

INTP

Introvert, Intuitive, Thinking, Perceiving

INTPs represent approximately 1% of the American population.

Potential Strengths

INTPs are great strategic thinkers and creative problem solvers. They are especially interested in mastering and perfecting theoretical or complex issues. Quiet, serious, and thoughtful, INTPs are usually intellectual and complicated people who appear quite dispassionate and reserved. However, they can become excited and persuasive about their ideas once they are ready to share them. INTPs are logical and analytical people, with a strong need to make sense of things.

Strongly independent, INTPs are driven to increase their personal mastery of subjects and are drawn to people of power and expertise. They tend to be open-minded, intrigued with anything imaginative, and may enjoy risk-taking. They prefer to look beyond what is known or accepted at the present time and eagerly consider more creative yet reasonable approaches to problems or ways of perfecting systems.

Potential Weaknesses

Ruled so completely by logic, INTPs can sometimes neglect to consider the more human side of issues. They can be critical and argumentative and may dismiss the feelings of others unless they understand them and can see that they make sense. INTPs are sometimes so single-minded and internally focused that they may not be fully aware of the world outside themselves.

Because INTPs use logic to understand their world, they sometimes don't pay enough attention to the emotional part of their lives and may have difficulty reaching out to friends when in need. They set such incredibly high standards for themselves and their projects, they can become discouraged when they do not reach or exceed them. They tend to ignore the more practical phases of their work and may let the follow through and details fall through the cracks.

As an INTP, I am good at . . .

- Using creativity and insight to understand issues in depth
- Logical analysis of complex problems
- Working alone with great focus and concentration
- Learning new skills and technology with ease and competence
- Engaging in long-range and strategic thinking

I need to watch my tendency to . . .

- Be impatient with and critical of people less competent than I
- Develop such complicated arguments or ideas that no one else understands them
- Consider only the possibly implications rather than the realistic applications of my ideas
- Refuse to deal with repetitious or mundane projects
- Intimidate others with my independent and confident style

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What I need in a career for it to be satisfying

1. Work in-depth on one creative challenge at a time, giving it my full attention without a lot of interruptions
2. The opportunity to develop innovative approaches and systems but not get bogged down in the details of implementation
3. An atmosphere of professionalism and mutual respect, where my expertise is recognized and respected and I have some say in how I am evaluated and compensated
4. An unstructured environment that encourages free-thinking and improvisation, without senseless rules, unnecessary meetings, or paperwork
5. The chance to logically analyze existing and potential systems and make recommendations for strategically sound changes

Careers to consider

Computer Software Designer	Computer Programmer	Systems Analyst
Research/Development Specialist	Database Manager	Strategic Planner
New Market/Product Designer	Scientist: Chemistry	Neurologist
Psychologist/Psychoanalyst	Scientist: Biology	Physicist
Financial Analyst	Economist	Plastic Surgeon
Archaeologist	Lawyer	Pharmacist
College Professor	Investigator	Architect
Inventor	Mathematician	Historian
Creative Writer	Researcher	Philosopher
Entertainer/Dancer	Photographer	Logician
Musician	Agent	Artist

Recommendations for the job search

1. **Using my strengths, I excel when I:**
 - Use my long-range vision to anticipate future career needs
 - Create my own career or modify available jobs to be more satisfying
 - Communicate my intelligence and competence to interviewers
 - Be innovative when designing my job search plan and creative in getting interviews
 - Weigh the pros and cons of choices and keep my options open
2. **Avoiding my weaknesses, I need to:**
 - Establish and stick to a plan of action
 - Pay attention to important details and facts
 - Follow through on all phases of the search, including the "niceties"
 - Generate and communicate energy and enthusiasm during interviews

Make decisions along the way to avoid missing better opportunities