

Personality Trait

A personality [trait](#) is defined as something about a person that impacts how they tend to think, feel and behave on an ongoing basis. Personality traits are characteristic of enduring behavioral and emotional patterns, rather than isolated occurrences.

[Trait](#)-based personality theories, such as those defined by Raymond Cattell define personality as the traits that predict a person's behavior. On the other hand, more behaviorally based approaches define personality through learning and habits. Nevertheless, most theories view personality as relatively stable.

The belief that certain personality traits could result in potentially dangerous [outcomes](#) was first recognized in aviation, as “Arrogance got more pilots in [trouble](#) than faulty [equipment](#)” ¹⁾. Furthermore, it was even suggested that over half of the aviation disasters were related to poor pilot decision-making ²⁾. This has resulted in pilots being trained to use mitigation techniques for specific attitudes, such as [machismo](#), [impulsiveness](#), [anxiety](#), [antiauthority](#), [resignation](#), and [invulnerability](#), to avoid [disasters](#).

Similar to pilots, surgeons are highly trained and face challenging, real-time [decisions](#) every day, predisposing them to exhibit certain [personality](#) traits more frequently than someone in the general population ^{3) 4)}.

Greed personality trait

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¹⁾

Yeager C, Janos L. Yeager. New York, NY, USA: Bantam; 1985

²⁾

Administration UDoT-FA. Advisory Circular: Aeronautical Decision Making. Advisory Circular 60-22 Washington, DC, USA. 1991.

³⁾

] Fiorillo CD, Tobler PN, Schultz W. Discrete coding of reward probability and uncertainty by dopamine neurons. Science 2003;299:1898-902.

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Urban R. Comparative analysis of social, demographic, and flight-related attributes between accident and nonaccident general aviation pilots. Aviat Space Environ Med 1984;55:308-12.

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