



What is Patience?

- The quality of bearing or enduring pain and trouble without complaining.
- Refusing to be provoked.
- Calmly tolerating delay, confusion, and inefficiency.

Patience is putting aside the "microwave mentality" of our culture that expects instant results. Instead, it is being willing to accept reality and wait indefinitely for one's goals to be achieved.

It is recognizing delays as possible benefits and developing productive activity during the waiting times.

It is choosing to finish a job carefully and correctly, not hastily and poorly.

Exercising patience develops the good character necessary to find true success in the future.

For more on Patience...

- visit "[Just for Kids](#)"
- see the [Resource](#) list
- visit www.characterfirst.com

Patience

vs. Restlessness

"Accepting a difficult situation without giving a deadline to remove it."

I will:

- Wait my turn.
- Make the most of my spare time.
- Not interrupt
- Accept what I cannot change
- Not complain if I do not get my way

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Five Ways to Build Patience into your life:

1. Keep your cool. When you encounter difficulties, avoid anger and deal with the situation calmly with your ultimate goal in mind.
2. Use the right process. It is tempting to take short cuts to finish a job faster, but the steps you skipped may be necessary to get the results you wanted.
3. Pursue while you wait. While you wait, use the time productively. Catch up, get organized, connect.
4. Accept reality. Consider which things can change and which cannot and work to do what is required to change the things you can.
5. Try again. Do not become discouraged; re-evaluate your vision, refine it, and keep working. Perhaps the character you are developing in this process is more important than the final goal!

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Needed Background! Parents, if you haven't read the general discussion on "Building Character in Your Family", why don't you take time to do so before teaching this month's character quality? [Click here to see it--](#)



Accept the "speed bumps" in your life as important warnings to go a bit slower with more carefulness. Ramming against them only causes damage!

Parents - [Click here](#) for tips on encouraging your children to develop the character quality this month. Check out the [Just for Kids](#) pages for a nature analogy and a historical lesson.