

10 Things Incredibly Likable People Never, Ever Do (and Why You Love Them for It)

Some people are incredibly likable because of the things they do while others exude charisma because of the things they don't do. If you know someone who possesses the following qualities, share this with them – also tell them how much you appreciate the fact they are in your life.

1. They Don't Blame.

Friends make mistakes. Employees don't meet your expectations. Vendors don't deliver on time. So, you blame them for your problems. But you're also to blame. Maybe you didn't provide enough training, or you didn't build in enough of a buffer, or you asked too much, too soon. Maybe you weren't as good a friend as you could have been. Taking responsibility when things go wrong instead of blaming others is empowering, because you are able to focus on doing things better or smarter next time.

2. They Don't Control.

You're the boss, the titan of industry, the small tail that wags a huge dog. Yet, the only thing you really control is you. If you find yourself trying hard to control other people, you've decided that your goals, dreams, or opinions are more important than theirs. Control is short term at best, because it often requires force, fear, or authority, or some form of pressure—none of those leave you feeling good about yourself.

3. They Don't Try to Impress.

No one likes you for your clothes, car, possessions, title, or accomplishments. Those are all "things." People may like your superficial things, but relationships are based on substance, not things. Genuine relationships make you happier, and you'll form these only when you stop trying to impress and start being yourself.

4. They Don't Cling.

Often when people are afraid or insecure, you hold on tightly to what you know, even if what you know isn't particularly good for you. An absence of fear or insecurity isn't happiness; it's just an absence of fear or insecurity. Holding on to what you think you need won't make you happier; letting go so you can reach for and try to earn what you want will. Even if you don't succeed in earning what you want, the act of trying alone will make you feel better about yourself.

5. They Don't Interrupt.

Interrupting isn't just rude. When you interrupt someone, what you're really saying is, "I'm not listening to you so I can understand what you're saying; I'm listening to you so I can decide what I want to say." Want people to like you? Listen, focus, and ask questions to make sure you understand what they say. They'll love you for it—and you'll love how that makes you feel.

6. They Don't Whine.

Your words have power, especially over you. Whining about your problems makes you feel worse, not better. Instead of talking about what's wrong, talk about how you'll make things better, even if that conversation is only with yourself. Do the same with your friends or colleagues.

7. They Don't Criticize.

You may be more educated, experienced, have slayed more dragons. That doesn't make you smarter, or better, or more insightful. That just makes you unique, matchless, one of a kind—but in the end, just you. Appreciate the differences instead of the shortcomings and you'll see people—and yourself—in a better light.

8. They Don't Preach.

The higher you rise and the more you accomplish, the more likely you are to think you know everything and to tell people everything you think you know. When you speak with more finality than foundation, people may hear you, but they don't listen. And they don't want to be around you.

9. They Don't Live in The Past.

The past is valuable. Learn from your mistakes and the mistakes of others. Then let it go. How do you do this? When something bad happens, approach the situation as a learning opportunity. When another person makes a mistake, see that as a chance to be kind, forgiving, and understanding. The past is just training; it doesn't define you.

10. They Don't Let Fear Hold Them back.

We're all afraid, of what might or might not happen, of what we can't change, or how other people might perceive us. It's easier to hesitate, to wait for the right moment, to decide we need to think a little longer or explore a few more alternatives. Meanwhile days, weeks, months, and even years pass us by. And so, do our dreams.

Put your fears aside and get started. Do something. Do anything. Otherwise, today is gone. Once tomorrow comes, today is lost forever.

Today is the most precious asset you own—and is the one thing you should truly fear wasting.