

INTP

(Introverted, Intuitive, Thinking, Perceiving)
Ingenious Problem Solvers

Career Satisfactions for INTPs **Doing work that:**

- Lets me develop, analyze, and critique new ideas
- Lets me focus my attention and energy on a creative, theoretical, and logical process, rather than on an end product
- Is challenging and deals with complex problems, where I am able to try unconventional approaches, and take risks to find the best solution
- Lets me work independently with plenty of quiet, private time to concentrate and complete my thinking process
- Lets me set and maintain my own high standards for my work and determine how my performance will be evaluated and compensated
- Is done in a flexible, non-structured environment, without useless rules, excessive limitations, or unnecessary meetings
- Lets me interact with a small group of highly regarded friends and associates, all of whom I respect
- Gives me opportunities to constantly increase my own personal competence and power and lets me meet and interact with other powerful and successful people
- Lets me develop ingenious ideas and plans and lets me delegate the implementation and follow-through to an efficient support staff
- Does not require me to spend time directly organizing other people or supervising or mediating interpersonal differences

Work-Related Strengths

- Eagerness to “think outside the box” and consider new possibilities
- Ability to understand very complex and highly abstract ideas
- Great creative problem-solving skills
- Independence; courage to take risks, try new things, and overcome obstacles
- Ability to synthesize lots of information
- Intellectual curiosity and skills for getting information you need
- Ability to analyze things logically even under stress
- Great confidence and drive to continually increase your knowledge
- Objectivity; ability to address issues without taking them personally
- Confidence in your ideas and vision
- Ability to see the big picture; to see implications of actions and ideas
- Adaptability; you can shift gears and change directions quickly
- Comfort with technology; you’re a quick learner

Work-Related Weaknesses

- Tendency toward disorganization
- Overconfidence; you may misrepresent your abilities or experience
- Impatience with unimaginative and/or incompetent people
- Dislike of doing things in traditional or established manner
- Tendency to lose interest in projects once problems are solved
- Difficulty communicating complex ideas simply
- Tendency to be so theoretical that you ignore or miss the realities
- Undisciplined about attending to and following through on important details
- Dislike of doing repetitive tasks
- Impatience with structures and people who are too rigid detrimental to home life

*Source: Do What You Are, Paul D. Tieger & Barbara Barron-Tieger, 3rd edition, 2001
Please Understand Me, David Keirsey & Marilyn Bates, 4th edition, 1984.*

Popular Occupations for INTPs

Computers/Technology

- Computer software designer
- Computer programmer
- Research and development specialist
- Systems analyst/database manager
- Strategic planner
- New market or product conceptualizer
- Information services developer—computer programming; new business developer
- Network integration specialist
- Change management consultant
- Financial planner
- Investment banker
- Management consultant: computer/information services, marketing, reorganization
- Desktop publishing specialist
- Webmaster
- Programmer
- Network administrator
- Internet architect
- Analyst
- Web developer
- Computer animator
- Computer engineer
- Java programmer/analyst
- Business analyst
- Software developer

Health Care/Technical

- Neurologist
- Physicist
- Plastic surgeon
- Pharmacist
- Scientist: chemistry/biology
- Pharmaceutical researcher
- Biomedical engineer/researcher
- Veterinarian
- Microbiologist
- Geneticist

Professional/Business

- Lawyer
- Economist
- Psychologist/psychoanalyst
- Financial analyst
- Architect

- Investigator
- Intellectual property attorney
- Legal mediator
- Corporate finance attorney
- Psychiatrist
- Entrepreneur
- Venture capitalist
- Business analyst
- Entertainment agent
- Physicist
- Biophysicist
- Anthropologist
- Intelligence specialist

Academic

- Mathematician
- Archaeologist
- Historian
- Philosopher
- College teacher of advanced students
- Researcher
- Logician
- College faculty administrator
- Economist
- Interpreter/translator
- Astronomer

Creative

- Photographer
- Creative writer
- Artist
- Entertainer/dancer
- Musician
- Agent
- Inventor
- Informational-graphics designer
- Columnist, critic, commentator
- Music arranger and orchestrator
- Producer
- Director: stage, motion pictures
- Film editor
- Art director

P o r t r a i t o f a n I N T P

INTPs exhibit the greatest precision in thought and language of all the types; they tend to see distinctions and inconsistencies in thought and language instantaneously. The one word which captures the unique style of INTPs is architect—the architect of ideas and systems as well as the architect of edifices. This type is found in only 1% of the population and therefore is not encountered as frequently as some of the other types.

Authority derived from office, position, or wide acceptance does not impress INTPs. Only statements that are logical and coherent carry weight. External authority per se is irrelevant. INTPs abhor redundancy and incoherence. Possessing a desire to understand the universe, an INTP is constantly looking for natural law. Curiosity concerning these keys to the universe is a driving force in this type.

INTPs detect contradictions in statements no matter how distant in space or time the contradictory statements were produced. The intellectual scanning of INTPs has a principled quality; that is, INTPs search for whatever is relevant and pertinent to the issue at hand. Consequently, INTPs can concentrate better than any other type.

INTPs prize intelligence in themselves and in others, but can become intellectual dilettantes as a result of their need to amass ideas, principles, or understanding behavior. And once they know something, it is remembered. INTPs can become obsessed with analysis. Once caught up in a thought process, that thought process seems to have a will of its own to INTPs, and they persevere until the issue is comprehended in all its complexity. They can be intellectual snobs and may show impatience at times with others less endowed intellectually. This quality, INTPs find, generates hostility and defensive behaviors on the part of others, who may describe an INTP as arrogant.

For INTPs, the world exists primarily to be understood. Reality is trivial, a mere arena for providing ideas. It is essential that the universe is understood and that whatever is stated about the universe is stated correctly, with coherence and without redundancy. This is the INTP's final purpose. It matters not whether others understand or accept his or her truths.

The INTP is the logician, the mathematician, the philosopher, the scientist; any pursuit requiring architecture of ideas intrigues this type. INTPs should not, however, be asked to work out the implementation or application of their models to the real world. The INTP is the architect of a system and leaves it to others to be the builder and the applicator. Very often, therefore, the INTP's work is not credited to him or her. The builder and the applier gains fame and fortune, while the INTP's name remains obscure. Appreciation of an INTP's theoretical work frequently comes posthumously—or the work may never be removed from library shelves at all and thus lost.

INTPs tend not to be writers or to go into sales work. They are, however, often excellent teachers, particularly for advanced students, although INTPs do not always enjoy much popularity, for they can be hard task-masters. They are not good at clerical tasks and are impatient with routine details. They prefer to work quietly, without interruption, and often alone. If an organization is to use the talents of an INTP appropriately, the INTP must be given an efficient support staff who can capture ideas as they emerge and before the INTP loses interest and turns to another idea.

INTPs take their mating relationship seriously and usually are faithful and devoted—albeit preoccupied at times. They are not likely to welcome constant social activity or disorganization in the home. In all probability,

the mate of an INTP will initiate and manage a social life. If left to his or her own devices, the INTP mate will retreat into the world of books and emerge only when physical needs become imperative. INTPs are, however, willing, compliant, and easy to live with, although somewhat forgetful of appointments, anniversaries, and the rituals of daily living unless reminded. They may have difficulty expressing their emotions verbally, and the mate of an INTP may believe that he/she is somewhat taken for granted. As a parent, the INTP is devoted; they enjoy children, and are serious about their upbringing. The home of the INTP parent is usually calm, low-key in discipline, but well run and ordered.

INTPs deal with the environment primarily through intuition, and their strongest quality, the thinking function, remains relatively hidden except in close associations. Therefore, INTPs are often misunderstood, seen as difficult to know, and seldom perceived at their true level of competency. They are inclined to be shy except when with close friends, and their reserve is difficult to penetrate. They are very adaptable until one of their principles is violated. Then INTPs are not adaptable at all! They may have difficulty in a complicated fashion and want to be precise, never redundant in their communications. Because their feeling qualities may be underdeveloped, they may be insensitive to the wants and wishes of others, often quite unaware of the existence of these wants and wishes.

Using your strengths is easy.
The secret to success for an INTP is learning to:

***BE BETTER ORGANIZED, BE PATIENT WITH LESS INTELLIGENT PEOPLE,
AND WORK AT IMPROVING YOUR SOCIAL SKILLS.***