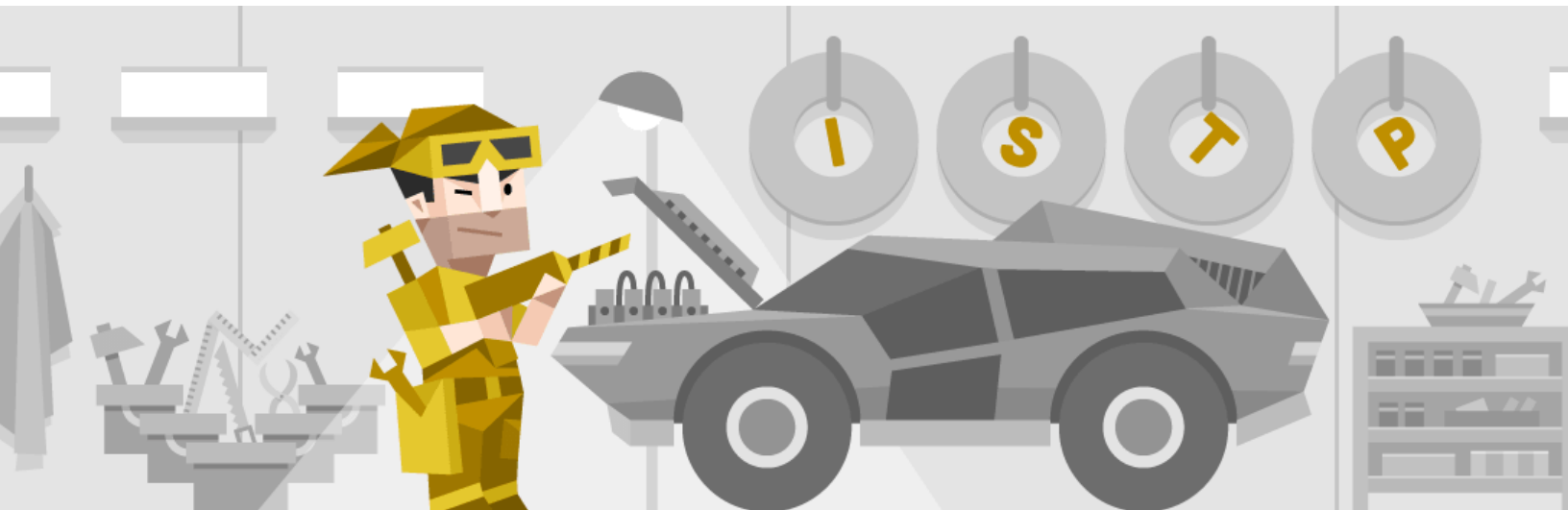


# ISTP



ISTPs are observant artisans with an understanding of mechanics and an interest in troubleshooting. They approach their environments with a flexible logic, looking for practical solutions to the problems at hand. They are independent and adaptable, and typically interact with the world around them in a self-directed, spontaneous manner.

ISTPs are attentive to details and responsive to the demands of the world around them. Because of their astute sense of their environment, they are good at moving quickly and responding to emergencies. ISTPs are reserved, but not withdrawn: the ISTP enjoys taking action, and approaches the world with a keen appreciation for the physical and sensory experiences it has to offer.

## What Makes the ISTP Tick

ISTPs are curious about the mechanics of the world around them and typically have a unique ability to manipulate the tools in their environments. They tend to study how things work and often achieve mastery in the use and operation of machines, instruments, and equipment. They seek understanding, but in a practical sense: they like to be able to put their technical knowledge to immediate use and are quickly bored by theory.

ISTPs tend to be detached and prefer the logic of mechanical things to the complexity of human emotions. Independent and reserved, ISTPs treasure their personal space, and want to be free to be spontaneous and follow their own lead. ISTPs are selective about their relationships, and appreciate others who allow them plenty of freedom to do their own thing.

## Recognizing the ISTP

ISTPs are typically reserved and even aloof. Tolerant and nonjudgmental, the ISTP calmly takes in the details and facts of their surroundings, noticing sensory data and observing how things work. They often tune into what needs to be done, taking care of the immediate needs of the moment in a modest, inconspicuous way. They tend to prefer action to conversation, and are often private about their personal

lives. ISTPs are unlikely to “open up” to new people in a conventional way, but may connect with others by sharing an activity or working together to solve a practical problem.

ISTPs are good with their hands and often mechanical. They are typically attracted to hands-on hobbies like woodworking or crafts, and may be found tinkering with bicycles, computers, cars, or household appliances. They often have an intuitive understanding of machines and a remarkable ability to fix things. ISTPs have an appreciation for risk and action, and often enjoy thrilling leisure activities like extreme sports, motorcycling, or weaponry.

## Popular Hobbies for the ISTP

Popular hobbies for an ISTP include magic and comedy, archery, weaponry, hunting, scuba diving, rappelling, aviation, skydiving, motorcycles, and other extreme sports. They are often drawn to risky or thrilling activities and those that allow them to work with something mechanical.

## Quotes About ISTP

"ISTPs have a vested interest in practical and applied science, especially in the field of mechanics."

- Isabel Briggs Myers, [Gifts Differing](#)

"If a given tool is operated with a precision that defies belief, that operator is likely an ISTP."

- David Keirsey, [Please Understand Me II](#)

"Though very effective at most undertakings, [the ISTP's] unorthodox way of accomplishing something, coupled with low visibility, can often lead to co-workers' wondering, to quote the people the Lone Ranger saved, 'Who *WAS* that masked man?'"

- Otto Kroeger, [Type Talk at Work](#)

## Facts About ISTP

Interesting facts about the ISTP:

- On personality trait measures, score as Critical, Detached, Guarded, Independent, and Resourceful
- Commonly found in populations of male college scholarship athletes
- More likely than other types to suffer cardiac problems
- Lowest ranked of all types in using social coping resources
- One of four types least satisfied with their marriage or intimate relationship
- Among types least likely to complete college
- Personal values include Autonomy; at work, value Stability, Security, Independence, and Achievement
- Commonly found in skilled trades, technical fields, agriculture, law enforcement, and military occupations

# ISTP at Work

At work, the ISTP is motivated by a desire to achieve and utilize technical expertise. ISTPs enjoy mastering and manipulating the tools of their trade, whatever they may be: the traditional hammers and saws, or the more modern tools of business or technology.

ISTPs prefer tasks with a tangible result, and typically feel most satisfied when they have built something concrete. They enjoy troubleshooting and often look for occupations that allow them to apply their skills to solve practical problems.

Many ISTPs enjoy occupations that involve physical activity, often with an aspect of risk or danger, and dislike being stuck at a desk. They are most often energized by action, and want to jump in to get things done rather than spend much time planning or theorizing.

ISTPs value efficiency and logic, and want flexibility in their work. They prefer a job where they can be practical and action-oriented without being overly burdened by rules, procedure, or bureaucracy.

## Top Careers for the ISTP

Top careers for the ISTP include:

[Carpenter](#)  
[Surveyor](#)  
[Mechanic](#)  
[Commercial Designer](#)  
[Landscape Architect](#)  
[Building Inspector](#)  
[Forester](#)  
[Farmer or Rancher](#)  
Exercise Physiologist  
[Athletic Trainer](#)  
[Dental Hygienist](#)  
[ER Physician](#)  
[Chef](#)  
[Photographer](#)  
[Jeweler](#)

[Securities Analyst](#)  
[Purchasing Agent](#)  
[Financial Manager](#)  
[Software Developer](#)  
[Systems Analyst](#)  
[Database Administrator](#)  
Software Tester  
[Property Manager](#)  
[Office Manager](#)  
[Cost Estimator](#)  
[Economist](#)  
[Budget Analyst](#)  
[Financial Planner](#)  
[Paralegal](#)  
Criminalist

[Biologist](#)  
[Geologist](#)  
[Police Officer](#)  
[Firefighter](#)  
[Private Investigator](#)  
[Military Officer](#)  
Intelligence Agent  
[Airline Pilot](#)  
Ship and Boat Captain  
[Flight Engineer](#)  
Civil Engineer  
[Mechanical Engineer](#)  
[Electrical Engineer](#)  
[Air Traffic Controller](#)  
[Machinist](#)

## Least Popular Careers for ISTP

It is important to note that any personality type can be successful in any occupation. However, some occupations are well suited to the natural talents and preferred work style of the ISTP, while other occupations demand modes of thinking and behavior that do not come as naturally to the ISTP.

Occupations that require the ISTP to operate outside their natural preferences may prove stressful or draining, and often sound unappealing to ISTPs who are choosing a career.

The following occupations have been found to be unpopular among ISTPs, based on data gathered from surveys of the general population.

[Craft Artist](#)

[Reporter](#)

[Journalist](#)

[Actor](#)

[Urban Planner](#)

[Market Researcher](#)

Clergy

[Social Worker](#)

[Preschool Teacher](#)

[Special Education Teacher](#)

Social Service Director

[Receptionist](#)

[Public Health Nurse](#)

[Dentist](#)

[Occupational Therapist](#)

[Family Physician](#)

[Pediatrician](#)

[Veterinary Technician](#)