

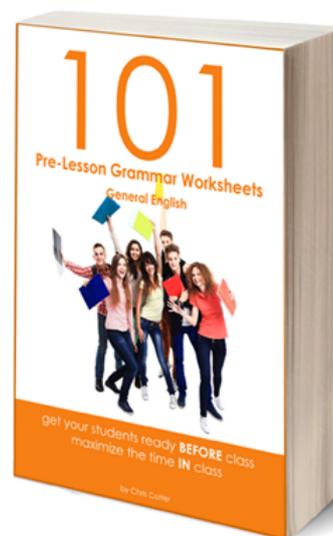
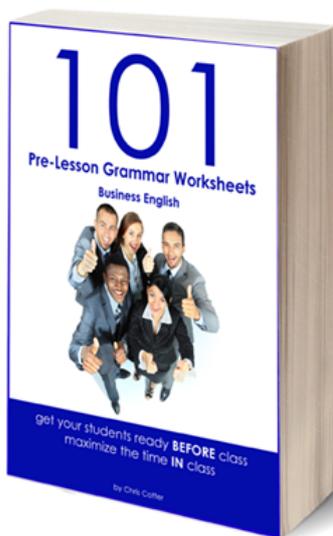
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the ARTICLE (for teachers)

What's Your Blood Type?

If you live in or visit Japan, you may be asked, "What's your blood type?" When the average person asks the question, he isn't referring to giving blood, illnesses, or medicine. There's a popular notion that a person's blood type influences his personality, character, and romantic compatibility. Although blood types and their effects on personality are far more popular than the usual idea of star signs in the West, it's not so very different. In fact, it's hugely popular. For example, four of the ten books to top the bestseller list in 2008 dealt with blood type and personality.

What can be said about personality types? Type A people are serious and creative, but also seek perfection. Type B people are spontaneous, but also selfish and irresponsible. Type O can be vain and rude. On the positive side, they are curious and generous. As for people who are type AB, they are arty, but tend to be moody as well.

Of course, the scientific community in Japan considers the idea ridiculous. Unfortunately, the general public seems to disagree. Matchmaking services look to blood types when introducing men and women, for example. Women's magazines stock their pages with articles, romantic advice, and predictions too. Some companies have assigned projects based on the blood of employees. And more than a few employers regularly ask interviewees about their blood type, because they intend to determine which applicants may or may not provide a good fit in the company or department.

It comes down to discrimination, and even comes with a term: "bura-hara." "Bura" stands for blood, and "hara" stands for harassment. It also doesn't seem likely to diminish in popularity any time soon.

Teacher's Notes:

* Underlined words in red typeface are the answers.

STUDENT HANDOUT (fill in the blank)

Fill in the blank with the correct word.

influences	average	discrimination	regularly	moody
vain	intend	spontaneous	stock	signs
introducing	bestseller	compatibility	diminish	seek

What's Your Blood Type?

If you live in or visit Japan, you may be asked, "What's your blood type?" When the (a. _____) person asks the question, he isn't referring to giving blood, illnesses, or medicine. There's a popular notion that a person's blood type (b. _____) his personality, character, and romantic (c. _____). Although blood types and their effects on personality are far more popular than the usual idea of star (d. _____) in the West, it's not so very different. In fact, it's hugely popular. For example, four of the ten books to top the (e. _____) list in 2008 dealt with blood type and personality.

What can be said about personality types? Type A people are serious and creative, but also (f. _____) perfection. Type B people are (g. _____), but also selfish and irresponsible. Type O can be (h. _____) and rude. On the positive side, they are curious and generous. As for people who are type AB, they are arty, but tend to be (i. _____) as well.

Of course, the scientific community in Japan considers the idea ridiculous. Unfortunately, the general public seems to disagree. Matchmaking services look to blood types when (j. _____) men and women, for example. Women's magazines (k. _____) their pages with articles, romantic advice, and predictions too. Some companies have assigned projects based on the blood of employees. And more than a few employers (l. _____) ask interviewees about their blood type, because they (m. _____) to determine which applicants may or may not provide a good fit in the company or department.

It comes down to (n. _____), and even comes with a term: "bura-hara." "Bura" stands for blood, and "hara" stands for harassment. It also doesn't seem likely to (o. _____) in popularity any time soon.

What's Your Blood Type?

Upper-Intermediate - Vocabulary

STEP ONE

Define: What does "personality" mean? Can you use it in a sentence? Can you give examples?

STEP TWO

Word Search: Find the target words (in bold) with their exact match. How long did it take to find all the words?

moody	spontaneous	stock	seek	vain
influences	diminish	intend	compatibility	discrimination
S H S I N I M I D X N I N M S Y P E H V J D S K C N S O B P E C O A S N W H T F L G I Y O D U I N E I O Q L O V A T J N O N V T T T M U Y U C I A M T O H N E S A E I T M L K N V A M I E M I N N J N I T O I U E A Q I L C R P E B I K X M J N E R E E U P O I O L D N I G O O U S O Z Z T S V U L I R B U M O O D Y A R E H D S Y C B S B K Q V P K H E I V M N S T M Y X G M I R F K I I A F I N Q Z A O F K G R D F O Z R D H K P C O M P A T A B I L I T Y V				

STEP THREE

Fill in the Blanks: Fill in the blank with the correct word. Use a dictionary for any words you don't know, but be sure to check your English-English dictionary, too.

moody	spontaneous	stock	seek	vain
influences	diminish	intend	compatibility	discrimination
a.	There's a popular notion that a person's blood type () his personality and character.			
b.	Blood type also affects romantic ().			
c.	Type A people are serious and creative, but also () perfection.			
d.	Type B people are (), but also selfish and irresponsible. They may not make plans.			
e.	Type O can be () and rude. This means they can be quite self-centered.			
f.	As for people who are type AB, they are arty, but tend to be () as well.			
g.	Women's magazines () their pages with articles, romantic advice, and predictions too.			
h.	Some companies () to determine which applicants may or may not provide a good fit.			
i.	It comes down to (), and even comes with a term: "bura-hara."			
j.	It also doesn't seem likely to () in popularity any time soon.			

STEP FOUR

The Article: 1) Read the article, but don't worry about the missing words. 2) Fill in the blanks with today's vocabulary, followed by all the other words. 3) Read the article again, and circle any unknown words/phrases. In pairs/groups, use your dictionaries to understand the words or phrases your circled. 4) Answer the questions to check your comprehension.

a.	What does blood type often refer to in Japan?
b.	What does the article say about the bestselling books in 2008?
c.	How does the article describe people with type AB blood?
d.	What do some matchmaking services do?
e.	What do some companies do?

STEP FIVE

Discuss: Write down five vocabulary words from today's article that you want to use.

a.	
b.	
c.	
d.	
e.	

Now talk about the following questions in pairs/groups. Every time you use a vocabulary word, place a check next to it.

a.	What was your general impression after reading this article
b.	What do you think about blood types? Do they really affect personality?
c.	How accurate are horoscopes? Why do you think so?
d.	How would you feel if you were discriminated against because of your blood type or star sign?

Score yourself:

10 or more times: Fantastic! Be sure to review the words at home.

6-9 times: Pretty good! You're on your way to acquiring today's vocabulary. Try writing your own sentences at home for additional practice.

5 or less times: Try harder next time! To acquire new vocabulary, you need to use the new words as much as possible.