

INTJ: (Introverted-iNtuition-Thinking-Judging)

- Precise, accurate, and well-organized
- Can be leaders but usually prefer to let others lead and only step in when they feel something is amiss.
- Rarely make careless statements. When they express an opinion, it will almost always be based on supportable facts.
- Naturally communicate with their NT driven emotional neutrality and directness, a manner of self-expression that can unintentionally unsettle NFs.
- The blunt accuracy inherent to their style of communication can appear to be a manifestation of arrogance or insensitivity when it is not..¹
- Usually have a strong need for privacy.
- In their area of expertise, will be able to tell someone, almost immediately, if they can help and in what way.
- Are pragmatic. The question that tends to govern an INTJ's life is "Does it work?" This usually translates into an extraordinary independence of mind, impervious to authority or social convention for its own sake.²
- Hold themselves, as well as others, to a high standard of logical efficiency. Status will rarely protect anyone from INTJs' opinions if they believe the work at hand is not being properly handled.
- May have difficulty adjusting to the unexpected. INTJs are used to being competent and may freeze and become ineffective in situations they cannot resolve.

¹ The depth of understanding found in this Clinicians Guide would not have been possible without the extraordinarily generous gifts of time and knowledge provided by INTJ Ross Reinhold.

² Without an understanding of these natural traits and characteristics, an SJ or NF parent can condition their INTJ child to feel like they are insensitive, disrespectful, or both; when they are neither.

- May have little interest or patience with social rituals and ‘niceties.’

Although emotionally neutral in most situations INTJs can be almost hypersensitive to signals of rejection from those they feel closest to. Their natural manner of self expression, which usually works in their professional lives, can trigger an emotional reaction from a feeling response oriented significant other that makes no sense to them. INTJs want them to be emotionally calm and direct in communication; neither of which a feeling response oriented individual can do when upset by something an INTJ has said or done. As with NTs in general, INTJs do not understand why the way they have always communicated and connected with others keeps triggering emotional angst laden responses rather than the emotionally calm and direct ones they keep hoping for.

- When paired with a feeling response oriented partner can find themselves in some way kicked out of their role of husband or wife, or father or mother, and at a loss as to why this has happened and what they can do to correct the situation.
- Usually excel in a parenting role, encouraging an independence of mind while providing firm, appropriate, and consistent boundaries. However, a natural glitch occurs when an INTJ’s child is an NF. NF children’s natural sensitivity to feeling guilty and bad or rejected and hurt by their NT parent’s natural manner of communication can be enormously frustrating for both parent and child.³
- INTJs have a unique kind of naiveté in that they seem stuck in a determined and self-defeating quest to get people to make logical sense. The relationship between Liza and Professor Henry Higgins in the musical, My Fair Lady, captures the essence of this dilemma and is quite eloquently expressed by Higgins in the song “Let a Woman in Your life.”

³ INTJ Parents I have worked with over the years have given a logical explanation for the natural feeling sensitivity of NFs, are able to adjust and accommodate these differences.

