

INTP: (Introverted-iNtuitive-Thinking-Perceiving)

- INTPs have a unique purpose and function in human society. They are designed to focus on and attempt to understand the underlying principles of form and substance. Socrates, Charles Darwin, Albert Einstein, and Carl Gustav Jung some historical examples of INTPs. Contemporary examples include Peter Goldreich (INTP/ENTP split) in the world of the physical sciences and Peter Geyer in the world of Jungian psychology and the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator.
- Most precise of all types in the use of language. Will usually know immediately if there is even a slight degree of inaccuracy in a statement. This automatic scrutiny encompasses both form and substance. An error in logic or in the use of language may elicit an immediate correcting response. Even minute degrees of inconsistency can trigger a corrective response.
- Can appear to be unduly picky or argumentative when they usually are not.
- The nature of their focus and priority is such that they can be perceived as arrogant and, in fact, may at times be quite intolerant of those whom they feel are unacceptably careless in their use of thought and language.
- Their natural reserve can make it difficult for others to get to know them.
- Standard norms for accomplishment often do not make sense to INTPs. One INTP, when asked his view of letter grades for classes stated, 'Grades are the least valid criterion I can think of for determining someone's worth or value.'
- Have exceptional minds and a level of competence that may go unnoticed by all but those in their closest networks.
- May at times feel a profound sense of isolation.

- Tend to be easy-going unless a core value or principle is violated at which point they will not budge.
- INTPs' comprehensive drive to be totally accurate (NT orientation), combined with the open-ended possibilities orientation of their Perceiving process can lead to a diabolical dilemma. They cannot even begin to think about why something is the way it is without some sense that their starting point is leaving out some crucial data. It is as if they are stuck at the beginning, aware that any move in any direction may leave out some critical piece of information.¹
- May have a difficult time when emotions are stirred. INTPs are wired to think about things, not to feel about them. The personal realm can trigger emotions they have no way to comprehend or express, that they experience as irrational. Their ability to sort out their emotions and know their meaning is not well developed. Words like "upset," "hurt," "angry," and "disappointed" simply do not have a fact-based grounding point that would allow them to identify, understand, and express them. Under the pressure of expectations from others, INTPs can lose their ability to effectively connect and relate to others at all. The more upset they become, the less able they are to effectively communicate. Their need for connection with others then leaves them feeling vulnerable, and they may retreat into self-sufficiency and self-absorption, not wanting to accommodate others or do anything they do not want to do. The more emotionally detached they become, however, the more emotionally vulnerable they become and are increasingly vulnerable to heartache and rejection. Their place of safety increases their vulnerability; their thinking becomes more complex and critical, and less and less connected to how people actually are. In this sense, INTPs

¹ A mathematics professor, for example; must have a starting point as the base for an equation and therefore begins by saying, "Given n," and then states the problem. However, 'n' is an invention, is arbitrary, an unacceptable base from which to begin an equation for an INTP. Any conclusion based on such a starting point would have no validity for an INTP. With no valid starting point that comes from pure knowledge, INTPs can find themselves stuck at the beginning trying to find one or proceeding with a degree of assumption wondering if their assumption was incorrect. Robert Pirsig wrote of this dilemma in his autobiographical book, "Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance."

can confuse their ability to be impersonal with their ability to be objective. To counter this self-defeating protective behavior, they must make a concerted effort to maintain communication with others while learning to 'read' others' moods, language, and tones in order to interact and engage more effectively.

- May find romantic attachments problematic. INTPs usually develop enough extraverted skill to engage in affectionate experiences but tend to be shy and feel awkward about it. May have difficulty understanding what people expect of them and, in fact, what they expect of others. It is as if they have come from a different planet and do not understand how people here connect. In order to be effective, they must work at using their exceptional intuitive skills to increase their awareness of their effect on others and work at pushing themselves out of their comfort zone