



ThePersonalityLab

Enneagram of Personality

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## Type 5: The Investigator

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# Preview Type 5

The Enneagram type 5 or the Investigator is often seen as something of an eccentric, curious and drawn to the inexplicable 5s are forever after the accumulation of knowledge and insight, this doesn't refer to facts or hard data but rather unexplored concepts and ideas.

The unknown and uncharted territory is where they're drawn to since they seek to innovate, knowledge is power is a typical saying for 5s, they believe that armed with knowledge their fears will be dissipated, most importantly they want to find out why things are the way they are, seeking to pursue truths about the universe that may not have use in day-to-day life.

They are the mystic philosophers of the world, they are not people of action, participating in the world and interacting with it can seem dangerous to them so they would first rather retreat into their minds and observe things from there until they decide they are finally capable enough.

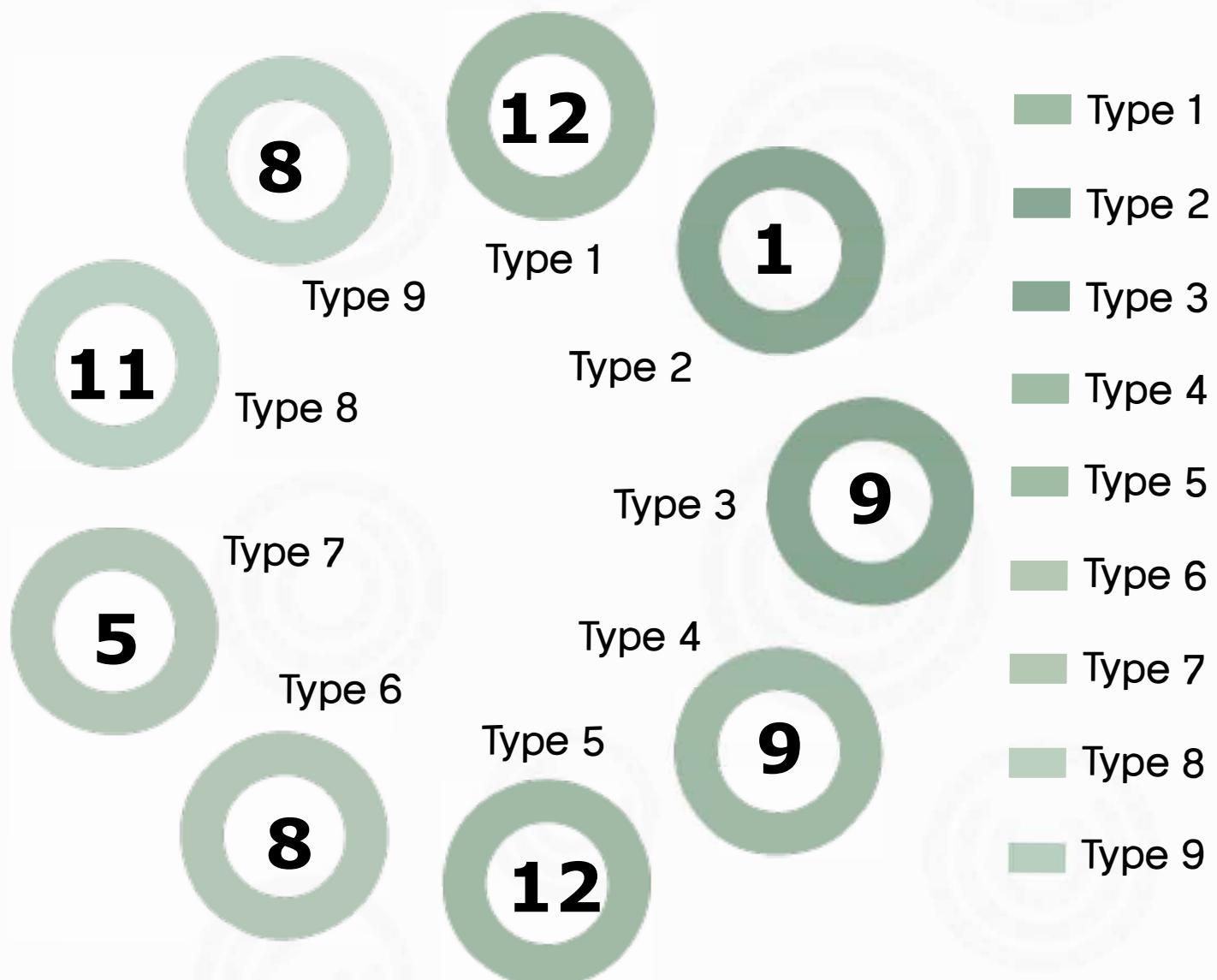
The esoteric appeals to them this is why they can be seen as eccentrics, 5s have no desire to walk well-trodden paths in their life, they would rather chase down something unexplored and observe it, thus fetching recognition for their innovation.

5s often times pick one area of interest and choose to dive into that completely, making their life a huge pursuit of attaining wisdom in the field they chose. They can also be overwhelmed by their emotions as well as the emotional needs of others thus it can be hard for them to maintain relationships.

Outwardly they seem serious, stoic and withdrawn however this may usually not be the case since they are too "in their head" to notice their physical presence and its effect on others, this may also cause them to not take care of themselves and forego healthy eating, hygiene and physical exercise.



# Your personality types dominance



# Summary

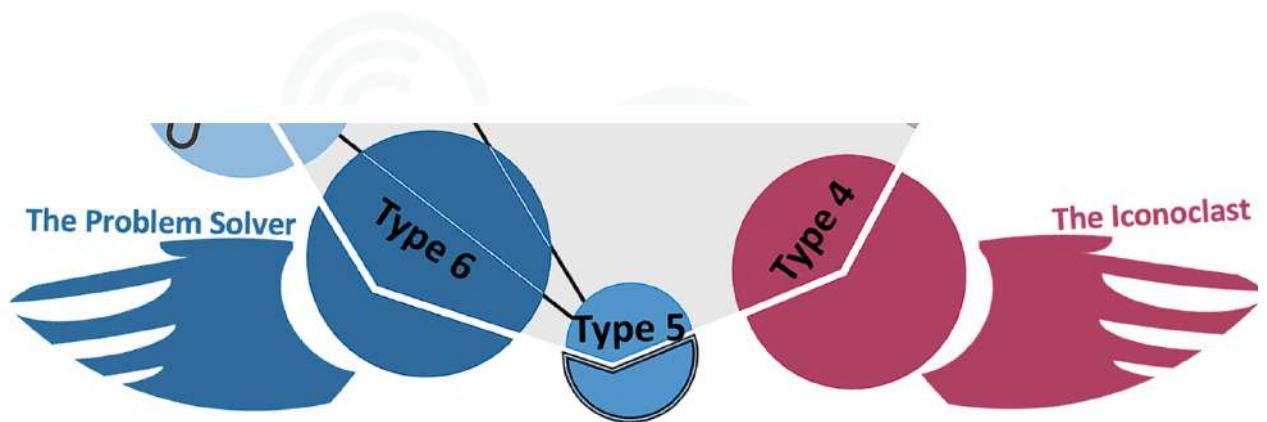
- Can appear withdrawn and serious
- Attracted to the unknown, the bizarre, the unconventional
- Unaware of their physical presence, forget to take care of their bodies
- Want to pursue ideas and concepts which may have little practical use
- <sup>use</sup> May have a hard time dealing with emotions

## Wings

Even as a term, “personality” is often used to describe various differences that one might observe among people. Similar to how everyone has a specific set of fingerprints, our nature, experiences, connections, and hardships are what mold us into a unique shape that we develop through time. Encapsulating such vast differences in just one category, such as personality types, would potentially take away from Enneagram’s ability to adapt to all the individual differences out there. This is why one must also consider **wings**.

As one could recall through personal experiences, there are simply some people we see as quite similar to us (though, of course, not identical) and those we see as quite different. This is represented through the circular organization of Enneagram types. Namely, we share more characteristics with those types that are “closer” to our base personality type than it is the case with those that are further away.

Those “closest” to us (the first type to the left and the right) are called **wings**. Following the previous example, these would be the types that we share the most characteristics with. This is why wings are also important to consider. Naturally, since there are two wings, there are also differences in how similar to each of these individuals’ personality is. Because of it, there is one **“dominant”** wing with which we share the most characteristics. This, however, doesn’t mean that the other wing should be ignored or that there are no similarities with it.



## 5w6 – The Problem Solver

A 5w6 borrows some traits from 6s which can make them more concerned about their safety and security; this could surface as them being calm and logical in a dire situation or staying away from overly emotional or dramatic people who tend to drag them into their messes.

## 5w4 – The Iconoclast

A 5w4 borrows some traits from 4s which can give them a creative streak, allow them to reflect and process their emotions and ruminate on their identity more than they typical 5; they may be more withdrawn and reserved as a result.



# Distribution of personality types

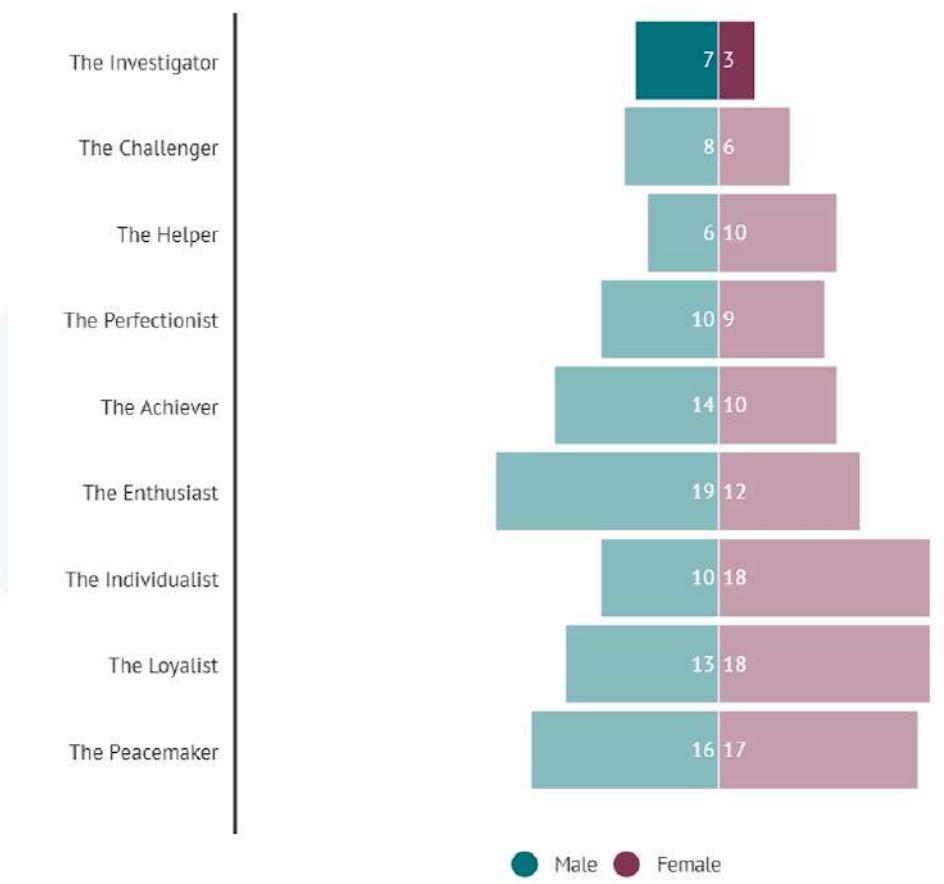
Through time, many theoretical approaches to Enneagrams' functioning have arisen. Similar to how other personality tests (Such as MBTI) provide results that show some types are more common than others, it is expected that analogous results would be provided by applying Enneagram to the broader population.

However, there are also those that hypothesized that all nine Enneagram types are evenly distributed among the general population. This would make it so that there is 11.11% in the general population out of every type.

Even with this being the case, many studies are finding differences in how frequent the nine types are. According to everything said, the results showcasing this distribution are prone to changes. Below, you will find a graphic that showcases this distribution, where – **the size** of the **circle**, and the **text** represents how common different Enneagram types are compared to the others.



# Distribution by gender



## Main drivers – Head-Gut-Heart

A natural curiosity for the world and all its wonders is what this type can usually be recognized by. The amount of interest that they have for things mirrors how much effort they are prepared to put into understanding them. This is where the name of this type comes from. Through such adventures, they usually develop interesting skills and points of view. Sometimes these may end up being too rare for others to understand, which can make them seem eccentric.

Growing their experiences and knowledge is what this type enjoys the most, and the amount of topics they develop interests in, is not finite. The way that this type fights its basic fear of – not being of use, can be seen through this pursuit of ideas. If they give in to these fears, instead of being seen as intensively curious, they may lean into the role of a from-the-world detached explorer.

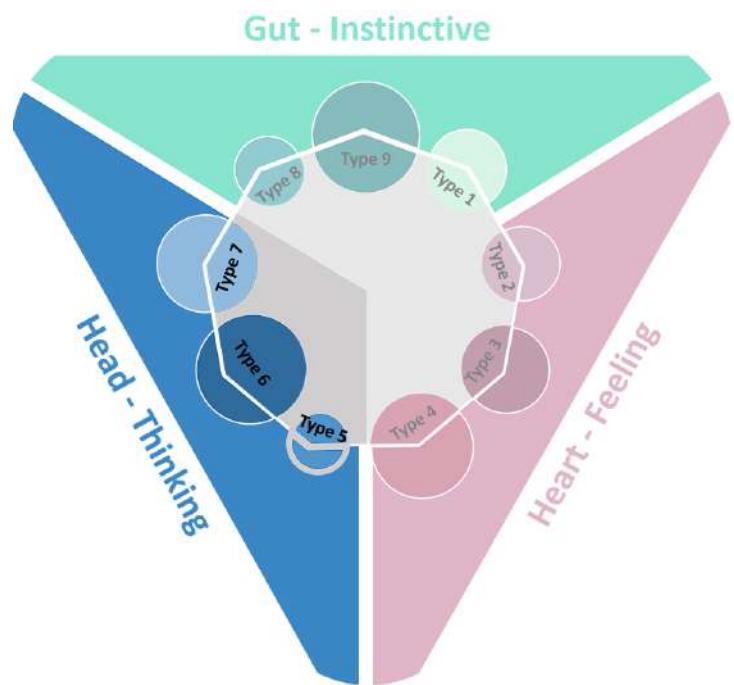
# The triad – Head

Triads are a way to represent what the **affectionate core** of one's personality is. What drives one's decision-making and functioning style. It is crucial to keep in mind that there are no "bad" emotions – every emotion, even those that aren't pleasant, are adaptive in certain situations.

Being a part of the **Head Triad**, usually called the **Thinking triad**, means that this type's dominant affect or the core emotion is fear. As the name suggests, these people usually „trust their brains/rationality,” which is also where the „**thinking**” title comes from.

Those types that are a part of the Head Triad are usually analytical, curious, and knowledgeable. These characteristics are why they are great tacticians who take their time to think and process things before moving to action. This is how they avoid making many mistakes in the process of reaching the outcomes that they are focused on.

As it can be concluded based on the previous description, Thinkers never shy away from dwelling on new and interesting topics. Abstract or complex content isn't something that would stop them in their tracks. On the contrary, they may enjoy such experiences even more. Thinkers may be driven by fear towards or away from other people depending on the type.



# Type 5 – Head

For Type 5-s, it is usually **away** from others and in favor of being intensively drawn towards being experts, growing their knowledge, and discovering everything there is to discover about their field of interest. If we were to describe every person as having a finite capacity for satisfying their interest and curiosity – for this type, most of it would be fulfilled by intellectual themes and growth of knowledge.

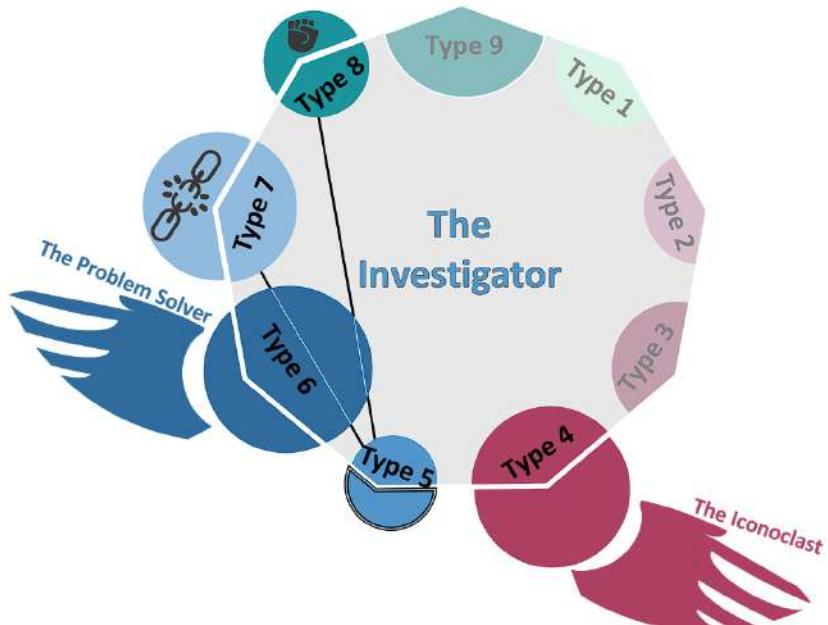
Because these capacities are finite, one has to filter what to „spend“ these on and what to be excited by and interested in. For this type, other people may be filtered out. Simply put, such thrills are sometimes enough excitement for this type, which is why they may seem antisocial and uninterested in other people

The way that **fear** moderates this type of behavior – away from people, becomes more apparent when they feel insignificant to others. Namely, intellectual, theoretical, abstract, or complex ideas offer an escape for this type—an escape from this fear of **being trivial**.



# The Investigator – Type 5

**Investigators** are usually seen as intellectual or rational. When describing them to others, what is usually mentioned is how knowledgeable, objective, and organized they are. Because of this, we usually think of them as curious but reserved.



Procuring a question about anything and bringing forward so much curiosity that it can rub onto others is how this type functions. They can fiercely tell you a story about any plane-seeming subject and include all the exciting details that these themes have to offer.

What goes hand in hand with their curiosity and openness to a broad amount of interests and themes is how great critical thinkers they are. Namely, they function contrary to Type 1-s, which usually pursue the „black and white perspective“ of things (Notice that they are exact opposites in Enneagrams' circular arrangement).

What this means is that there is no topic that can be seen as purely good or bad, perfection is not something that is too present in real life, and if it is, it is so rare that one could go through their whole life without knowing it. As a further example of this type of critical thinking and „understanding that there is a lot of grey between black and white“ – even perfection is partially based in one's perspective. Hence not everyone even recognizes quality in our surroundings evenly.

Often seen as great thinkers, this type is usually quite reserved and focused inwards. Instead of being fascinated by people, they can often be found looking for ways to keep themselves entertained through exploring some new subjects. Through these efforts, they are highly systematic and prefer to have all information well organized. This is how they can distill all these ideas so that they can make use of them in the future. Because of this, they can almost always surprise those around them with new and interesting subjects.

# Growth vs. Stress - Balance

The Enneagram holds and propagates the belief that personality is not set in stone and is more dynamic than it is static. So, all of us have a base type, which is our enneagram type. This gets influenced by our wing type as well.

However, our personality type goes beyond this as well. In different situations, people tend to react differently. Sometimes even in an uncharacteristic way from their usual selves. Someone very calm may erupt in anger, and others might think to themselves, "That's so unlike them. They never react like that". This is where the concept of Integration and Disintegration comes into play.

When in a healthy state (Growth), we tend to work on our flaws and round out or balance our personalities. In times like these, we grow and change as a person (not entirely, of course). Likewise, we give in to our vices in times of stress and may even act like the worst version of ourselves.

All of this makes it so that every personality type has specific ways that they act in times of growth and in times of stress.

A type is not just an isolated or "completed" personality. Our personality is the influence of each of these types, and the goal of the Enneagram is to become a rounded out and balanced individual. This means that we have our base type, influenced by our wing and the influences we get from our integration and disintegration types.



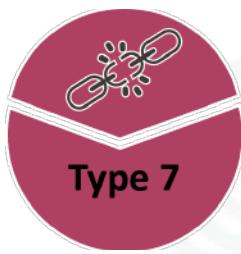
# Growth

(Integration)

When everything is in order, and they get enough space to grow their knowledge by pursuing their interests, they achieve harmony that brings about many positive qualities in their behavior. Some of these include them being more sure in their own skills, reliable and calm in their confidence.

While things are running smoothly, and nothing seems to threaten their ability to better themselves and make themselves useful, this type experiences growth.

They move towards their integration type – **Type 8**. Once they find themselves in this zone, some of the positive characteristics of this integration type can be noticed in their behavior. Namely, they become energetic and fun to be around. Additionally, they can showcase their broad interests to others, making them look inspiring and idealistic.



# Stress

**Type 7**

(Disintegration)

On the other hand, when something is blocking their opportunity to grow and apply themselves, this type's patience is being challenged. What happens then is – they usually end up giving into some less positive habits. These include being condescending towards others, treating them as inferior, or boasting about one's own intellectual achievements.

Since this rarely leads to them regaining their confidence and getting back to their wast interests, they move towards their disintegration type – **Type 7**. This is when some of the negative traits of this type start expressing themselves through their behavior. What they experience then is being careless of others and their emotions. They react impulsively regardless of the consequences and fail to control their impulses.

# The Investigator – Breakdown

## Motivation and emotions

As it can be seen through how thoughts-oriented this type is, emotions are rarely something they lean into too much. Instead of „leaning into“ and „just experiencing“ their feelings, they usually try to make sense of them and understand what they mean. This is why they aren't seen as the most empathetic people.

Because their emotions usually trigger their rational efforts, dealing with such topics can feel tiresome to Type fives. This makes them distance themselves from feelings further and enhances the perception that we usually have of them as intensively objective and precise. In this manner, it is that this type controls and keeps themselves „safe“ from the emotional impact that different experiences can have on them.

# **Worldview and interests**

Even though the description of their emotional functioning, one can notice how important intellectual, rational, and objective is to Type fives. How important gaining knowledge and growing their understanding of the world is to this type can also be noticed through the name of their personality type being – The Investigator.

No subject is too dull or knowledge too useless to reach this type's focus and interest. This type especially enjoys having experience with many topics to rely on. In an effort to encapsulate in a word their pursuit of knowledge and a goal that lies behind it – wisdom.



# Behaviors and habits

This type is led by their intellectual curiosity and has no trouble spending time alone. Depending on how delighted they are with the subject or theme, that has at a given moment caught their attention, they may even prefer the loneliness so as to be able to dwell and digest this new knowledge uninterrupted. Because of this, not having some time for themselves is something that they can tolerate for a while, but not for a prolonged period of time.

Because of these habits and preferences, they may sometimes be seen as loners. However, if given an opportunity to talk to others about their passion, they can quickly outgrow this image. Simply put, when given an opportunity to speak about their interests, they can bring much entertainment to any social group or gathering.



## Strengths

Being precise, knowledgeable, and insightful on various topics

Having an immense knack for critical thinking

Staying ahead of any predictable situation and being well planned



## Weaknesses

Being reserved and lacking understanding for others

Not being in touch and lacking awareness of their emotions

Having a hard time when improvisation is necessary, especially if it involves dealing with people



## Communication style

The natural curiosity that this type has for life transfers into the way they communicate as well. Since it usually takes them on many thought adventures, they have no problem tackling even the most complex of problems in a conversation. What comes out of this passion with which they usually talk about these various interests of theirs is how entangled others get. In other words, their passion spreads to those they are talking to.

Even if their rationality is usually spot-on, it can be challenging for others to follow the Type fives line of thought, as not everyone has "taken the path" they have. However, their style provides others with a sense that there is no subject too strange or complex that can't be discussed with this type.

Their intense intellectual curiosity can make it seem as if this type leaves no space for emotions in their interactions. However, as mentioned with their passion, that isn't the case, even though people are more inclined to look for solutions than emotional support in a conversation with Type fives.



# Relationships

With this type and relationships, it is all about getting into their „inner circle.“ Once they accept someone as precious and consider them to be good partners, that is when the floodgates, keeping their emotions in check, burst open. It isn't as if this type isn't fun to date. They know how to bring romance into any occasion and can be a lot of fun as well.

What makes them this way is their somewhat introverted nature. They like to take care of their inner world firstly and not let much of what's happening on the outside disturb their calmness. This is why it takes some time for them to realize if they can open themselves up to others and let them be a part of this inner world. Notice that after they let someone in, they also become a part of „how calm things are inside,“ – which is why this type can care greatly for anyone in the „inner circle.“



Since this type likes to have time to process things, it is similar to how they react to their own emotions. In other words, it takes time for them to process everything that is happening on an emotional level. This is something that their partners may work great with or not, and depending on this is how their relationship will move on. Namely, for those aware that Type fives need space and have their own tempo of moving forward, patience may be the virtue that helps grow their relationship. Others, who prefer a more „reactive“ style of dealing with things, may just lose interest in this „waiting.“

# Career

By being systematic and relentless, in exploring what interests them, this type is usually seen as entirely curious. There is no story uninteresting enough for this type not to investigate thoroughly. They can make an adventure of finding out everything, even about things that, to others, may seem silly or useless. Their unyielding taste for new knowledge and experiences repeatedly leads them to grow and gain new skills.

One of the greatest strengths that comes from such a personality is that they are never hesitant to get to learn and acquire any ability necessary for their jobs to get done.

Some of the jobs that Type 5-s may enjoy:  
**Mathematicians, Scientists, Engineers, Software developers, Analysts, and Researchers.**

# Celebrities and characters with your personality type





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