

Academic word families

Nouns that describe personality traits generally take the endings *-ness*, *-ity*, or *-ence/-ance*. Some noun forms require additional spelling changes.

adjective	noun
aggressive	aggressiveness
approachable	approachability
attractive	attractiveness
competent	competence
thoughtful	thoughtfulness
dominant	dominance
likeable	likeability

- 3 Complete the sentences with the correct form of an academic word in the explanation box above.
- 1 It was so _____ of you to remember my birthday.
 - 2 Be careful. That breed of dog is known for its strength and _____.
 - 3 The main qualities we are looking for in candidates for this position are past experience and _____ in several technical areas.
 - 4 I saw Serena Williams at a restaurant once. I was nervous to talk to her, but she was surprisingly _____. She even gave me a signed tennis ball as a souvenir.
 - 5 The physical _____ of a job candidate should never be a factor in hiring decisions.