Meaning and Etymology of "Personality"

Definition of Personality from the World Book Dictionary: Noun
1. The personal or individual quality that makes one person be different and act differently from another. In psychology, personality is the total physical, intellectual, and emotional structure of an individual, including abilities, interests, and attitudes.
2. The qualities of a person; distinctive personal character.
3. A person; personage
4. The quality of being a person, not a thing.

Definition of Person from World Book: Noun
1. A man, woman, or child; human being.
2. Person is the ordinary word for referring to a human being. Individual has the same meaning (though it is applied to single objects and animals as well) but emphasizes the person's singleness, aloneness, and is slightly heavy or pretentious unless emphasis is needed.


![Diagram of the Early Derivative Meaning of Persona]

Greek
Prosôpon = mask
Peri sôma = around the body

Latin
Persum = head or face
Per se una = self-containing
Per sonare = to sound through
Persona: character in a drama; actor; mask worn by an actor