

# INTP

*INTPs incubate ideas*



## INTROVERTED INTUITIVE THINKING PERCEIVING

In general, INTPs are known for their quest for logical purity, which motivates them to examine universal truths and principles. They are constantly asking themselves and others the questions “Why?” and “Why not?” Clear and quick thinkers, they are able to focus with great intensity on their interests. They appreciate elegance and efficiency in thought processes and require them, even more so, in their own communications. They may be seen as unwilling to accept what everyone else regards as truth. While often low key in outward appearance and approach, the INTP is “hard as nails” when challenging a truth. INTPs do not like to deal with the obvious. They are at their best in building conceptual models and developing unusual and complex ideas.

- INTPs are conceptual problem solvers; they are intellectual and logical
- They tend to be critical, precise, and skeptical; they try to find and use principles to understand many ideas
- INTPs have a strong drive for personal competence
- They are interested in seeing possibilities beyond what is currently known, accepted or obvious

### Choosing a Major

- Need to understand everything; may be difficult to focus on one major
- See ideal job as allowing freedom to use special abilities
- Found frequently in pure sciences, mathematics, research, engineering, college teaching, computer analysis, or any field involving theory, such as philosophy or psychology

### Learning Style

- Intensely curious
- Global and abstract learners
- Understand theories and underlying principles quickly
- Can get so absorbed in reading or research that they forget time and people
- Report three to nine hours per week of non-required serious reading

### Reading, Writing, Studying

- May find it impossible to study without quiet for concentration
- Enjoy mastering complex theories
- May not have studied much in high school; college may come as a shock
- Write first drafts loosely, including all possible ideas related to the topic
- Need to revise final drafts by reducing complexity and by including human examples

### Playing

- Extracurricular activities usually include lectures, drama, and music
- May frustrate roommates who need casual conversation or appreciation
- Report they do not date much in college; abhor small talk
- Because they follow their curiosity, work is play

### Possible Causes of Stress

- May lack social supports
- May not pay attention to details and follow through
- May get consumed by favorite courses and ignore all the others
- May be so involved with work that they ignore extracurricular activities
- May put off writing until they read everything available on the topic

### Dealing with Stress

- Naturally adapt well to outside pressures
- Need to look beyond logic to see what others, and they themselves, really care about
- May need to work at making social contacts
- Need to learn to take breaks for physical activity
- Need to restrain their urge to read everything that's ever been written on a topic

**Work Related Strengths:**

- Able to analyze problems with great insight
- Architects of creative ideas and systems
- Enjoy situations where they have opportunity to learn and master new skills and knowledge
- Able to work alone, and concentrate well
- Good at long-range thinking

**Work Related Weaknesses:**

- May be unrealistic about application of ideas
- Ideas may be too complex for others to understand
- May lose interest and not apply selves to follow through
- Have little tolerance for redundancy or detailed work
- May be insensitive to feelings of others, critical, and demanding

**CAREER SATISFACTION** means doing work that:

1. Lets me develop, analyze, and critique new ideas
2. Lets me focus my attention and energy on a creative, theoretical, and logical process, rather than on an end product
3. Is challenging and deals with complex problems, where I am able to try unconventional approaches, and take risks to find the best solution
4. Lets me work independently with plenty of quiet, private time to concentrate and complete my thinking process
5. Lets me set and maintain my own high standards for my work and determine how my performance will be evaluated and compensated
6. Is done in a flexible, non-structured environment, without useless rules, excessive limitations, or unnecessary meetings
7. Lets me interact with a small group of highly regarded friends and associates, all of whom I respect
8. Gives me opportunities to constantly increase my own personal competence and power and lets me meet and interact with other powerful and successful people
9. Lets me develop ingenious ideas and plans and lets me delegate the implementation and follow-through to an efficient support staff
10. Does not require me to spend time directly organizing other people or supervising or mediating interpersonal differences

## Popular Occupations for INTPs

In listing occupations that are popular among INTPs, it is important to note that there are successful people of all types in all occupations. However, the following are careers INTPs may find particularly satisfying and some of the reasons why. This is by no means a comprehensive listing but is included to suggest possibilities you may not have previously considered. Although all of these occupations offer the potential for career satisfaction, the future demand for some careers is anticipated to be greater than for others.

### Computers/Technology

Computer software designer	Computer programmer
Research and development specialist	Systems analyst/data base manager
Strategic planner	New market or product conceptualizer
Change management consultant	Information services developer—computer programming
Financial planner	Information services—new business developer
Investment banker	Network integration specialist (telecommunications)
Desktop publishing specialist	Webmaster
Programmer	Network administrator
Internet architect	Analyst
Web developer	Computer animator
Computer engineer	Java programmer/analyst
Business analyst	Software developer
Computer security specialist	
Management consultant: computer/information services, marketing, reorganization	

The field of planning and development offers INTPs the opportunity to do what they do best – analyze problems and develop innovative solutions. Most INTPs enjoy working in technical areas, using their ability to understand complex systems and to find ways to eliminate errors or weaknesses. They easily see how the product, service, or system fits within the context of the whole company, industry, or technology and enjoy creating new, more efficient ways of doing things.

### Health Care/Technical

Neurologist	Physicist
Plastic surgeon	Pharmacist
Scientist: chemistry/biology	Pharmaceutical researcher
Biomedical engineer/researcher	Veterinarian
Microbiologist	Geneticist

These fields of medicine and other scientific technologies make good use of INTPs excellent reasoning skills and facility with technical material. The rapidly growing areas of neurology, plastic surgery, and biomedical and pharmaceutical research are often interesting to INTPs because they are able to be on the cutting edge of innovative industries, some of which carry some amount of risk. Physics, chemistry, and biology offer opportunities to work with complex concepts, constantly learn new things, and repeatedly ask the question “What if?” these careers, especially when they involve a strong research component, allow the INTP to work independently. Because they are difficult and competitive fields, they tend to attract other intellectual and gifted people, which INTPs find stimulating.

**Professional**

Lawyer	Economist
Psychologist/psychoanalyst	Financial analyst
Architect	Investigator
Intellectual property attorney	Legal mediator
Corporate financial attorney	Psychiatrist
Entrepreneur	Venture capitalist
Business analyst	Entertainment agent
Physicist	Biophysicist
Anthropologist	Intelligence specialist

These professional careers also offer INTPs plenty of opportunities to analyze and solve complex problems. Often extremely challenging, these careers require clear, logical thinking and innovative approaches to problems and challenges. The creative process is central to the work of both the architect and the psychologist. Seeing how one element or event fits into an overall pattern or system is a particular strength of INTPs and is a frequent aspect of the work of an investigator and financial analyst. From developing flawless legal strategies to forecasting subtle yet powerful economic trends, these professions offer the excitement and personal challenge INTPs thrive on.

**Academic**

Mathematician	Archaeologist
Historian	Philosopher
College teacher of advanced students	Researcher
Logician	College faculty administrator
Economist	Interpreter/translator
Astronomer	

The stimulating world of academia is one frequently enjoyed by INTPs. Because there is an emphasis on exploring and considering new and different approaches, INTPs often find career satisfaction in the role of college professor. They usually prefer teaching the more advanced and challenging students and courses. INTPs often enjoy the research element in any of the subject areas above and enjoy the opportunity to work alone and then share their insights and innovations with their intellectual peers. They work best when not restricted by excessive rules and bureaucracy, which many large universities and colleges are unable to avoid.

**Creative**

Photographer	Creative writer
Artist	Entertainer/dancer
Musician	Agent
Inventor	Information-graphics designer
Columnist, critic, commentator	Music arranger and orchestrator
Producer	Director: state, motion pictures
Film editor	Art director

One of the strongest attractions for INTPs to these careers is the chance to create something entirely original. INTPs enjoy the creative process of working with different mediums and the variety of people and experiences they have access to. INTPs usually enjoy working alone or with small numbers of talented people who bring something different to the process. Depending upon their area and their interest in expressing their art, INTPs can enjoy performance. But they don't necessarily need to perform their works to find satisfaction in them. Many INTPs are inspired by the world of creative people and enjoy working as an agent. Their ability to create innovative and clever products or services often gives them success as inventors.

Remember, these are only some of the areas that provide satisfying expression for the unique natural talents of INTPs.