E V E R Y D A Y L I F E

STAR SIGNS

one stop english

TEACHER'S NOTES

Age: Adult

Level: Intermediate (B1)

Time: 60 minutes

Activity: In this lesson, students will:

1. discuss personality traits in the context of star signs;
2. learn new vocabulary related to personality and understand the meaning of new phrases in context;
3. complete a matchmaking task based on information in a text.

Language focus: Vocabulary for personality

Materials: One copy of the worksheet per student; one reading text per student; one vocabulary sheet per student, cut up (optional)

PROCEDURE

Pre-teaching

Before starting exercise 1, you may want to pre-teach or clarify understanding of zodiac signs. A few images of these may suffice, or a quick discussion with the teacher mentioning their own star sign and eliciting student star signs might help.

Optional lead-in

You could introduce the topic of star signs and elicit the star signs students already know as a game, for example a board race or a game of answer tennis. This would work if you feel that star signs would already be known to the learners.

Board race:

Divide the board into two, and organise the students into two lines. The first person in each line is given a board pen. They run to the board and write a star sign that they know, then pass the pen to the next person in line. The next person must write another star sign. They cannot write anything that the opposing team has already written. After one to two minutes, stop the game and review answers.

Answer tennis:

Separate the class into two teams. Give each team three points. Announce the topic as 'star signs'. Team one must say a star sign. Team 2 must respond with another star sign within five seconds. If they don't then they lose a point. The first team to lose all three points are defeated. Again, this only works if you assume learners will have prior knowledge of the topic!

Exercise 1

The introductory questions are designed to activate student's prior knowledge of star signs. They should discuss the questions in pairs.

Exercise 2

Learners work together to discuss the meaning of different terms for personality traits. If they are unsure, they can search online, use a dictionary or ask the teacher to clarify or explain each term.

> **Alternative Setup: Brain, Buddy, Book or Boss**
>
> Learners work alone first. They tick each term that they understand.
>
> They discuss the terms which they are unclear about with a partner (buddy) first.
>
> If they are still unclear, they either use a dictionary (book) or ask the teacher (boss).
>
> This technique is good for learner training and may be useful if you are teaching a class towards the start of the year as you can incorporate this into your class routine.

Learners then decide if each term is positive, negative or neutral, placing each term in the corresponding column.

Key (suggested answers):

Positive	Neutral	Negative
passionate, trustworthy, patient, generous, committed, intelligent, warm, courageous kind, organised, hard-working, caring, independent, trusting, loving, optimistic	impulsive, competitive, unique, adventurous, sensitive, intense	stubborn, stressed, temperamental, jealous, dull, intimidating

Read each word to the students. They mark the stress patterns, and repeat.

Key:

O	Oo	oO	Ooo
warm kind dull stressed	patient caring trusting loving stubborn jealous	unique intense	passionate trustworthy generous organised sensitive
oOo	**oOoo**	**ooOo**	**oOooo**
committed courageous impulsive	intelligent adventurous competitive	independent temperamental optimistic	intimidating
O Oo			
hard-working			

Optional support

If learners struggle with some of the vocabulary in exercise 2, you can use the vocabulary cut ups to support them, which cover the more difficult terms. All definitions taken or adapted from the Macmillan Dictionary.

Key:

1.	j	8.	h
2.	i	9.	m
3.	l	10.	a
4.	e	11.	k
5.	n	12.	b
6.	f	13.	c
7.	g	14.	d

Exercise 3

This activity is a preview and predict task. First, only review the article heading to the learners. Based on this, and possibly some clues from lead-in activities, they work in pairs to predict the information that will appear in the text. Then allow two minutes for learners to skim read the text and check whether their predictions were correct.

Exercise 4

This can be an optional task, depending on students' level. It aims to allow learners to share their personal response to context in the text. However, it can be omitted if time is limited. Learners read the text and answer the questions in pairs.

Key:

Students' own responses.

Exercise 5

Students look at the article in more detail and make inferences based on the information available. For some questions there may be more than one answer.

Key (suggested answers):

… might be easy to introduce to friends and family? **(Gemini – great in social situations)**
… might be difficult to interact with at first? **(Cancerians – hate small talk)**
… might be good to date if you like being spoilt? **(Leos – like showing off and buying expensive gifts)**
… might like to compete as much as an Aries? **(Scorpio – like debates, but only if they win)**
… might chat about your relationship with them to others? **(Gemini – like to gossip)**
… might be less interested than others in the photos on a dating app? **(Libra – value intelligence over looks)**
… might find it hard to accept the independence that an Aquarius needs? **(Libra – can be insecure and jealous)**
… might the writer have had a negative dating experience with? Why? **(Students' own answers. However, the writer is less complementary about Cancerians, seems snarky towards Virgos, and is a little cynical towards Geminis)**
… might the writer of the text be? Why? **(Students' own answers. However, the writer suggests that possible negative traits of Sagittarius could be 'good or bad', suggesting they might have some sympathy with this star sign).**

Exercise 6

This is a follow-up task to consolidate what the learners have read about. Learners make notes on two people they know from outside of class, describing their personality traits and general character. These could be family members, friends, or alternatively a celebrity or character from a novel if students feel uncomfortable discussing people they know. Then, students share their descriptions of each person with a partner. They work together, referring to the text they read, to decide which star sign might be a good match for the people they know. Some process language is provided on the worksheet.

Finally, students explain their views to another pair. They should be encouraged to feed back and suggest alternative ideas.

Exercises 7 & 8

The closing questions aim to wrap up the topic and to provide some avenues for further research. The question about millennials refers to information in articles such as this from the Atlantic: www.theatlantic.com/health/archive/2018/01/the-new-age-of-astrology/550034/. You may want to convert this into a QR code for learners to read and reflect on as homework.

The reflection questions encourage learners to follow up on work done in class and think of ways to consolidate their learning.

1.	trustworthy	a)	feeling or showing emotions in a very strong way
2.	committed	b)	getting angry or changing your mood quickly
3.	warm	c)	making other people feel nervous, frightened or less confident
4.	courageous	d)	not willing to change your ideas or consider other points of view
5.	trusting	e)	brave
6.	optimistic	f)	hopeful, thinking positively
7.	impulsive	g)	do things without thinking about the results. This is usually a negative trait.
8.	unique	h)	different to everybody/everything else
9.	sensitive	i)	loyal; willing to give your time and effort to something that you believe in
10.	intense	j)	able to be trusted as honest, safe, or reliable
11.	adventurous	k)	keen to try new and exciting things
12.	temperamental	l)	kind and friendly, in a way that makes people comfortable
13.	intimidating	m)	getting hurt or upset easily
14.	stubborn	n)	willing to trust someone

STAR SIGNS

WORSHEET

EXERCISE 1: DISCUSS

WHAT IS YOUR **ZODIAC SIGN?**

Work with a partner. Discuss the questions.

- What is your Zodiac sign? Are star signs important to you?
- What do you know, if anything, about the personality traits of people with different star signs?

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WORKSHEET

EXERCISE 2: PERSONALITY TRAITS

The words in the box are all personality traits. Check the meaning of each word with a partner. If you are both unsure, use a dictionary or ask the teacher to explain.

passionate	impulsive	competitive	trustworthy	patient	stubborn	generous
committed	intelligent	warm	courageous	adventurous	kind	organised
hard-working	caring	stressed	independent	unique	temperamental	jealous
sensitive	trusting	loving	dull	intense	intimidating	optimistic

Decide if each word is positive, negative or neutral and add them to the table below.

Compare your ideas with a partner. Are they the same? Discuss any differences.

Positive	Neutral	Negative

Now listen to your teacher read each word. Mark the word stress.

Example: **O o o**

passionate

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EXERCISE 3: PREVIEW AND PREDICT

Read the <u>title</u> of the article <u>only</u>. What information do you expect to read in the article? Discuss your ideas with a partner.

Now skim read the article. Were your ideas correct?

EXERCISE 4: READ FOR GENERAL UNDERSTANDING

Skim read the text about each Zodiac sign again. Answer the questions.

- **Do you think the information about your own star sign is accurate? Why / Why not?**
- **Which star sign do you think would be the best / worst match for you? Why?**

EXERCISE 5: READING FOR DETAIL

Read the text again. Answer the questions according to the text.

(People with) which star sign …

… might be easy to introduce to friends and family? _____

… might be difficult to interact with at first? _____

… might be good to date if you like being spoilt? _____

… might like to compete as much as an Aries? _____

… might chat about your relationship with them to others? _____

… might be less interested than others in the photos on a dating app? _____

… might find it hard to accept the independence that an Aquarius needs? _____

… might the writer have had a negative dating experience with? Why? _____

… might the writer of the text be? Why? _____

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EXERCISE 6: CONNECTING THE TEXT TO REAL LIFE

Think of two people you know well who are about your own age. These could be friends or family members. If you can, choose people who are single and are looking for a relationship.

Make notes on their personality traits.

Person 1

_____

_____

Person 2

_____

_____

Describe each person to a partner. Work together with your partner to decide which star signs would be a good match for each person.

When you finish, share your ideas with another pair.

> **Language to Help You:**
>
> I think _____ would be compatible with …. because…
>
> I think _____ might clash with …. because …
>
> [star sign] might not be a good match for _____ , because …

EXERCISE 7: CLOSING QUESTIONS

- The article says that there is no scientific proof linking star signs to certain personality traits. Why do you think so many people believe in star signs?
- Some newspaper reports suggest that star signs have gained popularity in recent years among millennials. Why do you think they have become popular with this particular generation?

EXERCISE 8: REFLECTION

- What can you do to help revise the vocabulary from this lesson?

  _____

  _____

- Summarise what you have learnt from this lesson in around 20 words

  _____

  _____

- What question do you still have, if any, about the vocabulary in this lesson?

  _____

  _____

- Is there anything else you would like to know about this topic?

  _____

  _____

STAR SIGNS

Can't find the perfect match? Maybe you should look to the stars…

So, you're about to match with someone on a dating app. You like their photos (and let's be honest, looks count). They're the right age, in the right location, and there are no signs from their bio that they are a complete lunatic. Wait! Scroll through that bio again. Do they mention their star sign?

Star signs can tell us a lot about someone's personality. Here's our quick guide to the positive and negative traits for each Zodiac sign, to help you decide whether that potential match might actually be compatible.

Disclaimer: There is no scientific proof linking personality traits to certain star signs. Mind you, love isn't an exact science, is it?

Aries — March 21 – April 19

There's never a dull moment with an Aries. They are extremely competitive and like to turn everything in life into a game! Aries tend to be confident, passionate and independent, which all seem like great traits. However, they can also be impulsive, so don't let them wander off alone with your credit card …

Taurus — April 20 – May 20

Tauruses have some very loving traits. They are trustworthy and very patient. They are also very smart, which makes for good conversation. However, they can be stubborn, and their hard-working nature makes it hard for them to switch off.

Gemini — May 21 – June 20

Geminis are great communicators. They are perfect in any social situation and can often be the life and soul of a party. They have a good sense of humour and can also be generous. They sound almost perfect, huh? There's just one problem. They love to gossip, especially about their own relationships.

Cancer — June 21 – July 22

If you like a challenge, then Cancerians are for you. They often take a while to warm to someone, so conversation can be tough. They hate small talk, and they prefer being in smaller groups. However, once you gain their trust, they are committed and loving.

Leo — July 23 – August 22

Feeling lazy? Find a Leo. They will put the effort into a relationship, so you don't have to. Leos are intelligent, warm and courageous. They enjoy social situations, although they tend to put themselves first sometimes. They are adventurous, and they also love to show off. Don't be surprised if Leos buy you lots of expensive gifts.

Virgo
August 23 – September 22

Virgos are kind, organised, and great at planning things. These are good traits, but I'm afraid it goes downhill from there. They like the feeling of being in control. Plus, they like things to be perfect and beautiful. Check out a Virgo's Instagram profile – it explains a lot.

Libra
September 23 – October 22

Libras are kind and selfless – they are very good at compromising. They are also highly imaginative, so expect interesting dates and quirky gifts. They value intelligence over looks, which is a relief. There's one downside to Libras though – they can be insecure, which can make them jealous.

Scorpio
October 23 – November 21

Scorpios are very passionate. They love debating, as long as they win. They hate it when people are false. They are loyal and give 100% in relationships. Scorpios can come across as intense and sometimes seem intimidating.

Sagittarius
November 22 – December 21

Sagittarians are strong-willed, adventurous, and are natural leaders. Their strength of character means they usually get what they want, which could be both good and bad. Sagittarians are very generous and trustworthy. Above all, they are very optimistic, making them fun to be around.

Capricorn
December 22 – January 19

Capricorns love rules and predictability. They are hard-working and they love to be in control. They are very caring and like to make sure everything is perfect. However, their attempts to achieve perfection mean that Capricorns are often stressed.

Aquarius
January 20 – February 18

Aquarians are very independent – some might say unique. They like to treat others how they would like to be treated, so they are usually respectful. They can be temperamental though, especially if they are not allowed freedom. If you get jealous easily, it's probably best not to date an Aquarian.

Pisces
February 19 – March 20

Pisces are really deep thinkers. They are sensitive and very intelligent. Their opinions are often considered, and they are great at giving advice. They are driven by their emotions and have a strong sense of right and wrong. They can be too trusting at times.