

A Synopsis of Aristotle's Theory of The Virtues and Vices of Character

1. Virtue or excellence [*arete*] is:

A **state** [*hexis*] or stable disposition of the soul

→ concerned with **decision** [*prohairesis*]

→ resulting from **deliberation** [*bouleusis*]

→ **intermediate** (lying on a mean) between excess and deficiency

→ **relative to the individual**

→ determined by **reason** [*logos*]

→ in the way a person with practical knowledge [*phronimos*] would determine it.

2. Virtues of character are:

Acquired by **habituation**.

3. A preliminary taxonomy of the virtues and vices of character:

Root:	Excess	Mean	Deficiency
Confidence:	Foolish	Brave	Cowardly
Pleasure:	Intemperate	Temperate	Insensible
Petty Cash:	Wasteful	Generous	Ungenerous
High Finance:	Vulgar	Magnificent	Miserly
Honor:	Vane	Magnanimous	Pusillanimous
Anger:	Irascible	Mild	Inirascible
Truth-telling:	Pretentious	Truthful	Self-deprecating
Amusement:	Buffoonish	Witty	Boorish
Social Pleasures:	Ingratiating	Friendly	Quarrelsome