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# INTJ / ENTP

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## *The Scientist and the Visionary*

### *An Introverted/Extraverted Relationship*

The level of both harmony and conflict within Introverted/Extraverted relationships can vary considerably, depending on how strongly expressed the introverted and extraverted tendencies are for these types. With very moderate expressions only the general attitudes, desires and interests of the parties involved are likely to be factors of importance affecting the relationship, and these will depend more upon the specific functions of the personalities and less upon their introverted or extraverted expression. In other cases however, particularly where both parties have a strongly expressed dominant focus, the impact of Introversion vs Extraversion becomes an important factor affecting all the functional dynamics of the relationship. For this reason general statements about the functional give and take within such relationships are of little value where individual differences play such an important part. We have tried to take this into account in the following, but it is worth recognizing that in some instances what might appear as a conflict in one relationship can be a source of harmony in another.

### *INTJ/ENTP Relationship Dynamics*

Some relationships just seem fated to go in certain directions, either good or bad, depending on the players involved. Things either work out nicely for the best, or everyone gets burned. At times a lack of “here and now” grounding in this relationship can be a problem. Though both partners might have good sensible approaches to life, get them into the right situation and any careful preparations can just fly out the window. INTJ people are often susceptible to situations which promise instant gratification or fulfillment and ENTP people are really good at discovering and promoting these very situations. On the other hand, the ENTP can be extremely good at turning dreams into reality, and there is no doubt the INTJ can be a dreamer. So, during at least one of the acts of this relationship play, this pair will not only exhibit their susceptibility to each others ways, but also how magnificently they can dance together along the very

edge of the stage. That sometimes they also fall magnificently into the orchestra pit is a just so story right out of that old book of human fallibility. Outside of this one area of the relationship there will be some quirky connections between the extraverted and introverted way of seeing and doing things and not a few difficulties in the feeling/emotional area.

With the distribution of types, the chances of a cross gender relationship having male INTJ and female ENTP are about three times greater than the reverse, but since both types are reasonably well represented in the population we will not specifically focus on this one pairing. While cross gender relationships will exhibit a greater complex of issues, many of these (as in all such relationships) will not stem specifically from type differences, so we will only look at those areas where they do.

In general, the characteristics and qualities of this relationship will vary greatly depending on the self awareness of the people involved, although there will remain those areas where type difference can drive particular behaviors, regardless. One of these we mentioned above: the common lack of here and now grounding. The classic: “who turned off the gas?” syndrome. These two can be terrible at taking care of the mundane, routine aspects of life, and situations will arise where neither has bothered to deal with something considered less than important in the moment, only to have it catch up with them in a suddenly more important guise later on.

Where this happens, collectively the result can be either an ongoing fight with things than never needed to get that way, or some single catastrophe which would never have occurred if someone had simply done what needed to be done at the time. Relationships where these two live together are going to have many mundane aspects which regardless, need to be addressed. Paying bills, cleaning house, you name it – these have to be done too, and when they are forgotten, buck passed or ignored then eventually there is going to be trouble.

There isn't anything “touchy feely” about this relationship and intimacy is going to be characterized by either a somewhat cerebral approach or a kind of clumsy surrender to the instincts of the moment. Such things vary of course, depending on experience and self awareness. People do grow into each others ways and needs, but generally this is never going to be a physically passionate relationship. It can however be a very strong mentally passionate relationship, with both partners extremely devoted to each other's needs and committed to working together towards shared goals.

The only limit to this process will be the hesitancy of the INTJ to commit to anything without understanding it from the ground up, and the impatience of the ENTP with all the details that need to be attended to before something is achieved.

Strong extraverted and introverted intuitive functions combine here to open a wide and unusual window upon the world. Unusual, because to other types, looking through this window would be like looking through Alice's mirror into wonderland. The likelihood of these two missing any chance or possibility is extremely small, and with such possibilities filtered through a thinking logic which rejects only those ideas considered unworkable, the resulting array of ideas and creative possibilities can be surprising for its unusual novelty and sometimes even the sheer audacity of what is proposed.

Propositions are one thing however, and putting them into practice, turning great or just plain weird ideas into reality is another altogether, and it is in this area where these two are likely to find the greatest difficulty – because having “the right stuff” can sometimes be as boringly mundane and repetitive as it gets.

As a team these two can combine to represent the ultimate pair of “backroom boys” in a company or situation which supports and puts their ideas into practice. Without such support, however, the actual amount of real value they can add to the world will depend very much on their own levels of skill in those logistical areas needed to put ideas into practice. If this is high, then: lookout world! If it is low, then frustration and disappointment will be common.

“Value adding” is a common term today in sales and production practice. It means packaging things in ways which utilize the initial idea in a more developed and useful manner. If there is one thing these two types could do to improve their chances of success in the world it would be to understand and utilize all the basic notions behind value adding – something which neither ordinarily tend to think about. This advice is not meant only for those areas related to work and creativity, but covers every aspect of life for these two, including the way they relate to others and each other. Having a really good idea is one thing, but placing it as a completed reality before another makes it a truly worthy gift.

On the niggling side, there is always going to be the basic problem of just how these two manage to put up with each other's very different ways of seeing/doing things. When working together towards a goal, this may not be any problem at all, but during those ordinary times where things are just

kicking over, each person here is going to find the other somewhat difficult to deal with. This of course will depend on the level of life experience and general self awareness of each, but if we assume a fairly basic characterization of these two types then we can see that some things are going to get on each other's goat.

The ENTP has virtually endless energy to expend on the outside world and uses it at every opportunity. The INTJ on the other hand, has virtually endless energy to expend only on their private, personal world. This of course may include a significant amount of the outside world, but they do not engage with it the way the ENTP does. If drawn into the outside world for reasons other than their own, the INTJ finds it difficult to connect, and may also find it hard to locate sufficient energy within themselves to maintain a connection. Soon enough, they will find themselves wanting to be back in their own space and recharging from their own battery of interest.

If drawn by reasons other than their own into the world of the INTJ, the ENTP will soon find themselves bored, restless and unable to locate an interest in what is happening. Soon enough they will wish they were out and about, soaking up the energy of the world outside. To the INTJ, ENTP behavior seems manic, draining and often pointless, whilst to the ENTP, INTJ behavior seems self indulgent, anti-social and again, also pointless for its apparent disconnection from the reality of the moment.

So there is going to be not only a considerable difference between the ways these two will wish to spend their time, but also a variance of opinion about the best way to spend shared time. This is something which will need to be addressed in any ongoing relationship where these two people share their lives together.

## ***Making it Work***

At first meeting these two might hit things off well, finding many apparently common interests or viewpoints. It is only after a closer relationship develops that these apparent similarities tend to dissolve into quite distinct and separate ways of seeing things. This can lead either to a restructuring and melding of views or to a slow but certain deterioration in the quality of the connectedness between these views.

When two people constantly see the same thing differently and keep these views separate and unrelated, this can bring an “edge” to the relationship which will reduce collaboration and increase tension in some areas.

So it is important that from the first both partners are willing to incorporate the other’s ideas and viewpoint in such a way that this adds to their own. In this relationship there should be no demand for compromise as a way of maintaining common ground, but rather a willingness to allow each other the fullness of their nature.

INTJ people usually have little difficulty allowing others to do their own thing, just as ENTP people have a strong need to do just that. On the negative side, the INTJ does have a tendency to judge – even prejudice – the behavior of others around them according to introverted rules, and the ENTP has a tendency to want others to always be along for the ride.

It is hard for the ENTP to live in a narrow, judging environment and it is hard for an INTJ to endlessly adventure into the world of “doing”. In truth, both truly need time out in the kind of space normal for the other’s daily comfort, but such times are times of release, of unconcern for the things normally attended to. Where possible it should be organized that these times do not coincide. In this way each can find a resting place in the other’s world for a time.

In many relationships beside this one, a strong or single minded focus on “togetherness” on the part of either partner can bring serious and unnecessary difficulty. Insecurity is a problem that needs to be dealt with at a personal level and ought not to be laid at the feet of one’s partner as a demand for constancy or company at all times. In many cases, regardless of the types involved, such behavior can be the quickest way to destroy an otherwise good and workable relationship. In all cases and at all times, partners in any relationship should feel in no doubt as to their freedom to be themselves and fulfill themselves in the ways that are natural to them.

Understanding your partner’s typology and the needs base this engenders is always a good first step towards reducing future tensions or problems. Just how well we know ourselves too is also a measure of the way we will maintain the health of our relationships. Merely assuming egotistically that we know who and what we are whilst all the time being unconscious of the real demands our behavior places upon others is one of the main reasons why people end up on different sides of a fence which need never have been built.

Knowing ourselves, at least to the level of understanding what we simply cannot do and what we simply must have in our life, allows us the ability to foresee, right from the beginning of any relationship, the likelihood of its being of value to us or the problems which it may bring with it.

Unfortunately – and naturally – such foresight is precisely what is normally blinded by the act of “falling in love”, whether at the onset of a romantic pairing or in the magnetic process of finding someone who we think will become our new “best friend”. So, while being prepared to give all we can, yet maintain our future needs base regardless of how we might feel in the moment, is a good start to consciously building a relationship free of “shadow” demands.

The shadow side of both partners in this relationship rests in emotional insecurity, and this can be damning for both partners if it is allowed to play its part without mutual awareness. Knowing, and working with the knowledge, that this insecurity comes from within ourselves and is not the product of our partner’s behavior will go a long way toward settling this destabilizing factor out of the relationship.

In business or working partnerships where emotional demands are not an issue, the most important area for value in this relationship will be finding ways in which differing world views can collide and produce that “something else” which contains the best of both, yet is unique and better than either. This remains a true option in any kind of relationship between these types, and is one possibility which should be seen as a way toward resolution of any difficulty or the best way to attain any goal, even in a romantic sense.

Creating the space in which this can occur and maintaining the health and stability of this relationship should be no trouble. INTJ and ENTP people are not so dissimilar or so alike that a healthy balance cannot be maintained with ease. To aid this process we offer the suggestions below:

### **INTJ suggestions**

- Be aware of the differences of outlook between you and your partner. Your way of being comfortable in the world around you is not their way. They not only see things differently, but also require different responses from the world. Your partner is very much a “get out, look around, connect,” person – they can show you new things, new ways to see old things and open doors you didn’t even know were closed. You see many things too, but unlike your partner, you cannot show them your inner world without making something of it manifest in reality. When you are



trying to explain your ideas to them, be sure to use real world objectives and things in your explanations; find analogies between the outer world of objects and the mechanics of your ideas.

- Take some extra care in dealing with the things in your shared environment. Your partner is as bad as or worse than you are at dealing with mundane details, forgetting about trivial things and overlooking chores. If you don't make an extra effort yourself, at least to hold up your own end of things, then your shared world is going to turn into a shambles. Even better, take the time to organize mundane things so that they are present and cannot be forgotten. Make lists and do the details as they come. Don't leave things hanging and remember to help your partner by keeping them in mind of things they habitually overlook.
- Show appreciation of your partner's gifts and skills in the ways that are natural to you. No, you don't run about praising people and patting them on the back. It isn't your way. But there remain plenty of ways in which you can show your appreciation, possibly the most telling being your willingness to ask your partner to do things for you that you know they can do better than you can. One INTJ tendency is to fall in a heap when it comes to trying to turn ideas into reality. It isn't the mechanics of things that catch them out, but the whole entrepreneurial, real world dealing that usually goes with it. Your ENTP partner will know the best ways, and handle this side far more easily. It is at these times when you have the opportunity to say: "thanks, it's a good thing you're around."
- Understand your partner's need for change and novelty. They can't just sit there like you can, when you invest your time and mental energy in the sort of things they can't get value from. They need things to think about, to act upon, and these need to be things that show creative promise, things that can be made to happen in the real world. Don't expect them to tie themselves to your less worldly pursuits or to show interest where they have none. Understand that by pursuing their own needs they are not ignoring or brushing you off. More likely, they are happy to know you too are getting what you need from life.
- Find ways you can share an interest in the things they like to do. It isn't hard. For one thing, you do a lot of stuff for yourself, quite often very much the kind of things your partner needs to complete their ideas or projects. Show them ideas of yours that might fit with their current needs. They will have many ideas about things which will complement your own, as well. You may find that putting these things together creates a whole new slant for both of you.
- Try not to allow negative feelings to get between yourself and your partner. Both of you deal with feelings at an emotional level, and as far

as you both are concerned, this only creates more problems than it's worth. Feeling bad tends to equate with silence for you, silence and grimness, and this can alienate your partner who expects openness and communication. They tend to show their emotions and when negative these can come out as the kind of loud outbursts of frustration or anger that really disturb your normal inner placidity. It's a bad way to feel, but it's also a bad way to share a life together. You can't deal with your partner's feelings and so you hide from them. How else to deal except to wait for them to get over it? Well, you are not that stupid, just frightened by your own incapacities. There is however one thing you can both do – and it is the thinking person's approach. If your partner is down and you know it – perhaps you even know why – then you can easily let them know you understand by showing or telling them how you would fix the problem. Work it out together in clear thinking terms; get your heads working and their frustration will fade as ways to deal with things become uppermost in their mind.

### **ENTP suggestions**

- Be aware of the differences of outlook between you and your partner. Your way of being comfortable in the world around you is not their way. They not only see things differently, but also require different responses from the world. Your partner is very much a “there ought to be a better way,” person – but they can't always see the practical possibilities and pitfalls that you see, nor do they often need to have their ideas validated in real world situations except perhaps for their own purposes. Very often they seem to be flying above the realities for the sake of some ideal way of seeing things. When you are trying to explain your own ideas to them, be sure to connect them to situations where such ideals are obvious, where the “what's behind it all” can be seen.
- Take some extra care in dealing with all those non concrete ideas that people share about things. Such things have a lot of meaning for your partner, often building these ideas subtly into their surroundings. If you re-adjust things without thinking about the hidden meanings they might contain for your partner they will be offended or at least surprised by your willfulness or lack of consideration. Don't let things get out of hand, try and discover and suggest ways of dealing with the boring day to day details of life that suit both of you.
- Show appreciation of your partner's gifts and skills in the ways that are natural to you. Give them a part to play in your ideas and projects. INTJs like nothing more than to be recognized for their skills.



- Understand your partner's need for security and private personal space. They don't like change, and they like to know their private space will always be there where they can be alone with the things that matter to them. Understand that by pursuing their own needs they are not silently demeaning or criticizing what you do. More likely, they are happy to know you are getting what you need from life.
- Find ways you can share an interest in the things they like to do. It isn't hard. For one thing, you do a lot of stuff for yourself, quite often very much the kind of things your partner needs to complete their ideas or projects. Show them ideas of yours that might fit with their current needs. They will have many ideas about things which will complement your own, as well. You may find that putting these things together creates a whole new slant for both of you.
- Try not to allow negative feelings to get between yourself and your partner. Both of you deal with feelings at an emotional level, and as far as you both are concerned, this only creates more problems than it's worth. Feeling bad tends to get your back up and you show it. This can alienate your partner who expects prefers quiet, rational responses to emotion. They tend to show their emotions silently and when these are negative they can become cold and silent, shunning anything which might lead to an outburst or further escalation of bad feeling and this makes you feel cut off, left out in the cold. It's a bad way to feel, but it's also a bad way to share a life together. You can't deal with your partner's problems if they hide them away, so how else to deal except to wait for them to get over it? Well, there is one thing you can both do – and it is the thinking person's approach. If your partner is down and you know it – perhaps you even know why – then you can easily let them know you understand by showing or telling them how you would fix the problem. Work it out together in clear thinking terms; get your heads working and their frustration will fade as ways to deal with things become uppermost in their mind.

## ***The Key***

If we dig too deeply into ourselves, it sometimes just isn't possible to climb out without help. Flying too high can also be a problem if we are unsure about how to land safely. Sometimes we just need someone to keep us grounded in that place where things are seen through the eyes of the soul, and sometimes we need to be lifted up to that vision of the world we miss when our eyes are turned downward or inward. Imperfect, half whacky, half serious and only just capable of muddling through the daily tedium of the world, our humanness

shows its limitations in so many ways – and yet... There are moments when everything becomes so extraordinary, so altogether complete, so full of an energy we can't quite grasp. Yet when we feel it, we understand perfectly, and we wonder if it were possible to feel more alive, and if it were not the best thing in the universe to be a human being. These moments are possible, they can be created, they are available to any who have the insight or the vision to find them and make them real.

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