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Most Personality Quizzes Are Junk Science. Take One That Isn't.

Compare your results to those of your friends and family.

By Maggie Koerth and Julia Wolfe

What's your personality, and what can it tell you about your true self? Those questions have launched a thousand online personality quizzes. But you can do better than those specious — yet irresistible — quizzes. You can take a personality quiz backed by science.

Meet the Big Five, the way most psychologists measure and test personality. It's a system built on decades of research about how people describe one another and themselves. (You can read more about it in [this article](#) we published last year.) There are a couple of things that make it — and this quiz — different.

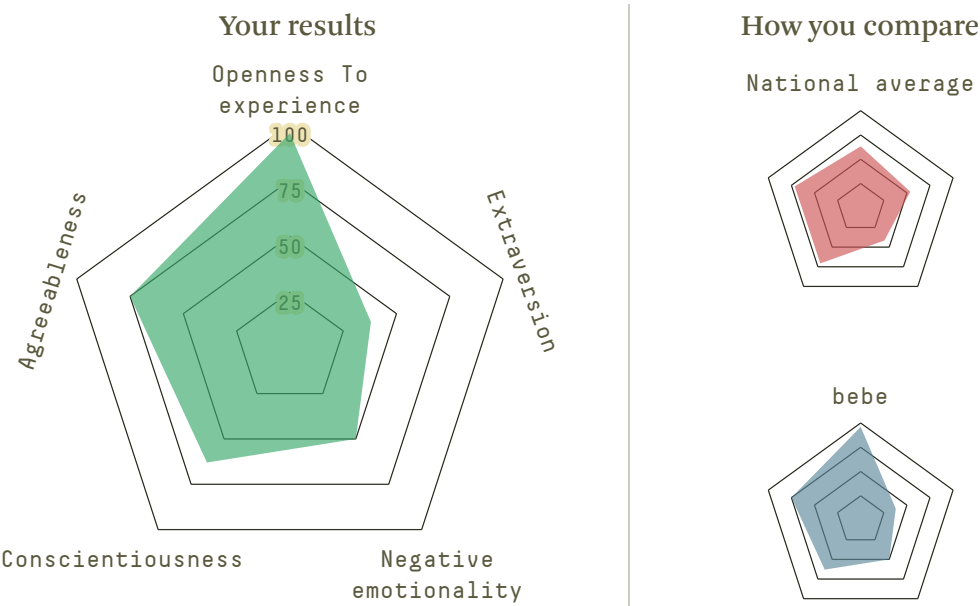
First, the Big Five doesn't put people into neat personality "types," because that's not how personalities really work. Instead, the quiz gives you a score on five different traits: extraversion, agreeableness, conscientiousness, negative emotionality and openness to experience. For each of those traits, you're graded on a scale from 0 to 100, depending on how strongly you associate with that trait. So, for example, this quiz won't tell you whether you're an extrovert or an introvert — instead, it tells you your propensity toward extraversion. Every trait is graded on a spectrum, with a few people far out on the extremes and a lot of people in the middle.

The other thing that makes the Big Five different is it lets you easily compare your score to others'. We're going to show you how your personality compares with that of the average American. And once you get

your results, you can invite friends and relatives to compare your personality to theirs. (In the meantime, you'll be stuck comparing yourself to the average FiveThirtyEight staffer.)

So what are you waiting for? Find out who you really are — take the quiz for yourself!

YOUR BIG FIVE SCORES



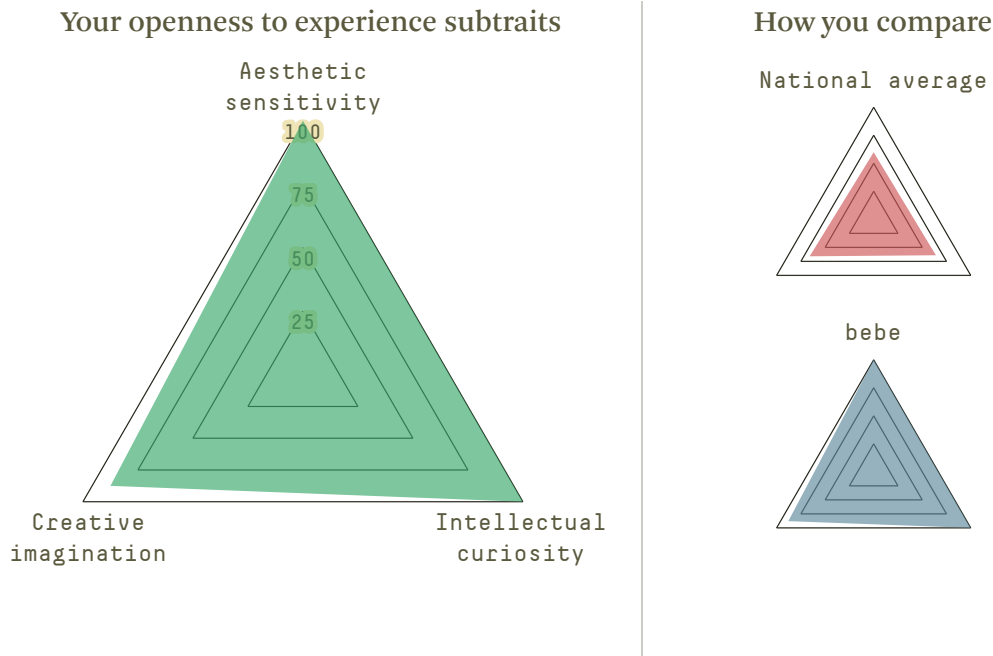
| | | |
|------------------------|----|------------|
| Openness to experience | 96 | out of 100 |
| Agreeableness | 75 | out of 100 |
| Conscientiousness | 63 | out of 100 |
| Negative emotionality | 50 | out of 100 |
| Extraversion | 38 | out of 100 |

But wait — there's more! Each of the Big Five traits has something different to tell you about your life, and all five break down into subtraits. For example, someone can be highly extraverted because they're really social or because they're super assertive. We're going to show you those subtraits too. Although scientists generally agree on the Big Five traits, the specific subtraits are still being debated. We're using [the ones that have been identified by Christopher Soto](#), a professor of psychology at Colby College in Maine. Soto and his colleague Oliver John developed a major Big Five test, the BFI-2. (You can read more about it on [the website for Soto's lab](#).) We've used questions from that quiz with their permission and consulted with Soto in the development of our quiz. Read on to see what each trait reveals about who you really are.

OPENNESS TO EXPERIENCE

96 out of 100

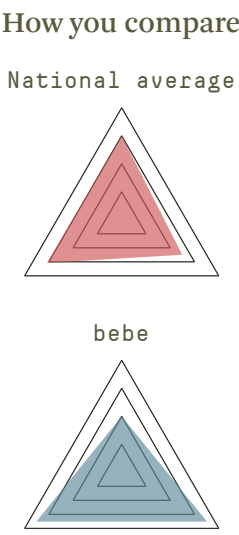
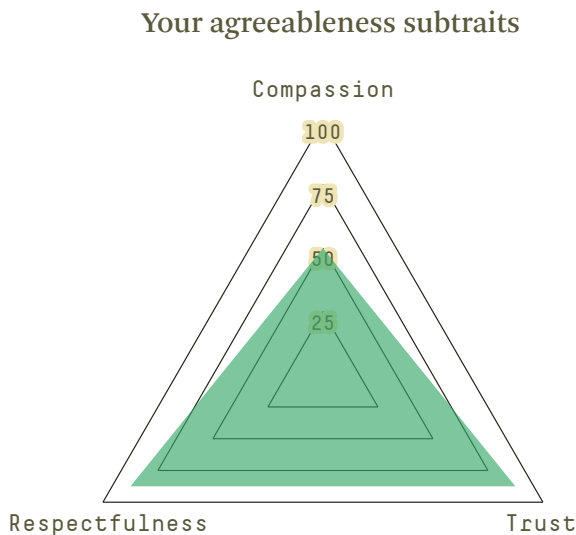
High openness to experience: You've probably tried on several personal styles and hobbies during your life, and your curious brain is actively seeking new things to explore. Your identity may be flexible and open to change, but you're likely to find success in careers that value that — the arts, for instance. Don't trap yourself in a "Theater Kid" box, though. People with high openness also do well in careers that involve investigation and discovery. They might become scientists, lawyers or investigative journalists — basically weaponizing their intellectual curiosity and willingness to try new things and explore new ideas. Be aware, though, that dangerous drugs are among the things you're more likely to be willing to try. Substance use disorders are a serious risk.



AGREEABLENESS

75 out of 100

High agreeableness: You may feel a deep identification with the possibly-too-trusting, unfailingly polite and relentlessly helpful [Ned Flanders](#). High agreeableness is associated with religiousness and with compassion. The highly agreeable aren't merely the people feeding the hungry and building community — they're often the ones leading the organizations that do those things. And the benefits of being agreeable start early. Highly agreeable kids are less likely to be bullied and are more likely to have strong relationships with peers. They do better in school. And some studies that have followed agreeable kids into adulthood found that their youthful good nature appears to be predictive of success in school, work and relationships. Things look pretty goodily-woodily for you, neighboreeno.

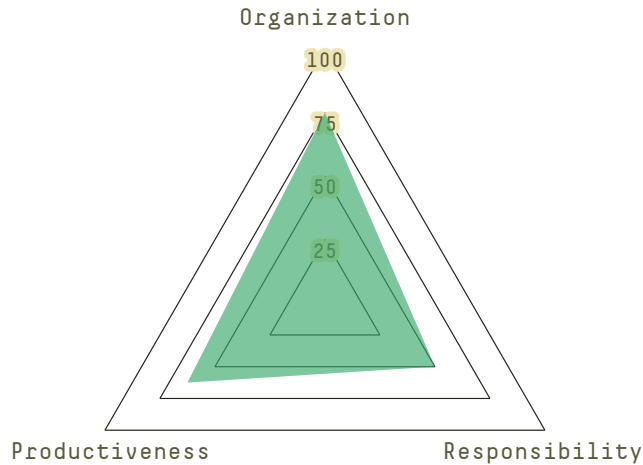


CONSCIENTIOUSNESS

63 out of 100

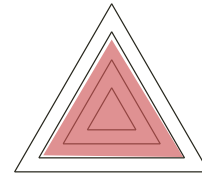
Moderate conscientiousness: The highly conscientious are detail-oriented goal-setters who dot their i's, cross their t's and keep detailed spreadsheets of all the times they did that. They tend to do well at work, be productive at home and lean toward being religious. People with low conscientiousness, on the other hand, are slovenly types who smoke and drink and tend to not finish the chores they said they'd get done. There are benefits and drawbacks to people on both ends of the spectrum, but if we had to choose a roommate, we'd pick you — someone in the middle.

Your conscientiousness subtraits

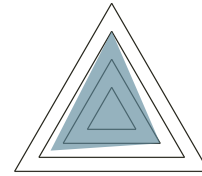


How you compare

National average



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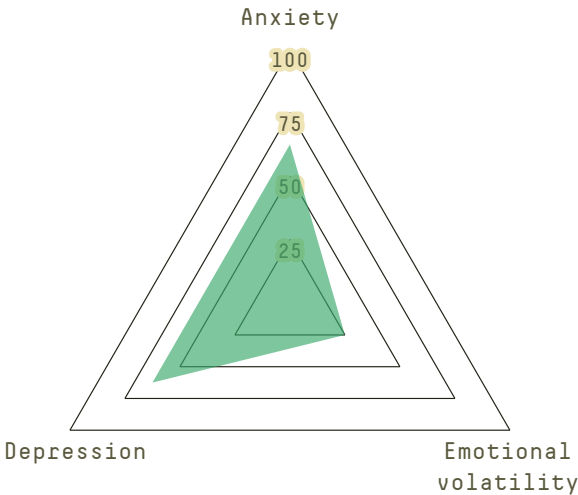


NEGATIVE EMOTIONALITY

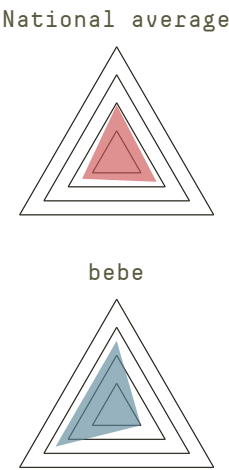
50 out of 100

Moderate negative emotionality: You don't exactly have a propensity toward sadness, anger and anxiety. But you also aren't exactly lacking those tendencies, either. All the Big Five traits operate on a spectrum — the people in the middle tend to experience a little of what both poles feel to the extreme. And that means you're also likely getting a taste of the outcomes correlated with both those poles, too. People who score high on negative emotionality have rocky relationships — maybe you've had one relationship that brought that side out more than others. The low negative emotionality folks will cheerfully work the same job for decades with no burnout — maybe you take a little longer to reach burnout stage (even if you eventually do). If you're reading this and thinking, "Hey, doesn't that just make me a normal human?" Well, statistically, yes, that would be how bell curves work, wouldn't it? Don't worry. There's probably another personality trait where you're more extreme.

Your negative emotionality subtraits



How you compare

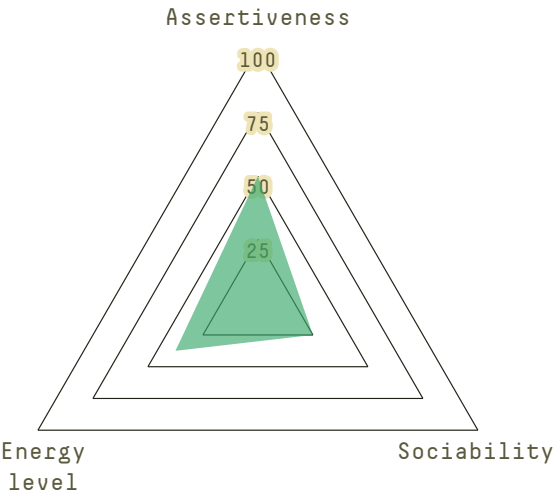


EXTRAVERSION

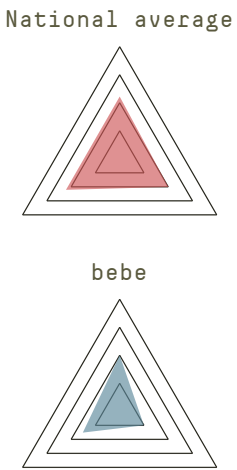
38 out of 100

Moderate extraversion: In the Big Five, being an extravert is all about engagement with the world. That includes your interest in socializing, of course, but it’s also tied to your energy levels and ability to feel excited about other people and society at large. Because people who score in the middle of a trait tend to experience a little of what those on either pole feel, you’re likely getting a taste of the benefits afforded to the higher extraverts — popularity, a general sense of well-being — while also experiencing some of the drawbacks of relative introversion, such as a limited dating pool (at least compared with the real social butterflies). And that’s OK. Being in the middle ain’t so bad, really.

Your extraversion subtraits



How you compare



SHARE WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS

No matter how extraverted you are, this quiz is more fun when you can compare yourself with people you know! To start sharing your results, create a group below.

Name your group

My annoying coworkers

Create group

Additional design and development by [Rachael Dottle](#)
Illustration by [Sonnie Kozlover](#)
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