



# Where does self-esteem come from?

01 Write a list of your positive and negative qualities.

Positive

Negative

02 Read "Worth Your While." Answer the questions below.

1. What are examples of intrinsic factors affecting your self-esteem?

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2. What are examples of extrinsic factors affecting your self-worth?

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3. What are helpful factors?

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4. What may cause us internalize self-loathing?

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## Worth Your While

Self-esteem is how you feel about yourself and your confidence. If you have high self-esteem, you generally feel positive about yourself and what you do, and tend toward self love. Even if something doesn't proceed as planned, you won't **internalize** pessimism. Alternatively, you generally feel negative about yourself if you have low self-esteem. If you do something unsatisfactorily, you tend to see it as an overall reflection of your inabilities.

Both internal and external factors can influence your self-esteem. **Intrinsic** factors include beliefs about what kind of person you are, an awareness of your strengths and weaknesses, and your expectations for the future. **Extrinsic** factors include messages from people you respect and care about, such as family and friends. They also encompass messages from the world around you. Some societies reinforce negative stereotypes of people of certain genders and races, which can be harmful to an individual's feelings of **self-worth**.

These same factors can be divided into helpful or hurtful categories. **Praise** and positive encouragement can go a long way toward promoting self-worth. These messages of approval can influence our inner thoughts, reinforcing self-respect. Nevertheless, criticism and verbal attacks on our character can begin to chip away at our self-worth over time, and it is natural to start to internalize hurtful words. If left unchecked, this can lead to **self-loathing** and self-disgust.

03 Read the text again. Circle the option that best describes the message.

- |   |                          |
|---|--------------------------|
| 1. "You are terrible at math! You will never be a scientist."                                 | a. harmful / helpful     |
| 2. "I know that it takes me longer to understand certain topics, but I eventually get there." | b. harmful / helpful     |
| 3. "Women don't know how to use computers. They should never become programmers."             | c. extrinsic / intrinsic |
| 4. "One of my best qualities is that I am patient with myself."                               | d. extrinsic / intrinsic |

04 With a classmate, discuss the questions below.

- › Who has a bigger impact on your self-esteem: friends or family? Why?
- › When do you find it easiest to have high self-esteem?
- › When is it more difficult to have high self-worth?

05 Write "N" if the underlined word is a noun, "A" if it is an adjective, and "V" if it is a verb.

1. One explanation for Mickey's high self-esteem is that he receives a lot of praise. ☐
2. My mom always praised me when I was honest. ☐
3. My school places a lot of emphasis on good grades. ☐
4. Harriet started to cry when her coach told her she didn't achieve a sufficiently high score to go to the finals. ☐
5. Ben was really angry with his parents for grounding him for failing a test. ☐
6. Happiness isn't something you are born with; you have to cultivate it. ☐

06 Circle the word that best completes the sentence.

1. If you are feeling down, **identification** / **identifying** / **identified** the causes can help you get back on your feet.
2. If you **vary** / **variation** / **varied** the people you get advice from, you will get different responses.
3. Improving your personal **grow** / **growth** / **growing** doesn't happen overnight.
4. **Praise** / **Praising** / **Praised** young people when they do well can have a significant impact on their self-esteem.
5. The current **trend** / **trendy** / **trends** in reading self-help books is being praised by psychologists at the conference.
6. Verbal abuse is **illegalize** / **illegal** / **illegally** in most countries.

WHO MAKES YOU FEEL GOOD ABOUT YOURSELF?



07 Write a letter to a friend explaining a situation that improved your self-esteem. Include the contributing factors.

08 Complete the organizer below with personal experiences. Write which experiences have been the best and worst and why.

<p>Positive Intrinsic</p>	<p>Negative Intrinsic</p>
<p>Negative Extrinsic</p>	<p>Positive Extrinsic</p>