

## 1

# Traits of a Software Engineer

## Get ready!

1 Before you read the passage, talk about these questions.

- 1 What qualities are important when working closely with other people?
- 2 How do engineers benefit from being both logical and creative?

## Reading

2 Read the webpage. Then, choose the correct answers.

- 1 What is the main idea of the webpage?
  - A descriptions of people who work at an engineering firm
  - B the types of projects that an engineering firm handles
  - C clients' experiences with an engineering firm
  - D job opportunities at an engineering firm
- 2 Which of the following is NOT true of the engineering firm?
  - A It attracts talented engineers.
  - B It won awards for its creative projects.
  - C It was started by two engineers.
  - D It is a profitable company.
- 3 According to the webpage, how are the two owners similar?
  - A They are passionate about their jobs.
  - B They can focus for long periods.
  - C They have highly creative minds.
  - D They are naturally curious people.

### MeshSoft Software Engineering & Development > About Us > Meet the Staff

**Fiona Adler, Co-owner/Founder:** Fiona started MeshSoft six years ago. Her **dedicated** attitude and **commitment** to success built a highly profitable business. As a naturally **curious** person, she enjoys exploring new ideas. MeshSoft earned several awards last year for Fiona's **innovative** programs and systems. Nobody thinks **outside the box** like Fiona!

Fiona is everyone's favorite boss. She's a **team player** who encourages employees to share ideas. Bright, talented engineers love working at MeshSoft.

**Maxine Spencer, Co-owner:** Maxine purchased part of the business last year. Fiona's creativity is balanced by Maxine's technical **expertise**. Maxine has a remarkably **logical** mind. She enjoys **critical thinking**, and she's good at it, too. If Fiona can imagine something, Maxine can usually make it happen. They make a great team.

Maxine has the **ability** to **focus** intently for long periods. Her **goal-oriented** attitude keeps MeshSoft moving forward. Like Fiona, Maxine has great dedication and passion for her job.

## Vocabulary

3 Match the words and phrases (1-8) with the definitions (A-H).

- |               |                         |
|---------------|-------------------------|
| 1 ___ focus   | 5 ___ dedicated         |
| 2 ___ ability | 6 ___ team player       |
| 3 ___ logical | 7 ___ outside the box   |
| 4 ___ curious | 8 ___ critical thinking |

- A the skill to do something
- B wanting to know more about something
- C related to unusual or creative ideas
- D the skill of drawing conclusions based on facts
- E enthusiastic about a task or cause
- F based on evidence and reason
- G someone who takes actions that benefit a group
- H to watch closely



**4 Read the sentence pairs. Choose which word or phrase best fits each blank.**

**1 goal-oriented / innovative**

**A** A(n) \_\_\_\_\_ engineer is always thinking about the final product.

**B** A(n) \_\_\_\_\_ engineer is always coming up with new ideas.

**2 commitment / expertise**

**A** The intern had no experience, but the firm was impressed with her level of \_\_\_\_\_.

**B** The engineer went back to school to gain more advanced \_\_\_\_\_ in his field.

**5 Listen and read the webpage again. What are some ways to describe someone who thinks of unusual ideas?**

## Listening

**6 Listen to a conversation between an engineering firm owner and a manager. Mark the following statements as true (T) or false (F).**

1 \_\_\_ The first applicant has experience at multiple engineering firms.

2 \_\_\_ The second applicant recently completed an engineering degree program.

3 \_\_\_ The man once worked on a project with the second applicant.

**7 Listen again and complete the conversation.**

**Owner:** So she has strong 1 \_\_\_\_\_. Who else is there?

**Manager:** I like Henry Pacheco, too. But he's 2 \_\_\_\_\_.

**Owner:** That might be okay. What's his experience like?

**Manager:** He 3 \_\_\_\_\_ the X-99 traffic analysis software.

**Owner:** Really? That was a fascinating project. Those engineers really had to 4 \_\_\_\_\_.

**Manager:** Yeah, that's what I thought. Should I set up an 5 \_\_\_\_\_?

**Owner:** Definitely. Experience is nice. But I'd rather go with a 6 \_\_\_\_\_.

**Manager:** Okay. I'll call Henry right away.