

## 10 traits of a good leader

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*Being a good leader goes far beyond simply holding a position of authority. True leadership involves a combination of personal qualities, skills, and values that inspire and empower others to achieve their best. This short paper highlights 10 of the key traits – there are no doubt others.*

### **Integrity**

A good leader acts with honesty and upholds strong moral principles. Integrity builds trust within a team, as people are more likely to follow someone whose actions match their words. The old expression – ‘do what I do – not do what I say’ comes into play. Sincerity is a key element of integrity.

### **Communication**

Effective leaders communicate clearly and listen actively. They ensure everyone understands their roles and expectations, and encourage open, two-way communication within the group. Despite what some people say – you *cannot* over communicate.

### **Empathy**

Understanding and respecting the feelings and perspectives of others helps leaders build strong relationships. Empathetic leaders are approachable and create supportive and inclusive environments.

### **Vision**

Successful leaders have a clear vision for the future and can articulate it in a way that motivates and unites their team. They set realistic goals and inspire others to work towards achieving them – essentially, they have a strategic intent that is actioned accordingly.

## **Decisiveness**

Good leaders make informed decisions promptly and confidently. They weigh up the available information, consider the potential impacts, and take responsibility for their choices.

## **Accountability**

A strong leader takes responsibility for their actions and the outcomes of their team. They acknowledge mistakes, learn from them, and foster a culture of accountability among team members.

## **Adaptability**

Leaders often face changing circumstances and unexpected challenges. Adaptable leaders remain flexible, embrace change, and find innovative solutions to overcome obstacles. This combined with 'decisiveness' makes for good leadership.

## **Confidence**

Confidence enables leaders to inspire trust and assurance in their team. However, it is important that confidence is balanced with humility and openness to feedback.

## **Delegation**

Good leaders know how to delegate tasks effectively. They recognise the strengths of their team members and entrust them with responsibilities, allowing everyone to grow and contribute. Sharing responsibility – and having achievements acknowledge is critical.

## **Commitment**

Leaders who are passionate and dedicated to their work set a positive example. Their enthusiasm is contagious and encourages others to put in their best effort.

*While every leader has their own style, these core traits form the foundation of effective leadership. By continually developing these qualities, anyone can become a better leader in their workplace, community, or personal life for that matter.*

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