

ISTP: Introverted, Sensing, Thinking, Perceiving

An Overview of the Crafter (Craftsman) Personality Type

People with ISTP personalities enjoy having time to think alone and are fiercely independent. ISTPs also love action, new experiences, hands-on activities, and the freedom to work at their own pace.

ISTPs enjoy taking things apart just to see how they work. They are logical and rational but more interested in practical applications than abstract ideas. They love doing new things and can become bored with routines rather quickly.

Key ISTP Characteristics

- **Goal-directed:** People with an ISTP personality are results-oriented. When there is a problem, they want to quickly understand the underlying cause and implement some type of solution.
- **Open to new experiences:** ISTPs enjoy new experiences and may often engage in thrill-seeking or risk-taking behaviors. They often engage in risky or fast-paced hobbies such as motorcycling, hang gliding, bungee jumping, surfing, or ice hockey. In some cases, they may seek out adventure by choosing careers in areas such as racing, flying, or firefighting.
- **Objective:** They prefer to make judgments based on objective criteria rather than personal beliefs or values.
- **Reserved but even-tempered:** ISTPs are often described as quiet but with an easygoing attitude towards others. They can be talkative at work or in settings where they have a great deal in common with others.
- **Emotionally detached:** ISTPs are not well attuned to the emotional states of others, and they can sometimes be seen as cold, unfeeling, or insensitive. They also distance themselves from their own emotions, ignoring their feelings until they become overwhelming.
- **Level-headed:** One common misconception about ISTPs is that they are the stoic, silent type. While they tend to be reserved, this does not mean they do not experience strong emotions. Instead, they are good at keeping a cool head, maintaining objectivity, and coping with crises.

Some test variations also break down this type into two subtypes: ISTP-A (assertive identity) and ISTP-T (turbulent identity). Assertive ISTPs are more likely to feel confident in their knowledge and abilities, while turbulent ISTPs are more likely to doubt themselves.

Strengths

- Logical
- Learns by experience
- Action-oriented
- Realistic and practical
- Enjoys new things
- Self-confident and easygoing

Weaknesses

- Difficult to get to know
- Insensitive
- Grows bored easily
- Risk-taker
- Does not like commitment

ISTPs You Might Know

- Ashton Kutcher
- Bear Grylls
- Bruce Lee
- Clint Eastwood
- Daniel Craig
- Demi Moore
- Michael Jordan
- Milla Jovovich
- Snoop Dogg
- Stanley Kubrick
- Tom Cruise
- Vladimir Putin

Career Paths for an ISTP

Because ISTPs are introverted, they often do well in jobs that require working alone. ISTPs tend to dislike too much structure and do well in careers where they have a lot of freedom and autonomy. Because they are very logical, they often enjoy work that involves reasoning and hands-on experience. In particular, ISTPs like doing things that have practical, real-world applications.

Popular ISTP Careers

- Athlete
- Business Analyst
- Computer Programmer
- Computer Specialist
- Construction Worker
- Detective
- Driver
- Electrical Engineer
- Engineer
- Entrepreneur
- Farmer
- Firefighter
- Forensic Pathologist
- Human Resources Specialist
- Law enforcement
- Marketer
- Mechanic
- Military
- Paramedic/EMT
- Photographer
- Physical therapist
- Pilot
- Policeman
- Probation Officer
- Project Manager
- Sales Representative
- Scientist
- Software engineer
- Steelworker
- Systems Analyst
- Technical Specialist
- Transportation Operative