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Human Mendelian Traits

Mendelian Traits are those traits which follow Mendel's rules of only 2 possible versions (1 dominant, 1 recessive). There are many examples of this in humans.

1. Use the chart below to determine your phenotype (appearance) and possible genotypes (a pair of alleles). Since you cannot do a genetic test right now, if you have the dominant phenotype, you should include both the homozygous and heterozygous genotypes—see the examples on Tongue Rolling on the first row.

Trait	Possible alleles	Your Phenotype	Your Genotype(s)
Tongue Rolling	Able to roll (R) Unable to roll (r)	Ex., able to roll	RR (homozygous) or Rr (heterozygous)
Freckles	Have freckles (F) No freckles (f)		
Widow's peak	Widow's peak (W) Straight (w)		
Earlobe	Free hanging (A) Attached (a)		
Cleft chin	Have cleft (C) No cleft (c)		
Thumb	Hitchhiker's (H) Straight (h)		
Dimples	Dimples (D) No dimples (d)		
Interlocking fingers (when hands are clasped)	Left thumb on top (L) Right thumb on top (l)		

2. Did you have mostly dominant or recessive traits? _____

3. Compare your findings with other students.

- a. For which trait were most students dominant?
- b. For which trait were most students recessive?