

# 5e Basic Race Feature Analysis

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I have a website now: <http://zappyman2.wix.com/musicushomebrew>

## New Info here:

- Already have a few Demon races in the Catalogue, will try and round out the list for Rage of Demons. Let me know if you have any requests.
- Dark Sun Ruleset Update since the Elemental Evil Player's Companion made parts of the original obsolete. [Link Here](#).
- I've analyzed the new Elemental Evil Player's supplement. [Link here](#).
- I analyzed the new races from the Unearthed Arcana article for Eberron. [Link here](#). Feedback Included.

The Premise of this whole project is that all player races should be relatively similar in power to each other (but not exactly equal), and that one can use a single ability point as a measuring stick for how powerful various racial traits are. 1 Musicus point = +1 to any 1 ability score.

## PHB Races

Base Race (Score) = total score	Subtype (Subscore)
Dwarf (+5) = 7.5-8	Hill (+2.5), Mountain (+3)
Elf (+4.5) = 7-7.5	High (+2.5), Wood (+2.5), Dark (+3)
Halfling (+2.5) = 4 - 4.5	Lightfoot (+2), Stout (+1.5)
Human = 6	Variant Human = 2.5+X
Dragonborn = 4.5	
Gnome (+3.5) = 5.5	Forest (+2), Rock (+2)
Half Elf = 6.5	
Half Orc = 5.5	
Tiefling = 5.5	

As you can see, all races tend to be close to 5.5 or 6 points (average is 5.6 for all subraces and 5.9 for each race as a whole). I would use 5.5 or 6 as the basic race feature power pool and deviate slightly from there.

Helpful people are getting their own page at the end of this Doc.

If anyone has any ideas for making a more cohesive and usable guide, please message /u/JamesMusicus on Reddit.

## Example Races: [Race Catalogue](#)

### Step-by-Step Race Creation:

1. Consult the DMG pages 285-287 on Creating a Race
2. Decide on a target Score
  - a. Ranging from 4 (Kobolds) to 8 (Dwarves). 5-6 is recommended.
3. Assign a Primary Ability Score
  - a. This score gets +2
4. Decide on Secondary Ability Scores for Subraces
  - a. These scores get +1
  - b. If a race has no subraces, simply assign a +1 to their Secondary Score
5. Decide on features
  - a. Select features from the Table or list below or write your own and assign values to them.  
This process should work like a point-buy system using the costs listed. All costs are weighed against ability score improvements.
  - b. Races get 2 languages for free: Common, and one other that is race-specific.
  - c. If the total score (Traits + Ability Scores) is near your target, you've done everything right!
6. Using the [Race Template](#), write a full race document
7. Enjoy the Game!

**\*Reminder:** This document does not *perfectly* balance everything, as close as I tried to make it. Tweak things as needed or to suit your group or campaign.

# Racial Trait List

*This list of traits covers how I would score the included traits. It is very possible you don't agree with me, so I encourage you to ignore the listed values if you feel the need to.*

[1 - 2] **Ability Score Increase.** Your \_\_\_\_\_ score increases by [1 or 2].

[.5 - 2] **Armor Training.** You have proficiency with \_\_\_ armor.

[.5] **Brave.** You have advantage on saving throws against being frightened.

[1] **Breath Weapon.** You can use your action to exhale destructive energy. This produces a \_\_\_foot [cone or line] dealing \_\_\_\_\_ damage.

When you use your breath weapon, each creature in the area of the exhalation must make a \_\_\_\_\_ saving throw. The DC for this saving throw equals 8 + your Constitution modifier + your proficiency bonus. A creature takes 2d6 damage on a failed save, and half as much damage on a successful one. The damage increases to 3d6 at 6th level, 4d6 at 11th level, and 5d6 at 16th level.

After you use your breath weapon, you can't use it again until you complete a short or long rest.

[.5] **Cantrip.** You know [one cantrip of your choice from the \_\_\_\_\_ spell list]/[the \_\_\_\_\_ cantrip]. \_\_\_\_\_ is your spellcasting ability for it.

[2] **Cunning.** You have advantage on all Intelligence, Wisdom, and Charisma saving throws against magic.

[.5] **Darkvision.** You have superior vision in dark and dim conditions. You can see in dim light within 60 feet of you as if it were bright light, and in darkness as if it were dim light. You can't discern color in darkness, only shades of gray.

[-1 - +1] **Damage [Immunity/Resistance/Vulnerability].** You have \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ damage.

[.5] **Extra Language.** You can speak, read, and write \_\_\_\_\_ [one extra language of your choice].

[.5/5ft.] **Extra Movement.** Your base walking speed increases to \_\_\_ feet.

[?] **Feat.** You gain one feat of your choice.

[.5] **Fey Ancestry.** You have advantage on saving throws against being charmed and magic can't put you to sleep.

[1 - 1.5] **Innate Magic.** You know the \_\_\_\_\_ cantrip. When you reach 3rd level, you can cast the \_\_\_\_\_ spell once per day. When you reach 5th level, you can also cast the \_\_\_\_\_ spell once per day. \_\_\_\_\_ is your spellcasting ability for these spells.

[0] **Languages.** You can speak, read, and write Common and \_\_\_\_\_.

[1] **Living Construct.** Even though you were constructed, you are a living creature. You are immune to disease. You do not need to eat or breathe, but you can ingest food and drink if you wish. Instead of sleeping, you enter an inactive state for 4 hours each day. You do not dream in this state; you are fully aware of your surroundings and notice approaching enemies and other events as normal.

[.5] **Lucky.** When you roll a 1 on an attack roll, ability check, or saving throw, you can re-roll the die and must use the new roll.

[.5 - 2] **Natural Armor.** You have a natural armor bonus of +\_\_\_. When unarmored, your AC is equal to 10 + your natural armor bonus + your dexterity modifier.

[1] **Naturally Stealthy.** You can attempt to hide even when you are obscured only by a creature that is at least one size larger than you.

[.5 - 1] **Natural Weapon.** You are proficient with your unarmed strikes, which deal 1dX \_\_\_\_\_ damage on a hit.

[.5] **Nimble.** You can move through the space of any creature that is of a size larger than yours.

[.5] **Poison Resilience.** You have advantage on saving throws against poison, and you have resistance against poison damage.

[1] **Relentless Endurance.** When you are reduced to 0 hit points but not killed outright, you can drop to 1 hit point instead. You can't use this feature again until you finish a long rest.

[.5] **Savage Attacks.** When you score a critical hit with a melee weapon attack, you can roll one of the weapon's damage dice one additional time and add it to the extra damage of the critical hit.

[.5] **Skills.** You have proficiency in the \_\_\_\_\_ skill.

[.5] **Speak with Small Beasts.** Through sounds and gestures, you can communicate simple ideas with Small or smaller beasts.

[+/-X] **Speed.** Your base walking speed is 30 feet. (include special notes about movement here)

[.5] **Stonecunning.** Whenever you make an Intelligence (History) check related to the origin of stonework, you are considered proficient in the History skill and add double your proficiency bonus to the check, instead of your normal proficiency bonus.

**Subrace.** Two main subraces of \_\_\_\_\_ populate the worlds of D&D: \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. Choose one of these subraces.

[.5] **Superior Darkvision.** Your darkvision has a radius of 120 feet.

[-.5] **Sunlight Sensitivity.** You have disadvantage on attack rolls and on Wisdom (Perception) checks that rely on sight when you, the target of your attack, or whatever you are trying to perceive is in direct sunlight.

[.5] **Tool Proficiency.** You gain proficiency with the \_\_\_\_\_ tools of your choice: \_\_\_\_\_.

[1.5] **Toughness.** Your hit point maximum increases by 1, and it increases by 1 every time you gain a level.

[.5] **Trance.** You don't need to sleep. Instead, you meditate deeply, remaining semiconscious, for 4 hours a day. (The Common word for such meditation is "trance.") While meditating, you can dream after a fashion; such dreams are actually mental exercises that have become reflexive through years of practice. After resting in this way, you gain the same benefit that a human does from 8 hours of sleep.

[0 - 1] **Weapon Familiarity.** You consider the \_\_\_\_\_ [racial weapons] martial weapons instead of exotic weapons.

[.5] **Weapon Training.** You have proficiency with the \_\_\_\_\_ [weapons].

[X-1] **Wings.** You have a flying speed of \_\_\_\_\_ feet.

You must be in a space wide enough to accommodate your wingspan to fly. Your wingspan is equal to twice your height. [-.5 per 5ft past the first 5 ft.]

You cannot fly if you are wearing armor you are not proficient in, armor not tailored to accommodate your wings, or a backpack not specially tailored to your wings.

[-1] **Can Not Hover.** You fall to the ground at the end of your turn unless you move at least half your fly speed during your turn.

[1.5 - 2] **Higher Ability Scores.** Your \_\_\_\_\_ score increases by [1, 2, 3, or 4].

*(The Cost of this trait is 1.5 for the first extra point above baseline, and 2 for the second extra point. So a race with +2/+1 would be worth 3 points as normal. +2/+1/+1 would be worth 4.5, +2/+1/+1/+1 would be worth 6, as would +3/+2, +2/+2/+1 would be worth 6.5, as would +4/+1. A race with only +3 in one ability score would be worth 3.5.)*

# Example Race Features by Point Cost

-2

- Tiny
- Wings

-1

- 1 Vulnerability
- Small
  - -5 ft movement
  - Disadvantage to attack with heavy weapons

-0.5

- -5 feet movement

.5

- 1 level of Armor Proficiency
  - Light
  - Medium
  - Shield
  - Heavy
- 1 Damage Resistance
- 1 Skill Proficiency
- 1 Tool proficiency
- 4 Weapon Proficiencies
- +5 feet walking speed
- +10 feet swim speed
- 11+Dex Natural Armor
- 1 Cantrip
- 1 [level appropriate] spell, 1/long rest
- Advantage on weak saves (Str/Int/Cha)
- Anything allowing awareness while asleep and/or shortening sleep.
- Brave
- Darkvision 60
- Darkvision 120 & Sunlight Sensitivity
- Double Proficiency on limited checks
- Extra Language
- Fey Ancestry
- Nimble
- Lucky
- Mask of the Wild
- Natural Weapon (1d4)
- Savage Attacks
- Speak with Beasts/plants
- Stonecunning
- Poison Resilience
- Tinker

1

- 1 Ability Score Point
- 12+Dex Natural Armor
- +15 burrow speed
- Advantage on Strong Saves (Dex/Con/Wis)
- Breath Weapon
- Change an Action to a Bonus Action
- Living Construct
- Naturally Stealthy
- Natural Weapon (1d6)
- Relentless Endurance

1.5

- 1 HP per LVL
- Innate Casting (cantrip, 2 spells)

2

- 2 Ability Score Points
- 13+Dex Natural Armor
- Gnome Cunning

Variant

- 1 Feat [2-4]
- Bonus Minimum AC (.5 for 12, 1.5 for 14, 3 for 16.)
- [Flying](#) (Wings Update finished)
- Innate Casting
- Natural Armor
- Natural Weapons
- Weapon Familiarity [0-1]

# 5e PHB Race Breakdown, revisited.

## Dwarf +4.5 (Score: 7-7.5)

- 2 Constitution = 2
- -5ft movement = -.5
- Not slowed by heavy armor = .5
- Darkvision 60 = .5
- Dwarven Resilience = .5
- weapon proficiencies = .5
- tool proficiency = .5
- Stonecunning = .5

### Hill Dwarf +2.5

- 1 Wisdom = 1
- +1 HP per level = 1.5

### Mountain Dwarf +3

- 2 Strength = 2
- Light and Medium armor = 1

### **Dwarven Resilience = .5**

Adv. v. Poison saves, Poison Damage resist.

### **Stonecunning = .5**

Whenever you make an Intelligence (History) check related to the origin of stonework, you are considered proficient in the History skill and add double your proficiency bonus to the check, instead of your normal proficiency bonus.

## Elf +4.5 (Score: 7-7.5)

- 2 Dexterity = 2
- Darkvision 60 = .5
- Perception Proficiency = .5
- Fey Ancestry = .5
- trance = .5

### High Elf +2.5

- 1 Intelligence = 1
- Weapon Proficiencies = .5
- Cantrip = .5
- Language = .5

### Wood Elf +2.5

- 1 Wisdom = 1
- Weapon Proficiencies = .5
- +5 ft movement = .5
- Mask of the Wild = .5

### Dark Elf +3

- 1 Charisma = 1
- Darkvision +60/sunlight sensitivity = 0
- Drow Magic = 1.5
- Weapon Proficiencies = .5

**Fey Ancestry = .5**

Adv. v. Charm and magic can't put you to sleep

**Mask of the Wild = .5**

Description.

**Drow Magic = 1.5**

Charisma, Dancing lights. Lvl 3: Faerie Fire 1/day. Lvl 5: Darkness 1/day.

**Halfling +2.5 (Score: 4.5)**

- 2 Dexterity = 2
- Small = -1
- Lucky = .5
- Adv. v. Frighten = .5
- Move through any medium creature's squares = .5

Lightfoot +2

- 1 Charisma = 1
- Naturally Stealthy = 1

Stout +2

- 1 Constitution = 1
- Poison Resilience = .5

**Lucky = .5**

When you roll a 1 on an attack roll, ability check, or saving throw, you can reroll the die and must use the new roll.

**Halfling Nimbleness = .5**

You can move through the space of any creature that is of a size larger than yours.

**Naturally Stealthy = 1**

You can attempt to hide even when you are obscured only by a creature that is at least one size larger than you.

**Human (Score: 6)**

- 1 to all Ability scores = 6

**Human [Variant] (Score: 2.5+)**

- 1 to 2 Ability scores = 2
- 1 Skill Proficiency = .5
- 1 Feat = Varies

**Dragonborn (Score: 4.5)**

- 2 Strength = 2

- 1 Charisma = 1
- Breath Weapon = 1
- Damage Resistance = .5
- Draconic Ancestry = 0

**Draconic Ancestry = 0**

Color and Damage type

**Gnome +3.5 (Score: 5.5)**

- 2 Intelligence = 2
- Small = -1
- Darkvision 60 = .5
- Adv. Int, Wis, Cha v. Magic = 2
  - Forest +2
    - 1 Dexterity = 1
    - Minor Illusion = .5
    - Speak with Small Beasts = .5
  - Rock +2
    - 1 Constitution = 1
    - Artificer's Lore = .5
    - Tinker = .5

**Artificer's Lore = .5**

Whenever you make an Intelligence (History) check related to magic items, alchemical objects, or technological devices, you can add twice your proficiency bonus, instead of any proficiency bonus you normally apply.

**Half-Elf (Score: 6.5)**

- 2 Charisma = 2
- 1 to 2 Ability scores = 2
- Darkvision 60 = .5
- 2 Skill Proficiencies = 1
- Fey Ancestry = .5
- Extra language = .5

**Fey Ancestry = .5**

Adv. v. Charm and magic can't put you to sleep

**Half-Orc (Score: 5.5)**

- 2 Strength = 2
- 1 Constitution = 1
- Darkvision 60 = .5
- Intimidation Proficiency = .5
- Relentless Endurance = 1
- Extra Crit Damage Die = .5

**Relentless Endurance = 1**

When you are reduced to 0 hit points but not killed outright, you can drop to 1 hit point instead. You can't use this feature again until you finish a long rest.

**Tiefling (Score: 5.5)**

- 2 Charisma = 2
- 1 Intelligence = 1
- Darkvision 60 = .5
- Fire Resistance = .5
- Infernal Legacy = 1.5

**Infernal Legacy = 1.5**

Charisma, Thaumaturgy. Lvl 3: Hellish Rebuke II 1/day. Lvl 5: Darkness 1/day.

# Contributors

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[Ronden Marr](#) by [/u/Morgajel](#) utilized this guide.

Contact [/u/Jamesmusicus](#) on Reddit if I missed your name. I neglected to keep a list of helpful peoples, and would love to properly credit those that helped along the way. This project wouldn't have been the same without the crowdsourced QA and ideas I've received from the community!