

The EPIGUIDE.COM Character Chart for Fiction Writers
This chart can be found at <http://www.epiguide.com/ep101/writing/charchart.html>

Print this page to complete the form for each main character you create. IMPORTANT: Note that all fields are optional and should be used simply as a guide; character charts should inspire you to think about your character in new ways, rather than constrain your writing. Fill in only as much info as you choose. Have fun getting to know your character!

Character's Full Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Name origin: _____

Nickname, if any (if so, explain its origin – e.g. who created it?): _____

Does s/he like the nickname? _____

Birth date: _____

Place of birth: _____

Ethnic background: _____

Religion: _____

Degree of religious practice (e.g. orthodox, casual, lapsed):: _____

Current address: _____

Does s/he rent or own? _____

Brief description of home (apartment, house, etc.): _____

Does s/he live with anyone? _____

Describe the area in which s/he lives (city, town, rural, other): _____

Is this his/her ideal home and location? If not, what would s/he prefer? _____

Home decor: Expensive Inexpensive Carefully planned Comfortable Neat Cluttered

Does s/he drive? Own a car? (Make, model, color, age, etc.): _____

Pets? (If so, what kind/how many/names?) _____

If so, how important are they? How well are they treated? _____

Current occupation (include length of time, location, job title): _____

Job satisfaction (happy, discontent, ambivalent, ambitious...): _____

Income: _____

Sexuality (e.g. straight, gay, bisexual, asexual, uncertain...): _____

Marital status: _____

If married or currently romantically involved, with whom, and for how long? _____

List any significant previous romantic partners:

For current spouse/partner, what does the character call him/her (pet names, nicknames, etc.)?

How did they meet?

Any children (include names, ages, other parent if different from any current partner):

Describe his/her relationship with children (if any)?

PHYSICAL APPEARANCE:

Height:	Weight:	Body type (thin, athletic, overweight, curvy, muscular, etc.)
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Eye color:	Need glasses/contacts/hearing aid?	Skin tone (pale, ivory, tan, olive, ruddy, brown, etc.):
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Face shape (round, oval, chubby, thin, long, square, heart-shaped, etc.):

Any prominent features, freckles/moles/scars/tattoos or other distinguishing marks:

Whom does s/he most look like (e.g. famous person or relative)?

General health (good, excellent, poor...)?

Any current health problems or chronic conditions?

How does s/he dress?

Price: Expensive Average Inexpensive Cheap

Style: Haute Couture Conservative Trendy Eclectic Business Sexy Gaudy Casual Sloppy

Why does she dress in the above manner (e.g. to be noticed)?

Any special jewelry? (If so, why is it special?) What about accessories?

Grooming: Fastidious/Very neat Average Clean but scruffy Dirty/Unkempt

If other than average, why?

Describe hairstyle (long, short, crewcut, locs, bangs, side-part etc.):

Natural hair texture (smooth, wavy, curly, etc.):

Current hair texture (if different):

Natural hair color:

Current hair color (if different):

SPEECH AND LANGUAGE/COMMUNICATION:

Pace of speech (fast, average, slow?):

Voice tone (shrill, high, average, deep, squeaky, hoarse, harsh, authoritative, cultured, etc.):

Accent/dialect, if any:

Any favorite/habitual words/phrases? Curse words?

Describe general vocabulary or speech pattern (e.g. educated, precise, pretentious, average, uneducated, vulgar...)

Mannerisms/demeanor?

Cool/confident Volatile Nervous/shy Aggressive Friendly Remote Other (describe)

Typical posture:

Stiff Stands straight but not stiffly Average, varies with mood Slumped/defeated Slouchy, careless

Relaxed Other (describe)

Gestures: Rarely Controlled When excited Most of the time Wildly/oddly Other (describe)

Common/habitual gestures (e.g. nail-biting, hair patting, drumming fingers, clenched fists, hands in pockets, etc.):

EVERYDAY BEHAVIOR / HABITS:

Finances: (prudent/cautious, some debt, lives paycheck to paycheck, deep in debt, criminal activity, etc.):

Personal Habits: Smoking, Drinking, Drugs, Gambling, etc.? Are any of these addictions?

Morning Routine: Describe the character's morning rituals. Who else is sleeping in the same bed? What time does he/she wake up? Is he/she cheerful in the morning? What does he/she do during breakfast-read, watch tv, feed kids, etc.

Afternoon/Workday: Does s/he work outside the home? How does he/she get there? Is s/he good at this job? What if anything would he/she rather be doing? How long and hard is the work day? If the job isn't outside the home, what does a typical afternoon consist of?

Dinner: Does s/he eat at home or go out a lot? What is/are his or her favorite restaurant(s)? Who cooks at home? Does s/he eat alone?

Evening: What does your character do on a typical evening? Where? With whom? How much does he/she enjoy it? What is the ideal evening for him or her?

Sleep Habits: Fall asleep easily, or an insomniac? Any recurring dreams? Sleep soundly, or toss & turn?

Any special talents? Skills?

What is s/he particularly *unskilled* at?

Any hobbies (sports, games, arts, collecting, etc.)?

FAMILY OF ORIGIN:

Mother's name (include maiden name if known/applicable):

Current status: living deceased (If alive, enter age: _____)

Mother's occupation, if any:

Describe the mother's relationship with character:

Father's name:

Current status: living deceased (If alive, enter age: _____)

Father's occupation, if any:

Describe the father's relationship with character:

Any step-parents, foster parents, or birth parents (if not same as above):

(If s/he is adopted, does s/he know? If not, why?)

Sibling(s) (include age and birth order relative to main character):

Relationship(s) with character:

Nieces/Nephews:

In-Laws, if any:

Other than the above, who else in the story is part of his/her extended family (e.g. cousins, etc.)?

THE PAST:

Home town (if different from current home):

Was his/her childhood happy? Troubled? Dull? Does the character remember it accurately?

Earliest memory:

Happiest memory:

Saddest memory:

How much school did s/he attend, if any? Did/does s/he like school? Why or why not?

Most significant childhood event:

Other significant childhood events:

Significant past jobs:

Police record (explain any convictions, sentence served, where/when):

First crush/romantic love?

What was his/her first sexual experience? Is it a positive or negative memory?

Major illnesses, accidents or traumas? How is s/he still affected, if at all?

RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHERS:

Who is his/her best friend?

Who are his/her other close friends?

How in general does the character relate to friends?

... to strangers?

... to spouse/Lover?

... to past spouses/lovers?

... to own children, if any?

... to other family members?

... to the same sex?

... to the opposite sex?

... to children in general?

... to others who are more successful?

... to others who are less successful?

... to boss (if any)?

... to underlings at work?

... to competitors?

... to authority (police, IRS, politicians, attorneys, doctors, etc.)?

What do most people consider his/her most likeable trait?

What do most people consider his/her biggest flaw?

Any secret attractions/crushes?

In romantic relationships, is s/he generally monogamous or uncommitted? (If the latter, is s/he honest w/ partners?)

Is his/her sexual behavior inhibited, average, experimental, or reckless? Has this changed (and if so, why)?

Whom does s/he dislike most, and why?

Whom does s/he like most, and why?

Who's the most important person in his/her life right now, and why?

Whom does s/he secretly admire (nonromantic), and why?

Who was his/her biggest influence, and why?

Person s/he most misunderstands or misjudges:

Person who most misunderstands or misjudges him or her:

Has s/he lost touch with anyone significant in his/her life? If so, why?

Worst end of a relationship (could be friend, romance, colleague...)?

Whom does s/he most rely on for practical advice?

Whom does s/he most rely on for emotional support?

Whom, if anyone, does s/he support (e.g. advice or emotional support)?

MENTAL ATTITUDE/PERSONAL BELIEFS:

Any psychological issues (e.g. phobias, depression, paranoia, narcissism, etc.)?

Is s/he an optimist or pessimist?

Meyers Briggs Personality Type (see <http://www.humanmetrics.com/cgi-win/jtypes2.asp>):

S/he is most comfortable when ... (alone, hanging w/friends, drinking, etc.):

S/he is most uncomfortable when ... (in a crowd, alone, speaking in public, etc.):

Is s/he cautious, brave, or reckless in his/her approach to life?

What does s/he most value/prioritize (family, money, success, religion, etc.)?

Whom does s/he really love best?

Whom or what would s/he be willing to die for?

Is s/he generally compassionate or self-involved?

Personal philosophy:

What's his/her most embarrassing moment?

What is his/her secret wish?

What (or who) is his/her biggest fear?

Any prejudices (race, culture, sexuality, religion, etc.)?

Political party or beliefs, if any:

Does s/he believe in fate or destiny? Is s/he superstitious?

Character's greatest strength:

Other good characteristics:

Character's greatest flaw:

Other character flaws:

What are his/her own favorite attributes (both physical and personal)?

What about least favorite?

Are these feelings accurate?

How does s/he think others perceive him or her? (And is this accurate?)

Biggest regret:

Other regrets:

Proudest accomplishment:

Other accomplishments:

Quirks:

Character's biggest secret(s)? Who else knows (if anyone)?

How does s/he react to a crisis?

What usually causes the problems in his/her life (romance, finances, friends, rivals, colleagues, personality flaws, health, etc.)?

What would s/he most like to change about her-/himself? Why?

Write a paragraph (~100 words) of the character describing him/herself:

Short term goals:

Long term goals:

Does s/he plan to achieve these goals, or does s/he think they're unrealistic?

Will others be affected? If so, does s/he care?

What if anything is stopping him/her from achieving these goals?

What event or occurrence does s/he most dread or fear?

What does he/she actively work to gain, keep or protect?

Which person in his/her life would s/he most want to emulate?

Which person in his/her life would s/he *least* want to emulate?

LIKES/FAVORITES:

Food:

Drink:

Color:

Book:

Film:

TV Show:

Music/Song:

Sport:

Hangout(s):

Motto/Quote:

Possession:

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