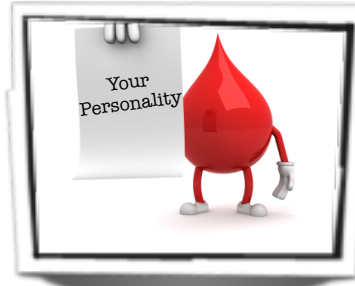


# What does your blood type say about you?

In Japan it is widely believed that people with the AB blood type are calm, cool and rational, though sometimes a bit **indecisive**. Type O people are sociable, Type A's reliable, and Type B's are thought to be rather optimistic and creative, but also kind of selfish and unreliable.



In the 1970's Masahiko Nomi, a Japanese broadcaster, published a book that has shaped many Japanese people's personal beliefs today. In his book, Nomi stated that an individual's blood type could be a sign of the person's **personality traits**. People accepted this, even though Nomi had no medical background and the **theory** of blood type-personality relationships had been given up by serious scientists decades ago.

Today, this "**superstition**" supports a multimillion dollar industry; Nomi's son controls a publishing company that sells books based on his father's beliefs. In addition, many morning TV shows and newspapers feature a blood type

**horoscope**, and many Japanese **celebrities** include their blood types in their official profile.

The danger of accepting these beliefs as truth is that it can cause "blood type **discrimination**". Some employers hire employees based on blood type, singles often choose potential dates because of their **compatible** blood type, and there have even been reports of schools

dividing their students into groups according to blood type.

So why do these beliefs continue? Some believe that the idea is popular because it gives us a way to divide people into easily understandable groups, and also allows us to make comments about people's personalities in an indirect manner.

There is no scientific **evidence** to support the blood type/personality link, but until people become a little more **skeptical**, it seems that the theory will not be disappearing anytime soon.

## A - Preparatory Reading

1. According to the author, what is a problem with the theory that blood types influence personality?

2. Does the author believe blood types influence personality?

3. Find a word that means the same as the following:

- famous people \_\_\_\_\_
- well matched \_\_\_\_\_
- proof \_\_\_\_\_
- personality features \_\_\_\_\_
- doubtful \_\_\_\_\_

4. What words can you find that are used to describe personality? Circle them.

5. Use words from the article to complete the following sentences

- My grandmother used to believe the number 13 was bad luck. I don't believe such \_\_\_\_\_.
- "My brother can never *make up his mind*! He's so \_\_\_\_\_!"
- "My \_\_\_\_\_ said today was going to be a lucky day!"
- There is a lot of \_\_\_\_\_ to support the Darwin's \_\_\_\_\_ of evolution.
- \_\_\_\_\_ against women is a problem in some Middle-eastern countries.

**B - Discussion**

- What is your blood type?
- Does your personality match the traditional description of someone with your blood type?

Do you believe...	Student #1	Student #2	Student #3
that blood type affects personality?			
in horoscopes?			
in love at first sight?			
that opposites attract?			
in fortune telling?			

**C - Vocabulary: Personalities**

1. Which adjectives have a positive meaning? Which are negative? Which do you think are neutral?

arrogant calm confident creative decisive emotional energetic funny generous  
 hard-working jealous lazy mean messy modest optimistic outgoing pessimistic  
 patient polite rational reliable rude selfish shy sociable stubborn tidy

POSITIVE	NEUTRAL	NEGATIVE

2. Match the adjectives with their opposite meanings:

- |            |              |
|------------|--------------|
| shy        | messy        |
| polite     | kind         |
| arrogant   | selfish      |
| optimistic | modest       |
| mean       | outgoing     |
| tidy       | rude         |
| lazy       | hard-working |
| generous   | pessimistic  |

3. What adjectives can you use to describe your own personality? Make a list:

I am \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

More exercises and activities for discussing personality at [college-englishmag.com](http://college-englishmag.com)

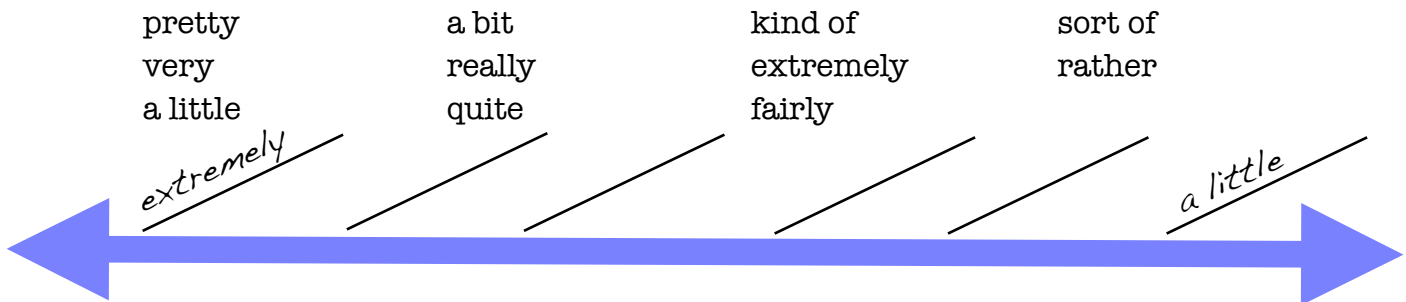
D - Language Practice: Intensifiers to describe people

**Intensifiers**

These words can be used to emphasize an adjective or to make it sound "softer".

**Example:** I would never lend my car to Simon. He's **extremely** irresponsible.  
I really like spending time with my girlfriend, but sometimes she can be **a bit** selfish.

Rank these intensifiers from the strongest to the least strong.



\*Look at the article about blood types. Can you find any of the above intensifiers?

Finish the sentences using personality adjectives and intensifiers of your choice

My best friend is really cheerful

My \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_

My \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_

My \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_

Write about these people

father mother brother sister  
 boss coworker classmate  
 cousin uncle aunt  
 grandmother grandfather

E - Speaking

Write three sentences about your own personality, using intensifiers and adjectives used to describe personality. Two sentences should be true. One sentence can be a lie. Can your partner guess which sentence is the lie?

I am a bit \_\_\_\_\_

I am \_\_\_\_\_

I'm sometimes \_\_\_\_\_

## TALKING ABOUT PERSONALITY, GRAMMAR: INTENSIFIERS, EXPRESSING DOUBT

Ask your partner these questions. Don't forget to ask follow up questions to make your conversation interesting.

Do you know anyone...	Student #1 _____	Student #2 _____	Student #3 _____
...who is _____ selfish?			
...who is _____ optimistic?			
...who is _____ indecisive?			
...who is _____ ... <i>your idea</i>			
...who is _____ outgoing?			
...who is _____ irresponsible?			
...who is _____ generous?			
...who is _____ ... <i>your idea</i>			

### F - Express Yourself: Expressing Doubt

Here are some common expressions for expressing doubt.

There's no way that...	I'm skeptical about...
It's (completely) impossible for...	I don't think that...
I (seriously) doubt that...	It's (highly) unlikely that...

#### 1. Arrange the words to make grammatically correct sentences

that I blood doubt type personality affects. \_\_\_\_\_

ghosts that there's way exist no. \_\_\_\_\_

telling is Nate about fortune skeptical. \_\_\_\_\_

that the will it's go unlikely to he party. \_\_\_\_\_

#### 2. Use the language above to write your opinion on three things you are skeptical about.

---



---



---

More exercises and activities for speculating at [college-englishmag.com](http://college-englishmag.com)

G - Conversation

**SARAH:** Hey, you're looking a bit \_\_\_\_\_.  
What's wrong?

**IZUMI:** Last week I met a really cute guy. As soon as we started talking, I fell for him. We've been talking on the phone every night since then. He's intelligent, funny and really \_\_\_\_\_. We had a date last night and he bought me flowers on the way home.

**SARAH:** He sounds fantastic. So why aren't you happy?

**IZUMI:** He's a \_\_\_\_\_.

**SARAH:** Huh?

**IZUMI:** I just read my horoscope for today and it said that I'm not \_\_\_\_\_ with Capricorns.

**SARAH:** I seriously \_\_\_\_\_ that you should trust your love life to superstitions like

horoscopes. If you really like the guy, you should continue dating him.

**IZUMI:** But that's not all. Last week my fortune-teller told me that I'm going to meet my future husband sometime next year. Maybe I shouldn't date anyone until then.

**SARAH:** I'm pretty \_\_\_\_\_ about fortune-telling too. You need to trust yourself and not rely on horoscopes to tell you who you should date. Tell me more about this boy you met....what's he like?

**IZUMI:** Well, he's also \_\_\_\_\_ shy. He doesn't go out very much.

**SARAH:** But Izumi, you're the most \_\_\_\_\_ person I know! There's no way that you can date a shy boy.

**IZUMI:** You know what they say - opposites attract!

1. Use this vocabulary to complete the conversation:

**Capricorn compatible generous extremely doubt outgoing depressed skeptical**

2. What expressions are used by Sarah to express doubt? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

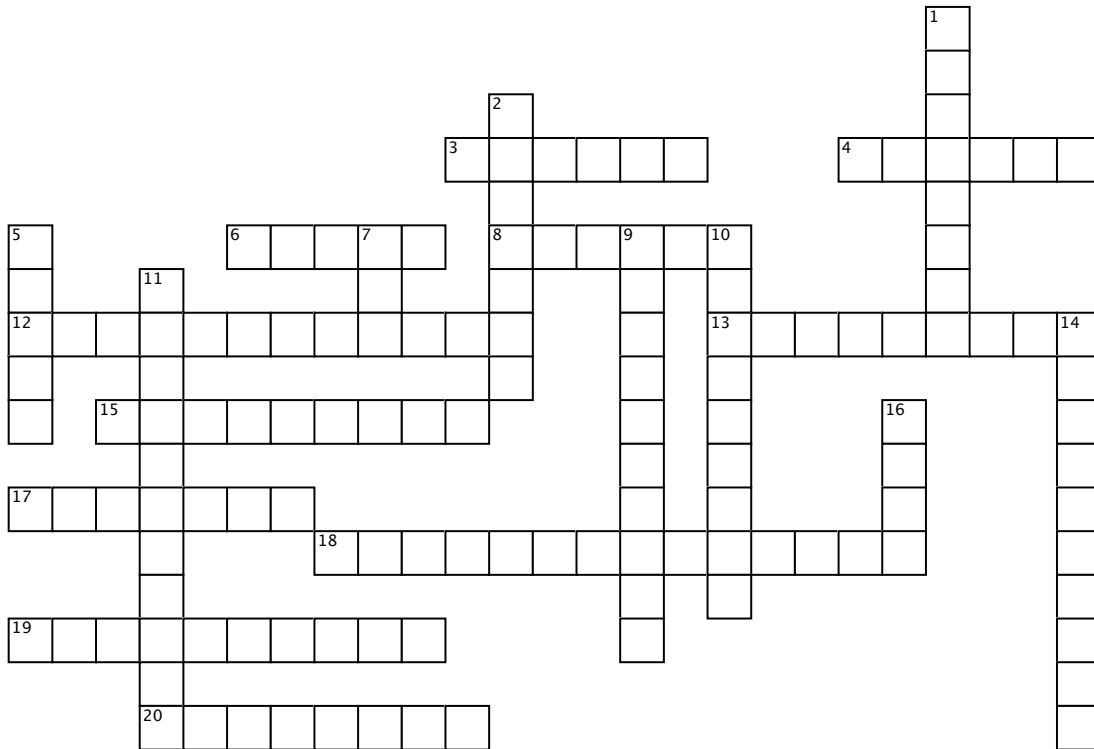
3. Circle the intensifiers in the conversation. How many can you find?

4. Who is more superstitious, Izumi or Sarah? \_\_\_\_\_

5. Do you think Izumi should continue dating her new boyfriend? Why or why not?  
\_\_\_\_\_

H - Review

Complete the crossword puzzle below using language found in this unit.



**Across**

- 3. the opposite of arrogant
- 4. very
- 6. I \_\_\_\_\_ that I'll be able to go to the party.
- 8. personality \_\_\_\_\_
- 12. for example, the belief that a broken mirror brings bad luck
- 13. somebody with lots of energy is described with this word
- 15. sad
- 17. "Opposites \_\_\_\_\_"
- 18. unfair treatment of people because of sex, race, age, etc.
- 19. this word describes a positive thinker
- 20. someone who doesn't change their mind easily is \_\_\_\_\_

**Down**

- 1. Some think that people with type B blood are \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. Tom doesn't believe in \_\_\_\_\_-telling
- 5. the opposite of tidy
- 7. a little = a \_\_\_\_\_
- 9. the opposite of decisive
- 10. I'm \_\_\_\_\_ of the Loch Ness Monster.
- 11. famous people
- 14. they are a good match = they are \_\_\_\_\_
- 16. this adjective MEANS the opposite of kind

In this unit we:

- 1. talked about personality
- 2. reviewed using intensifiers to describe people
- 3. practiced expressing doubt

On the College English Magazine website, you can find plenty more exercises and activities to practice this English.