

## 32 Traits of Creative People

Checklist by Robert Alan Black, Ph.D

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1. **Sensitive**  
Being sensitive helps creativity in many ways, through awareness and the senses.
2. **Not motivated by money**  
It's not a driving force for a creative person. Generally they have an intuitive sense of the amount of money they basically need and once that is fulfilled, then money stops affecting or driving them.
3. **Sense of destiny**  
Intuitively creative people know they have a purpose or a destiny.
4. **Adaptable**  
Without the ability to adapt, creative people could not become creative.
5. **Tolerant of ambiguity**  
Ambiguity helps creative people see things from many different perspectives all at the same time.
6. **Observant**  
Creative people constantly are using their senses: consciously, sub-consciously, and unconsciously.
7. **Perceive world differently**  
Creative people thrive on multiple ways of perceiving (hearing, seeing, touching, smelling, tasting, and sensing things). These different perspectives open up their minds to many possibilities.
8. **See possibilities**  
Creative people love to see many possibilities in most challenges, whereas some people may be resistant to that and prefer to think with limited possibilities.
9. **Question-asker**  
Creative people ask a lot of questions—it's their nature to question. Their questioning nature often is mistaken for criticizing when it is simply questioning, exploring, playing with how things might be.
10. **Can synthesize correctly, often intuitively**  
This is the ability to see the whole picture, see patterns, grasp solutions with only a few pieces, even with major pieces missing. Creative people trust their intuition.
11. **Able to fantasize**  
Highly creative people love to wander through their own imaginary worlds.
12. **Flexible**  
When playing with ideas, creative people love to look at things from multiple points of view.
13. **Fluent**  
Creative people can generate piles of ideas about a topic/task/challenge.
14. **Imaginative**  
Creative people love to use their imagination.
15. **Intuitive**  
The more creative a person is, the more they tap their intuition skills.
16. **Original**  
Being original is a driving force for creative people. They thrive on it.
17. **Ingenious**  
Some of these traits are: doing the unusual, thinking what has not been done before, solving unsolvable problems.
18. **Energetic**  
Challenges/new ideas really excite a creative person and once they commit, they appear to have excessive energy for that project.

**19. Sense of humor**

Laughter and creativity truly go together. Many experts believe that creativity can't occur without a touch of humor believing that seriousness tends to squelch creativeness or creative thinking.

**20. Self-actualizing**

The psychologist Abraham Maslow created this term in the 1960s. It represented the ultimate motivator of people, the need or desire to be all you can be, to be what you were meant to be.

**21. Self-disciplined**

This is one trait that appears to be ambiguous in highly creative people. They can appear disorganized, chaotic at times, while at the same time they are highly self-disciplined. At the same time, they greatly resist the discipline of other people who are not of like creative mind.

**22. Self-knowledgeable**

I have read biographies and biographic sketches of over 4,000 people, mostly considered to be "the highest of the highly creative" in their respective fields. One of the few things they had in common, is that they all kept some form of journal and were constantly striving to better understand themselves.

**23. Specific interests**

This is still another ambiguous trait of creative people. They appear on the surface to be interested in everything, while at the same time they have very specific interests that they commit their true energies and efforts to. By being willing to be exposed to seemingly unlimited interests they discover more about their particular specific interests.

**24. Divergent thinker**

Creative people love to diverge from the norm, to look at things from multiple positions, to challenge anything that exists. Because of this they are seen at times to be off-key, deviant, atypical, irregular, or uncharacteristic.

**25. Curious**

Like the Cheshire Cat of Alice in Wonderland, creative people are continually curious, often child-like.

**26. Open-ended**

In order to explore many possibilities creative people tend to stay open-ended and find out answers or solutions until many have been produced.

**27. Independent**

Creative people crave and require a high degree of independence, resist dependence, but often can thrive on beneficial inter-dependence.

**28. Critical**

Creative people challenge most everything; ideas, rules. Some do this to the point that other people see their challenging as criticism.

**29. Non-conforming**

Conforming is the antithesis, the opposite of creativeness and in order to be creative, creative people must be non-conforming and go against the norm, swim up stream.

**30. Confident**

This is another ambiguous trait in creative people. When they are at their most creative, they are extremely confident. When they are in a stage of frustration, when nothing seems to be working, they often lack confidence. After much positive experience, they begin to trust themselves and know that they will become depressed, frustrated, nearly devastated, but their internal subconscious confidence keeps them moving - or at least floating, until they experience or discover an "aha!" (a breakthrough idea or piece of information).

**31. Risk taker**

This is often misunderstood by many people or people who fear the creativeness of creative people. Highly creative people are not really risk takers because they do not see what they are doing as a risk. They simply see it as a possible solution or path towards a solution. They have other possible solutions, often many others in their head or their notes to use if needed.

32. **Persistent**

Charles Goodyear and Chester Carlson both worked over 30 years trying to make a solution they discovered work. Creative people do not give up on things that mean a lot to them.