

CONTENT MARKETING BASICS

Getting Heard Above the Noise





Table of Contents

Learner Activities 4 Soda, Skirts and Software 4 Buyer Personas 7 Brand Voice 9 Engagement Worksheet 14 Content Marketing Checklist 20 LinkedIn Project 21 Appendix A1 Content Marketing Example—Soda A3 Content Marketing Example—Skirts A4 Content Marketing Example—Software A5 Persona Builder Worksheet A6 Basic Buyer Personas A9 Brand Personality Worksheet A19

INTRO TO CONTENT MARKETING

Learner Activities

Engagement Worksheet

Okay, with our personas in our back pocket and the voice defined, you should be feeling warmed up by now. So, it's time start filling in the blanks.

Use this worksheet to create the different types of content covered in this section. Start by listing the brand words you selected in the previous activity across the top—we've given you four slots. As we progress through each lesson, fill the worksheet with your own writing, keeping your brand words in mind.

Note

You can spend **a lot** of time on these, but try to just write a few sentences to get the feel for how to utilize these elements to write, really anything!

Brand Words	
Website Copy	
Homepage	
Product Page	
About Us	

Does your Website Copy meet the 5 rules?	Yes	No
Confused? If this is your first time using the Engager can ignore this question for now. Don't worry, we'll we cover the 5 Rules of Content Marketing later in	come back he	-
Microcopy		
Does your Microcopy meet the 5 rules?	Yes	No
Form Fills		
Create a strategy.		
Do your Form Fills meet the 5 rules?	Yes	No

Marketing & Sales Emails

For this example, pick a promotional email to send. Maybe you want to announce a new product or provide a 50% discount—whatever it is, pick a promotion for this exercise. Then, fill out the copy for a sample email

Remember: one call to action people!		
Subject		
Body		
Do your Marketing & Sales Emails meet the 5 rules?	Yes	No
Transactional Emails		
Auto-responder for contact us		

Auto-responder for content download		
Thank you for purchasing		
Do your Transactional Emails meet the 5 rules?	Yes	No
Social Media		
Twitter Post		
		,
Twitter Retweet		
Facebook Post		
Facebook Share		
LinkedIn Post		

LinkedIn Share		
LinkedIn Published Articles		
Instagram Post		
Does your Social Media meet the 5 rules?	Yes	No
Long-Form Content (Content per Persona)		
Persona 1		
Persona 2		
Persona 3		

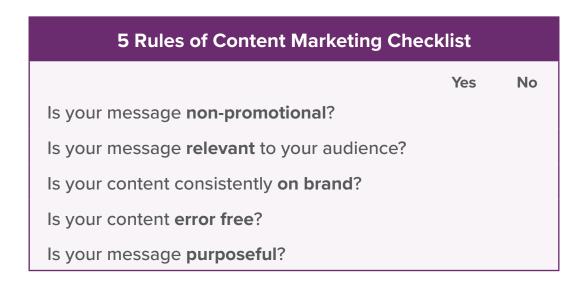
Persona 4		
Does your Long-Form Content meet the 5 rules?	Yes	No
Voicemail		
Sales—First Call		
Sales—Follow Up Call		
Sales—Deal Closing Call		
Customer Service—Upset Customer		
Customer Service—Survey		
Does your Voicemail meet the 5 rules?	Yes	No
Does your Voicemail meet the 5 rules?	res	NO

Content Marketing Checklist

Consider the 5 rules of content marketing. Go back and take a look at the exercise from the previous section—now it's time to use those checkboxes by each section!

Review what you wrote. How often was your tone or content promotional? Or better yet, **not** promotional? How often is it highly purposeful, and how?

As you review your content, use the checklist below to help identify areas in your message that need more attention in order to express your brand voice consistently.



Be hard on yourself and be honest. If the copy you wrote isn't engaging, then rewrite it. Writing great copy is an act of repetition and discipline!

Print out these rules and each time you write something, reference them and address any areas of weakness. You'll be a better writer for it!

INTRO TO CONTENT MARKETING

Appendix

Adding LinkedIn Projects

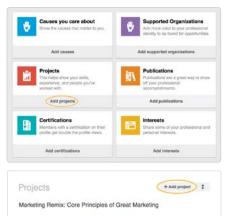
How to add Projects on Your Profile

Step 1

Move your cursor over *Profile* at the top of your homepage, wait for the drop down menu and select *Edit Profile*.



Step 2

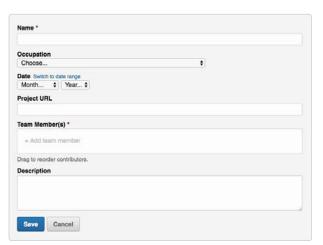


Add project

If you've never added a project before, look beneath your profile summary and click *View More* to see more sections, then click *Add projects*.

If you've previously added a project, scroll down to the Projects section on your profile and click *Add project*.

Step 3



Fill out the fields and click Save.

Adding LinkedIn Projects (cont'd)

To edit an existing project

- 1. Move your cursor over Profile at the top of your homepage and click *Edit Profile*.
- 2. Scroll down to the Projects section and click the Fdit icon next to the project title to open edit.
- 3. Make your changes.
- 4. Click Save.

More about adding and editing projects

- To add a team member to your project, select the Edit icon next to the project title to open edit options. Start typing the name of the team member to see a list of 1st-degree connections. You can select a connection from this list.
- If your team member isn't on LinkedIn, you can still type their name to add them to the project.
- You can't edit the Team Member section of a project on someone else's profile. If you'd like to remove yourself, you'll need to reach out to that person and ask them to remove you.

to view LinkedIn's help page.

Note

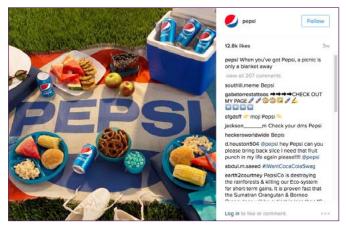
You can only add your connections as team members to a project.

Content Marketing Example—Soda

Look at the types of content that Pepsi produces. These are to be used in the first activity, located on page 4 of this workbook.















CrystalPepsi.net!

Content Marketing Example—Skirts

Look at these Diane von Furstenberg digital elements. These are to be used in the first activity, located on **page 4** of this workbook.





















Content Marketing Example—Software

Here are some samples of Marketo's digital content for you to look at. These are to be used in the first activity, located on **page 4** of this workbook.



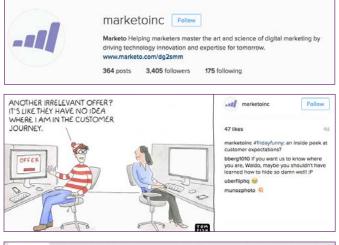
Marketo 3 Examples of Ancient Wisdom You Can Apply to Your Modern Sales Strategy to Close More Deals!

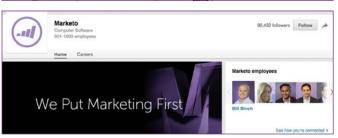


The Art of B2B Sales: How Sun Tzu's Ancient Wisdom Can Help You Close More Deals Faster

blog.marketo.com · Sure, you look pretty great with a copy of Sun Tzu's The Art of War on your office bookshelf, but have you actually read it? Sun Tzu talks about outmaneuvering competitors and strategizing for success, and his wisdom is just as useful to salespeople...











Persona Builder Worksheet

To create buyer personas that faithfully represent your customer base, get as granular as possible around who these personas "are" and what they care about. Then, you can build messaging that actually converts. To get started, gather your team and answer the questions below.

Persona's name		
Persona's job title/role		
Role in the buying committee Decision Maker	Executive Sponsor	Influencer
Need/motivation Low High		

Persona Overview

Create a 100–200 word overview describing this person. Include responsibilities, personal preferences, age, gender, experience & daily activities—anything that will help you understand your buyer's brain!

Persona Builder Worksheet (cont'd)

Pain Points

List all the challenges and concerns that commonly affect this person. FYI: We phrased these like user stories!

This helps you get into the agile marketing framework. Here's an example:

As a Marketing Director, I wish my team was more skilled in Marketo, so that they can run automated campaigns.

If you need help understanding user stories, reference the course *Project Management for Marketers*.

Management for Market	ters.			
Now it's your turn. Give it a go!				
As a	l'm concerned			
As a	I don't have			
As a	. I worry about			
As a	. I wish			
Key Drivers, Motiv	ators & Goals			
As a	. I want to			
As a	I need to			
As a	. I must			
Risk of Loss				
	or attitudes that you have seen this buyer display that not retaining him or her as a customer?			

Persona Builder Worksheet (cont'd)

Keep Building!

Think about your persona's motivations, questions and interests during each stage of the buying process. Use the boxes in the table below to jot down any notes you want to make.

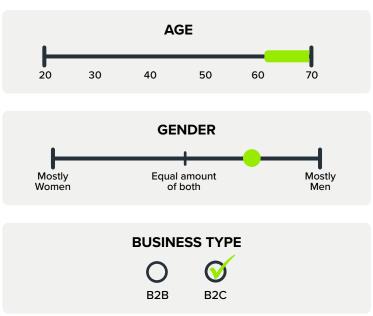
	Inquire -	→ Learn –	→ Evaluate	→ Justify -	→ Select
	What interests me?	What do I want to know?	What do I think?	Is this right? What else is needed?	Am I ready to buy?
Persona's Motivation					
	Questions:	Questions:	Questions:	Questions:	Questions:
What are they asking about?					
	Messages:	Messages:	Messages:	Messages:	Messages:
Key Messages & Value Propositions					
	Offers:	Offers:	Offers:	Offers:	Offers:
Offers they might be interested in					

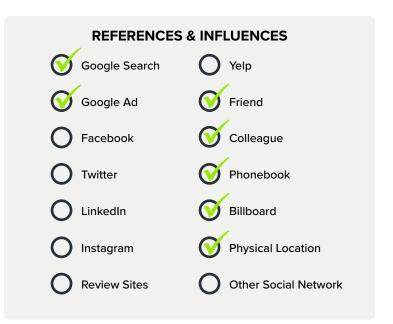


WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT

GENUINE GEORGE

Meet George, he's been around the block a few times and has learned from his past mistakes. He is honest, straightforward, and expects anyone who he deals with to be the same. While George has kept current with digital trends, he does prefer to do things face to face whenever possible.





QUICK FACTS DECISIVE PERCEPTIVE FORMAL DETAIL ORIENTED VERY RESPONSIVE PRACTICAL THOROUGH KNOWS WHAT HE WANTS

QUESTIONS HE MAY ASK

- How will this help me?
- Is there anything else I'll have to invest in?
- How important is customer service to you?

ESSENTIAL TIPS

- Never be evasive
- Emphasize solutions with a proven track record
- · Be respectful of his time

HOW TO LOSE THE DEAL

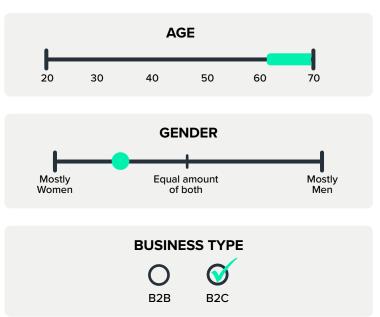
Above all, be honest and up front with him. He is experienced and perceptive and if he catches you trying to pull one over on him, he'll end your relationship in a heart beat.





WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT TRADITIONAL TRUDY

Introducing Trudy, she's been around a long time and has seen it all. She relies heavily on her past experiences when she evaluates anything new. She likes her tried and true processes and favors proven solutions over taking a risk with the latest and greatest technologies.





QUICK FACTS

NEED'

METHODICAL

PRECISE

LOOKING FOR STABILITY

CAN BE STUBBORN

DETAIL ORIENTED

COMMUNICATIVE

LOW TECH LITERACY

QUESTIONS SHE MAY ASK

- How long will this take?
- How flexible are you?
- What kind of support can I expect?

ESSENTIAL TIPS

- Provide her with some customer feedback so she can see your real world value
- Meet in person whenever possible

HOW TO LOSE THE DEAL

Don't lean too heavily on the technical details. Instead, emphasize the real world results. If she senses that you lack experience, she will look elsewhere.

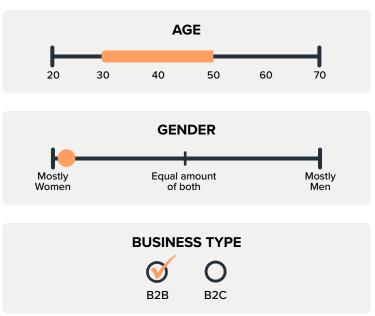




WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT

INFLUENCER IDA

Meet Ida, the type of employee that start ups are looking to hire because, frankly, she does it all. She is an enthusiastic buyer that can juggle a number of tasks at once. Ida is optimistic and genuinely excited to be at work and finds new initiatives to be more thrilling than daunting.





QUICK FACTS

APPRECIATION DEPRIVED

NEED

DOES IT ALL

SYSTEMATIC

LOOKING FOR STABILITY

INDEPENDENT THINKER

DETAIL ORIENTED

ENTHUSIASTIC

HIGHLY COLLABORATIVE

QUESTIONS SHE MAY ASK

- Are you interested in a partnership?
- Are there samples, case studies or marketing materials you can send my way?

ESSENTIAL TIPS

- Be straightforward
- · Communicate constantly
- · Be friendly and familiar
- Connect through social networks

HOW TO LOSE THE DEAL

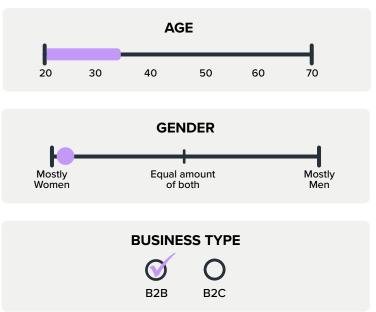
This persona likes to stay connected. If you keep them out of the loop or don't provide them all the details they need, they kick you to the curb.





WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT END USER EMMA

Introducing Emma, a young, dynamic go-getter with a thirst for knowledge. Emma needs to be empowered to make a confident, well-constructed solution. If you make her look bad, you'll blow your chance at winning her back. A strong, polished impression each time is key.





QUICK FACTS

LOGICAL

CAUTIOUS

JOB HOPPER

EAST TIME IN POSITION

INDEPENDENT THINKER

DETAIL ORIENTED

FARSIGHTED

VERY TECH LITERATE

QUESTIONS SHE MAY ASK

- What does a day in the life of a user of this product look like?
- How will your product change my day-to-day?

ESSENTIAL TIPS

- Coach her through what she should be asking
- · Talk about new tech
- Respect her role
- · Create a great relationship

HOW TO LOSE THE DEAL

Make sure she sees you as someone she can trust and look up to. Guide her and have her back or she may be your biggest detractor.

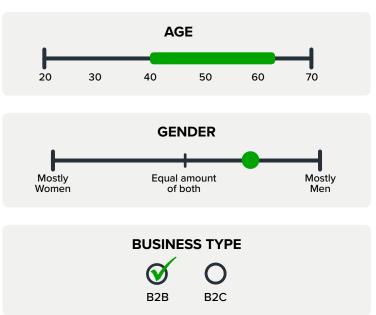




WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT

SOLE-PROPRIETER SAL

Meet Sal, an experienced business professional who has a long history of success striking out on his own and doing things his way. He knows what he wants and looks for solutions to meet his specific goals. Sal is a straight shooter who looks for the same attitude in his business partners.





QUICK FACTS LEADER SELF RELIANT ORGANIZED RESPECTS CONFIDENCE GOAL ORIENTED DETAIL ORIENTED ANALYTICAL NOT VERY NEEDY

QUESTIONS HE MAY ASK

- Why should I choose you over someone else?
- · How will this save me time?
- How will this make me money?

ESSENTIAL TIPS

- This is his livelihood, ensure he knows you "get" that
- · Provide detailed information
- · Be confident, not pushy
- · Be organized

HOW TO LOSE THE DEAL

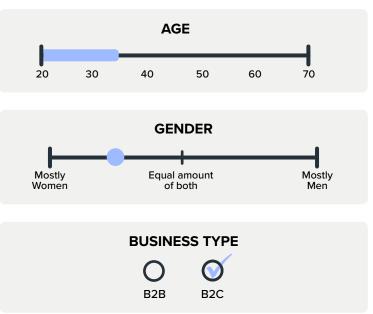
Always be upfront about every aspect of the solution you are providing. If he feels that you aren't being honest with him, he will walk away and it is unlikely he will meet with you again.





ASPIRING AMY

Introducing Amy, a young professional looking to make a splash. She doesn't have everything figured out but sees people everyday that she aspires to be like. Amy's consumer habits follow what her role models have and purchase.





QUICK FACTS

UPFROI

LIKES CHANG

THOROUGH

FIRST OR SECOND JOB

LATEST AND GREATES

DETAIL ORIENTED

ENTHUSIASTIC

VERY ACCESSIBLE

QUESTIONS SHE MAY ASK

- Does this brand feel current?
- Do any of my friends already have one?
- · How much is it?

ESSENTIAL TIPS

- Connect through social media
- Be just as enthusiast about the latest trends as she is
- Talk about her role models' perception of your brand

HOW TO LOSE THE DEAL

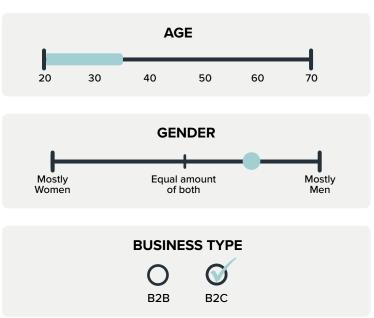
Be honest and if you have a high price point, she isn't rolling in the dough, so you better have quality that she trusts. She thinks she's smarter than she is, so don't talk down to her.





TECHNOLOGY TED

Meet Ted, he lacks life experience, but he brings enthusiasm and lots of new ideas to the table. He views technology as the best way to bring those ideas to life. Ted keeps his finger on the pulse of current trends through social media and is not afraid to take risks adopting new technology.



REFERENCES & INFLUENCES				
Google Search	O Yelp			
Google Ad	O Friend			
Facebook	O Colleague			
Twitter	O Phonebook			
LinkedIn	O Billboard			
Instagram	Physical Location			
Review Sites	Other Social Network			

QUICK FACTS

RELAXED

THINKS BIG

ADAPTABLE

LIKES TO TAKE RISKS

LATEST AND GREATEST

INDEPENDENT

COMMUNICATIVE

VERY TECH LITERATE

QUESTIONS HE MAY ASK

- Does this work with the other things that I already own?
- How is this better than what I'm using now?
- Is anyone else doing this?

ESSENTIAL TIPS

- Talk tech!
- Connect on social media and provide quick bites of content
- Show him how it will improve on what he already uses

HOW TO LOSE THE DEAL

You'll need to show Ted that you are on the cutting edge and will keep him ahead of his peers. If he thinks that you are behind the times, he'll find someone who can meet his needs.

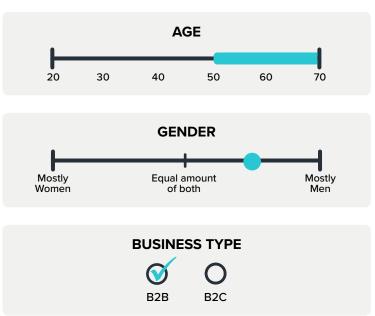




WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT

CHIEF CHESTER

Introducing Chester, a seasoned marketer who means business. He comes to the table with a large knowledge base and has been in the business long enough to know what he wants when he sees it. Chester generally has a large budget at his disposal and has one sole focus: bottom-line revenue.



REFERENCES & INFLUENCES				
Google Search	O Yelp			
Google Ad	Friend			
O Facebook	Colleague			
Twitter	O Phonebook			
LinkedIn	O Billboard			
Instagram	Physical Location			
Review Sites	Other Social Network			

QUICK FACTS

STUBBORN

CONVENTIONA

DECISIVE

BACKGROUND IN SALES AND MARKETING

CAREER FOCUSED

TRUST ISSUES

TENURED EXEC

KNOW-IT-ALL

POWER MONGER

QUESTIONS HE MAY ASK

- How much is this going to cost me? Can we get a better number than that?
- Why should I choose you over someone else?

ESSENTIAL TIPS

- Be confident
- Emphasize your familiarity with conventional wisdom
- Meet in person
- · Tell him he's right

HOW TO LOSE THE DEAL

Any attempt to go around Chester to reach higher-ups will be a deal-killer. If he feels cut out of the process, he responds negatively.

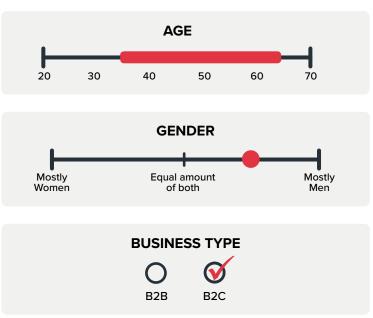




WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT

DETERMINED DREW

Introducing Drew, an ambitious individual who prides himself on his own resourcefulness and abilities. He views crowdsourced review sites as a good starting point. Analytical by nature, he loves digging into the details and having as much information as possible before making any decisions.





QUICK FACTS DECISIVE ANALYTICAL AMBITIOUS WANTS ALL THE FACTS LIKES EFFICIENCY DETAIL ORIENTED EGOTISTICAL VERY TECH LITERATE

QUESTIONS HE MAY ASK

- How do you responded to some of the criticism I read about online?
- Do you offer demos or free trials?

ESSENTIAL TIPS

- · Don't skimp on the details
- Be direct
- · Make him feel important

HOW TO LOSE THE DEAL

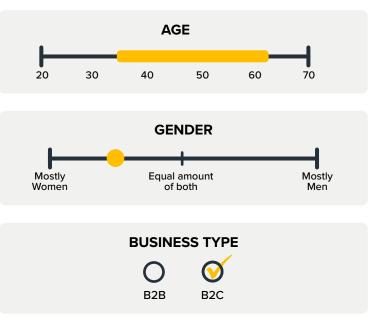
Drew wants everyone to see what a great decision maker he is. Don't make him feel inferior. He will back away if he thinks that he is being led down a path of your choosing instead of his own.





STRATEGIC STACY

Meet Stacy, a seasoned professional who has fully established herself in her career. She has the trust of her friends and colleagues, who will likely follow her lead. Stacy is proactive and often takes the initiative to thoroughly research potential new products and services. She takes this professional frame of mind into the consumer goods she purchases as well.





QUICK FACTS

ENERGETIC

RESOURCEFUL

INDEPENDENT

FORWARD THINKING

VERY METHODICAL

DETAIL ORIENTED

COMMUNICATIVE

NOT VERY NEEDY

QUESTIONS SHE MAY ASK

- Can you go into a little more detail on how it works?
- How can I get in contact with you if I have any problems?
- How much of your business comes from referrals?

ESSENTIAL TIPS

- Go over the fine details and provide her with real world data
- · Be personable
- Relate to her interests and try to get her out of work-mode

HOW TO LOSE THE DEAL

Be open and available to her. She likes to do her own research, but it is important that she views you as a valuable resource. If she has trouble getting a response from you, she will move on.



Brand Personality Worksheet

Select four brand words that describe how you would like to be perceived.

Your Power Brand Word	 <u> </u>	
Support Brand Words	 	

Imaginative

Brand Words Table

Accessible Accommodating Accomplished Active Adaptable Admirable Adorable Affectionate Agreeable Alive Alluring **Ambitious** Amorous Appreciative Approachable Appropriate Artistic Assured Astute Athletic Attentive Attractive Authentic Authoritative Balanced Beautiful Believable Big-hearted Blessed Blissful Bold Brainy Brave Bright Brilliant Calm Captivating

Caring

Casual

Cerebral

Charming

Cheerful

Colorful

Comedic

Clearheaded

Comfortable

Chic

Compassionate Compatible Competent Complex Concise Confident Considerate Consistent Constant Content Convincing Cordial Courageous Courteous Creative Credible Cute Daring Decent Decisive Dedicated Deep Defined Delectable Deliberate Delightful Democratic Dependable Desirable Determined Devoted Dignified Diligent Diplomatic Direct Discerning Discrete Distinctive Dramatic Easy-going Economical Ecstatic Efficient Elated

Elegant

Eloquent

Enchanted

Encouraging Energetic Engaging Enlightened Enterprising Entertaining Enthusiastic Established Ethical Exact Excellent Extraordinary Fabulous Faithful Fantastic Fascinating Fashionable Flexible Focused Forgiving Fresh Free Fun Funny Generous Gentle Genuine Good Good Looking Good-hearted Good-natured Gorgeous Gracious Grateful Great Gregarious Grounded Нарру Harmonious Healthy Helpful Hilarious Hopeful

Hospitable

Humorous

Immaculate Impartial Important Impressive Independent Influential Ingenious Innovative Inspired Intelligent Intuitive Inventive Jolly Joyful Jubilant Knowledgeable Liberal Liaht Likable Lively Logical Lovely Loyal Lucid Lucky Luminous Magnetic Mature Mild Miraculous Moderate Modest Moral Natural Nice Noble Nourishing Open-minded Original Passionate Peaceful Personable Persuasive Philosophical

Poetic Polished Positive Powerful Practical Precious Proactive Productive Professional Profound Progressive Prolific Prompt Proper Prudent Purposeful Radiant Real Reasonable Refined Reflective Relaxed Reliable Remarkable Respectful Responsive Reverent Righteous Robust Romantic Satisfied Scholarly Sensible Sensual Sentimental Serene Sexy Sharp Sincere Simple Sociable Solid Sophisticated

Soulful

Sparkling

Spirited

Spiritual Splendid Spontaneous Stable Steady Strong Studious Stylish Suave Subtle Successful Sunny Superb Sweet Sympathetic Systematic Tender Terrific Thankful Thorough Thoughtful Tolerant Tough Tranquil Truthful Understanding Unique Upright Valiant Versatile Vigorous Virtuous Visionary Vivacious Warm Well-rounded Whimsical Wise Witty Wonderful Worldly

Zealous

Playful

Pleasant