hotels here have no real character.
 - a face with a lot of character

STRANGE/INTERESTING PERSON

5. **countable (informal)** (used with an adjective) a person, particularly an unpleasant or strange one
 - There were some really strange characters hanging around the bar.
6. **countable (informal)** an interesting or unusual person
 - She's a character!

REPUTATION

7. **countable, uncountable (formal)** the opinion that people have of you, particularly of whether you can be trusted or relied on
 - She was a victim of **character assassination** (= an unfair attack on the good opinion people had of her) .
 - a **slur/attack on his character**
 - My teacher agreed to be a **character witness** for me in court.
 - a **character reference** (= a letter that a person who knows you well writes to an employer to tell them about your good qualities)

IN BOOK/PLAY/MOVIE

8. **countable** a person or an animal in a book, play or film/movie
 - a **major/minor character** in the book
 - cartoon characters
 - Clint Eastwood's character is the most sympathetic in the movie.

SYMBOL/LETTER

9. **countable** a letter, sign, mark or symbol used in writing, printing or on computers
 - Chinese characters
 - a line 30 characters long
 - optical character recognition

Idioms: ↑in character ▪ ↑out of character

Word Origin:

Middle English: from Old French **caractere**, via Latin from Greek **kharaktēr** 'a stamping tool'. From the early sense 'distinctive mark' arose 'token, feature, or trait' (early 16th cent.), and from this 'a description, especially of a person's qualities', giving rise to

'distinguishing qualities'.

Thesaurus:

character noun

1. C, usually sing.

• He revealed his true character.

nature • • **personality** • • **temperament** • • **self** • • **make-up** • |formal disposition • • **persona** •

in sb's character/nature

a **violent** character/nature/personality/temperament

an **aspect of** sb's character/nature/personality/temperament/disposition

Which word? **Character** is used especially about sb's moral behaviour, **nature** is used especially about sb's normal way of behaving **personality** is used especially about whether sb is confident, shy, etc. with other people; **temperament** is used especially about whether sb normally stays calm, or gets angry, etc.

2. U

• the special character of the neighbourhood

nature • • **essence** • • **spirit** •

in character/nature/essence/spirit

the **real/true** character/nature/essence/spirit of sth

preserve/capture/convey/reflect/consider/understand/reveal/define the character/nature/essence of sth

Character or nature? **Character** is used more to talk about the qualities and features of physical things such as buildings; **nature** is used more to talk about the basic qualities of abstract things, such as a **problem**, **work** or **society**.

3. U (approving)

• Everyone admires her strength of character.

personality • • **charisma** • • **presence** • • **charm** •

great character/charisma/presence/charm

lack character/personality/charisma/charm

4. C

• the main characters in the novel/film/play

role • • **part** •

the character/role/part of sb

a **major/minor** character/role/part

play a character/role/part

Collocations:

Literature

Being a writer

write/publish literature/poetry/fiction/a book/a story/a poem/a novel/a review/an autobiography

become a writer/novelist/playwright

find/have a publisher/an agent

have a new book out

edit/revise/proofread a book/text/manuscript

dedicate a book/poem to...

Plot, character and atmosphere

construct/create/weave/weave sth into a complex narrative

advance/drive the plot

introduce/present the protagonist/a character

describe/depict/portray a character (as...)/(sb as) a hero/villain

create an exciting/a tense atmosphere

build/heighten the suspense/tension

evoke/capture the pathos of the situation

convey emotion/an idea/an impression/a sense of...

engage the reader

seize/capture/grip the (reader's) imagination

arouse/elicit emotion/sympathy (in the reader)

lack imagination/emotion/structure/rhythm

Language, style and imagery

use/employ language/imagery/humour/(especially US) humor/an image/a symbol/a metaphor/a device

use/adopt/develop a style/technique

be rich in/be full of symbolism

evoke images of.../a sense of.../a feeling of...

create/achieve an effect

maintain/lighten the tone

introduce/develop an idea/a theme

inspire a novel/a poet/sb's work/sb's imagination

Reading and criticism

read an author/sb's work/fiction/poetry/a text/a poem/a novel/a chapter/a passage

review a book/a novel/sb's work

give sth/get/have/receive a good/bad review

be hailed (as)/be recognized as a masterpiece

quote a phrase/line/stanza/passage/author

provoke/spark discussion/criticism
study/interpret/understand a text/passage
translate sb's work/a text/a passage/a novel/a poem

Example Bank:

- Applicants had to obtain character references before being considered for the work.
- As you move north, the landscape takes on a different character.
- Each house in the street has its own distinctive character.
- Food in Italy has a distinct regional character.
- He used to go out every night, but now he's a reformed character.
- His face has character— I'll say that for it.
- His scruffy appearance does not reflect his character.
- It's not in his character to tell lies.
- It's the basil that gives the sauce its essential character.
- She revealed her true character when anyone disagreed with her.
- She's undergone a complete character change since her promotion.
- The actors remained in character to answer questions from the audience.
- The bar was full of interesting local characters.
- The defence lawyer attempted a character assassination of the witness.
- The development detracts from the rural character of the area.
- The film also features the new character Mary Anna Morrison.
- The houses are Mediterranean in character.
- The lawyer argued that his client's violent behaviour was out of character.
- The main character is played by Nicole Kidman.
- The renovated buildings retain their traditional character.
- The restaurant is cheap and full of character.
- The team showed great character in coming back to win.
- The town centre has lost much of its original character.
- The two lead actors inhabit their characters fully.
- The writers killed off her character when she wanted to leave the soap.
- Who's that suspicious character hanging around outside?
- You must have come across some real characters, working in the circus.
- Your handwriting has a character of its own.
- a woman of impeccable moral character
- buildings of considerable character
- factors that form the character of a nation
- offences of a serious character
- the artist who developed the Superman character
- the features that make up the national character
- the individual touches that give character to a house
- the public character of material published on the Internet
- Charlie Sheen's character is the most sympathetic in the movie.
- He had been discharged without a stain on his character.
- He is a man of good character and integrity.
- He loves to draw, and is quite good at sketching his favourite cartoon characters.
- He reported several undesirable characters lurking around the estate.
- He showed great character returning to the sport after his accident.
- He was prepared to sue for defamation of character.
- I love the delicate character of the light in the evening
- It's not in his character to be so secretive.
- Most of the buildings are very simple in character.
- My teacher agreed to be a character witness for me in court.
- One of the main characters in the film is Leo Bloom, an accountant.
- She had been a young woman of impeccable character.
- She was a victim of character assassination.
- She's a reformed character nowadays.
- She, too, was a determined character and was not going to give up that easily.
- The character of the neighbourhood hasn't changed at all.
- The minor characters in the novel provide a lot of the humour.
- There were some really strange characters hanging around the bar.
- These are the Chinese characters meaning 'wind' and 'water'.
- This size of type produces a line 30 characters long.
- a character actor
- a tough/determined/shrewd character
- a/an unsavoury/undesirable/suspicious/shady character

character

Longman DOCE 5th Ed. (En-En)

char[ac]ter S1 W1 /'kærəktə, 'kæriktə \$ -ər/ BrE " AmE " noun

[Word Family: noun: ↑character, ↑characteristic, ↑characterization; adjective: ↑characteristic ≠ ↑uncharacteristic, ↑characterless;

verb ↑characterize; advert ↑characteristically ≠ ↑uncharacteristically]

[Date: 1300-1400; Language: Old French; Origin: caractere, from Latin character 'mark, particular quality'; from Greek, from charassein 'to make a mark in a surface']

1. **ALL SB'S QUALITIES** [countable usually singular] the particular combination of qualities that makes someone a particular type of person ⇒ **characteristic**:

- He has a cheerful but quiet character.
- Children grow up with a mixture of character traits (=character qualities) from both sides of their family.
- his temper and other character flaws (=bad qualities)

in character/out of character (=typical or untypical of someone's character)

- He swore, which was out of character for him.

the English/French etc character

- Openness is at the heart of the American character.

character sketch (=a description of someone's character)

2. **PERSON** [countable]

a) a person in a book, play, film etc:

- Candida is the most interesting character in the play.
- In the story, the main character has left his girlfriend and baby.
- Everyone recognizes Disney's cartoon characters.

b) a person of a particular type, especially a strange or dishonest one:

- a couple of shady characters standing on the corner
- I'm considered a reformed character these days (=someone who has stopped doing bad things).

c) an interesting and unusual person:

- Linda was something of a character.

3. **QUALITIES OF SOMETHING** [singular, uncountable] the particular combination of features and qualities that makes a thing or place different from all others **SYN nature**

character of

- The whole character of the school has changed.
- the unspoilt character of the coast

in character

- The southern state became more nationalist in character.

4. **MORAL STRENGTH** [uncountable] a combination of qualities such as courage, loyalty, and honesty that are admired and regarded as valuable:

- a woman of great character
- Schools were created to teach reading and mathematics, not moral character.
- It takes strength of character to admit you are wrong.
- Sport can be character building (=develop good moral qualities).

5. **INTERESTING QUALITY** [uncountable] a quality that makes someone or something special and interesting:

- a red wine with a meaty character
- suburban houses that lack character

6. **REPUTATION** [uncountable] *formal* the opinion that people have about whether you are a good person and can be trusted:

- a man of previous good character
- The campaign was accused of character assassination (=an unfair attack on someone's character) because of its negative ads.
- His defence called several people as character witnesses (=people who think that someone has a good character).
- Mr Wetherby wrote him a character reference (=a statement about his good qualities).

7. **LETTER/SIGN** [countable] a letter, mark, or sign used in writing, printing, or on a computer:

- the Chinese character for 'horse'

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COLLOCATIONS (for Meaning 2A)

■ **ADJECTIVES/NOUN + character**

- **the main/central/leading character** Alec is the central character in the play.
- **the lead character** (=in a play, film, or television series) DiCaprio played the lead character in Titanic.
- **a minor character** Two of the minor characters get killed.
- **a television/movie/cartoon character** Who's your favourite television character?
- **a comic/tragic character** (=a funny or sad one) Homer Simpson is a great comic character.
- **fictional/fictitious** (=not existing in real life) People sometimes forget that television characters are fictional.
- **convincing** (=seeming like a real person) The characters were totally convincing.
- **a sympathetic character** (=one you like) In the book, Jeff isn't a sympathetic character.

■ **verbs**

- **play a character** I wanted to play the character of Danny.
- **portray a character** (=show one in a play, book, film etc) The main characters are brilliantly portrayed.
- **develop a character** (=make a character become more interesting) The movie didn't develop his character as well as the book did.

■ **nouns**

- **character development** (=the process of developing characters) I thought the plot was boring and there wasn't much character development.
- **a character actor** (=an actor who plays interesting or unusual characters) He's a well-known character actor.

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