

Examples of Correlations in Research Articles

Unit: What Is Psychology?

TABLE 3-1 Comparison of Correlations (*r*) of Selected Characteristics for Identical Twins Reared Apart (MZA) and Identical Twins Reared Together (MZT)*

CHARACTERISTIC	<i>r</i> (MZA)	<i>r</i> (MZT)	SIMILARITY <i>r</i> (MZA) ÷ <i>r</i> (MZT)**
Physiological	—	—	—
Brain wave activity	.80	.81	.987
Blood pressure	.64	.70	.914
Heart rate	.49	.54	.907
Intelligence	—	—	—
WAIS IQ	.69	.88	.784
Raven Intelligence Test	.78	.76	1.03
Personality	—	—	—
Multidimensional Personality Questionnaire (MPQ)	.50	.49	1.02
California Personality Inventory	.48	.49	.979
Psychological interests	—	—	—
Strong Campbell Interest Inventory	.39	.48	.813
Minnesota Occupational Interest Scale	.40	.49	.816
Social attitudes	—	—	—
Religiosity	.49	.51	.961
Nonreligious social attitudes	.34	.28	1.21

*Adapted from Table 4, p. 226.

**1.00 would imply that MZA twin pairs were found to be exactly as similar as MZT twin pairs.

Table 1 – Correlation of Happiness with other psychological variables

Variable		<i>r</i>
Perceived Parental Rearing Style	Care by Father	.37*
	Overprotection by Father	.06
	Care by Mother	.53**
	Overprotection By Mother	-.25
Attributional Style	Positive Attributional Style	.43**
	Negative Attributional Style	-.27
	Composite positive and negative attributional style	.46**
Personality Traits	Neuroticism	-.52**
	Extraversion	.66**
	Openness	.51**
	Agreeableness	.08
	Conscientiousness	.28
Stressful life events	Stressful life events	-.24

P*>.05; *P*>.01

Table 1 shows that perceived parental care (both parents); positive attributional style, neuroticism, extraversion and openness to experience- all these were significantly correlated with happiness. If happiness is considered synonymous with wellbeing, the present study supports the findings of Herz and Gullone (1999) that quality of the parent-child relationship has a significant impact on the long-term well-being of individuals. Perceived care from father and mother in childhood years could be assumed to have a contributory effect on adult happiness.