

INTP



INTPs are philosophical innovators, fascinated by logical analysis, systems, and design. They are preoccupied with theory, and search for the universal law behind everything they see. They want to understand the unifying themes of life, in all their complexity.

INTPs are detached, analytical observers who can seem oblivious to the world around them because they are so deeply absorbed in thought. They spend much of their time focused internally: exploring concepts, making connections, and seeking understanding. To the Architect, life is an ongoing inquiry into the mysteries of the universe.

What Makes the INTP Tick

INTPs present a cool exterior but are privately passionate about reason, analysis, and innovation. They seek to create complex systems of understanding to unify the principles they've observed in their environments. Their minds are complicated and active, and they will go to great mental lengths trying to devise ingenious solutions to interesting problems.

The INTP is typically non-traditional, and more likely to reason out their own individual way of doing things than to follow the crowd. The INTP is suspicious of assumptions and conventions, and eager to break apart ideas that others take for granted. INTPs are merciless when analyzing concepts and beliefs, and hold little sacred. They are often baffled by other people who remain loyal to ideology that doesn't make logical sense.

Recognizing the INTP

INTPs are often thoroughly engaged in their own thoughts, and usually appear to others to be offbeat and unconventional. The INTP's mind is a most active place, and their inward orientation can mean that they neglect superficial things like home décor or appropriate clothing. They don't tend to bother with small talk but can become downright passionate when talking about science, mathematics, computers, or the

larger theoretical problems of the universe. Reality is often of only passing interest to the Architect, as they are more interested in the theory behind it all.

INTPs are typically precise in their speech, and communicate complex ideas with carefully chosen words. They insist on intellectual rigor in even the most casual of conversations, and will readily point out inconsistencies of thought or reasoning. Social niceties may fall by the wayside for an INTP who is more interested in analyzing logic, and they may offend others by submitting their dearly held values and beliefs to logical scrutiny.

Popular Hobbies for the INTP

Popular leisure activities for an INTP include reading, art and cultural events, chess and other strategy games, writing, taking classes, working with computers, backpacking, hiking, and meditation.

Quotes About INTP

"INTPs are perhaps the most intellectually profound of all the types."

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

"What is important is that the underlying structures of the universe be uncovered and articulated, and that whatever is stated about the universe be stated correctly, with coherence and without redundancy."

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

"INTPs are free-spirited idea mills and absentminded professors, which makes them fun to be around, easily diverted, and a plethora of unending creativity."

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

Facts About INTP

Interesting [facts about the INTP](#):

- On personality trait measures, score as Candid, Ingenious, Complicated, Independent, and Rebellious
- More likely than other types to study a foreign language
- Most frequent type among college students committing alcohol and drug policy violations
- Have lowest level of coping resources of all the types (with ISTPs)
- One of types least likely to believe in a higher spiritual power
- Highest of all types in career dissatisfaction (with INFPs)
- In school, have lower grades than would be predicted from aptitude scores
- More likely than average to complete engineering programs
- Personal values include Autonomy, Freedom, and Independence
- Overrepresented among working MBA students
- Commonly found in science and technical occupations

INTP at Work

At work, the [INTP](#) is motivated to solve complex problems in an original, innovative way. Architects want to analyze systems and ideas thoroughly to create deep understanding, and enjoy designing creative solutions to highly abstract problems.

INTPs rarely have much interest in organizational traditions, preferring to forge their own path to innovation. They hate being limited by bureaucracy and rules, and are often more in tune with the theoretical soundness of their ideas than they are with the practical applications. They typically prefer to focus on creating the idea, and to leave the tedious details of implementation to someone else.

[INTPs](#) work best independently or with a small team of colleagues that they perceive as smart, competent, and logical. They quickly tire of colleagues who are aggressive or overbearing, and can be dismissive of people who aren't as clever as themselves.

An ideal organization for an INTP is flexible and non-traditional, and values ingenuity over conformity. An ideal job for an INTP allows them to address complex theoretical or technical problems with creative, novel solutions.

INTP CAREER FACTS

- More likely than average to be [self-employed](#)
- Less likely than average to be a [stay-at-home parent](#)
- Showed one of the [smallest gender wage gaps](#), with female INTPs earning 88% of male INTPs' salary

Top Careers for the INTP

INTPs are first and foremost thinkers, and this quality can be seen in their choice of careers. Although INTPs can be found in a wide variety of fields, a happy and satisfied INTP is invariably found in a career that allows them to use their intellect, analyze concepts, and think deeply.

INTPs have an innovative nature and are often drawn to cutting-edge fields such as technology, engineering, and the sciences. Although INTPs overall are a rare breed, visit an area like California's Silicon Valley or a tech company like Google or Apple and you'll find that nearly every other person seems to be an INTP. This type naturally thrives in the challenging, unpredictable world of tech.

Many INTPs are creative and seek an artistic bent to their career. INTPs are particularly drawn to artistic fields with a touch of science or technology, for instance architecture or graphic design.

Although INTPs typically prefer careers that have them working with ideas more than people, a contingent of INTPs consider human problems the ultimate frontier of intellectual inquiry. Thus, you find some INTPs in careers that allow them to study the human experience, including psychology and other social sciences.

Top [careers for the INTP](#) include:

TECHNOLOGY

Technology is a highly attractive field for INTPs, and many INTPs are drawn to computers from a very young age. Even INTPs who do not work in tech fields typically nurse an interest in computers on the side. Working with technology allows INTPs to exercise their reasoning skills in perfect concert with their creativity and desire to experiment and innovate. Some INTPs even say they understand computers better than they understand other people!

Any career in computers or technology can be considered a possibility for the INTP, but some sample tech careers for INTPs include:

- [Computer Network Architect](#)
- [Computer Scientist](#)
- [Computer Programmer](#)
- [Computer Systems Analyst](#)
- [Database Administrator](#)
- [Information Security Analyst](#)
- [Network Administrator](#)
- [Software Developer](#)
- [Web Developer](#)

ENGINEERING

Engineering careers are a good fit for the logical, analytical thinking style of the INTP. They particularly enjoy engineering fields that allow them to exercise a measure of creativity in their work. Some sample engineering careers for INTPs include:

- [Aerospace Engineer](#)
- [Biomedical Engineer](#)
- [Chemical Engineer](#)
- [Civil Engineer](#)
- [Computer Hardware Engineer](#)
- [Electrical or Electronics Engineer](#)
- [Environmental Engineer](#)
- [Mechanical Engineer](#)
- [Geological Engineer](#)
- [Nuclear Engineer](#)

SCIENCES

Scientific careers are a natural choice for INTPs. They enjoy all aspects of the sciences: the opportunity to build specialized knowledge in their field of choice; the ability to focus at length on complex, abstract ideas; and most of all, the exploratory process of scientific experimentation. Some sample science careers for INTPs include:

- [Anthropologist or Archaeologist](#)
- [Atmospheric Scientist](#)
- [Biochemist or Biophysicist](#)
- [Chemist](#)
- [Economist](#)
- [Environmental Scientist](#)
- [Geographer](#)
- [Geoscientist](#)
- [Historian](#)
- [Hydrologist](#)
- [Medical Scientist](#)
- [Microbiologist](#)
- [Physicist or Astronomer](#)
- [Political Scientist](#)
- [Psychologist](#)
- [Sociologist](#)
- [Survey Researcher](#)
- [Urban or Regional Planner](#)
- [Zoologist or Wildlife Biologist](#)
- [Physician](#)

BUSINESS AND LAW

Both business and law careers can make good use of the INTP's analytical instincts. Good business careers for INTPs often stimulate their interest in complex theories, including advanced mathematics. Some sample business and law careers for INTPs include:

- [Accountant or Auditor](#)
- [Financial Analyst](#)
- [Management Consultant or Analyst](#)
- [Market Research Analyst](#)
- [Top Executive](#)
- [Sales Engineer](#)
- [Lawyer](#)

ARTS AND LANGUAGE

Some INTPs focus on their creative instincts with a career in the arts. Typically, though, even an INTP working in an artistic field finds a way to use their analytical side in their work. Some sample artistic careers for INTPs include:

- [Graphic Designer](#)
- [Industrial Designer](#)
- [Multimedia Artist or Animator](#)
- [Composer](#)
- [Musician](#)
- [Editor](#)
- [Photographer](#)
- [Technical Writer](#)
- [Writer or Author](#)
- [Professor or College Instructor](#)

Least Popular Careers for INTP

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 INTP, while other occupations demand modes of thinking and behavior that do not come as naturally to this type. Occupations that require the INTP to operate outside their natural preferences may prove stressful or draining, and often sound unappealing to Architects who are choosing a career.

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

[Dental Hygienist](#)

[Public Health Nurse](#)

[Dental Assistant](#)

[Licensed Practical Nurse](#)

[Dietitian](#)

[Corrections Officer](#)

Religious Educator

[Teacher's Aide](#)

[Preschool Teacher](#)

[Elementary Teacher](#)

[Recreation Worker](#)

[Cosmetologist](#)

[Retail Salesperson](#)

[Restaurant Manager](#)

[Sales Manager](#)