

INTP: Introverted, Intuitive, Thinking, Perceiving

An Overview of the Thinker (Logician or Engineer) Personality Type

People who score as an INTP personality type are often described as quiet and analytical. They enjoy spending time alone, thinking about how things work, and coming up with solutions to problems. INTPs have a rich inner world and would rather focus their attention on their internal thoughts rather than the external world. They typically do not have a wide social circle, but they do tend to be close to a select group of people.

The INTP personality type is known as the "Logician" or the "Engineer" since their thoughts and behaviors are based on logic. There are two subtypes of INTPs: INTP-A and INTP-T.

- INTP-A: Known as the "Assertive Logician," this subtype tends to be more comfortable with themselves and more confident than an INTP-T. They are also more satisfied with where they are in life.
- INTP-T: This subtype is referred to as the "Turbulent Logician" and, when compared to an INTP-A, feels less comfort both personally and in terms of their current life. They also tend to be slightly less confident.

Key INTP Characteristics

- INTPs are quiet, reserved, and thoughtful. As introverts, they prefer to socialize with a small group of close friends with whom they share common interests and connections.
- An INTP enjoys thinking about theoretical concepts and tends to value intellect over emotion. They are logical and base decisions on objective information rather than subjective feelings.
- When analyzing data and making decisions, an INTP is highly logical and objective.
- INTPs tend to be flexible and good at thinking "outside of the box."
- People with the INTP personality type think about the big picture rather than focusing on every tiny detail.
- INTPs like to keep their options open and feel limited by structure and planning.

Strengths

- Logical and objective
- Abstract thinker
- Independent
- Loyal and affectionate with loved ones

Weaknesses

- Difficult to get to know
- Can be insensitive
- Prone to self-doubt
- Struggles to follow rules
- Has trouble expressing feelings

INTPs You Might Know

- Albert Einstein
- Avicii
- Blaise Pascal
- Isaac Newton
- Larry Page
- Paul Allen
- René Descartes
- Sergey Brin

- Walt Disney

Career Paths for the INTP

Because they enjoy theoretical and abstract concepts, INTPs often do particularly well in science-related careers. They are logical and have strong reasoning skills, but are also excellent at thinking creatively.

INTPs can be very independent and place a great deal of emphasis on personal freedom and autonomy. In some cases, they can be aggravated by authority figures, particularly those that they feel are trying to suppress their ability to think and act for themselves. Because of this, INTPs typically do best in careers that have a great deal of flexibility and independence.

Popular INTP Careers

- Actor
- Archaeologist
- Architect
- Artist
- Chemist
- Computer programmer
- Consultant
- Economist
- Engineer
- Financial Planner
- Geologist
- Historian
- Inventor
- Investigator
- Investment Banker
- Judge / Lawyer / Attorney
- Legal Mediator
- Marketer
- Mathematician
- Musician
- Network Specialist
- Philosopher
- Photographer
- Physicist
- Pharmacist
- Project Manager
- Psychiatrist
- Psychologist
- Researcher / Scientist
- Software developer
- Strategic Planner
- Systems Analyst
- Teacher/Professor