

## MYERS-BRIGGS TYPE INDICATOR GENERAL PROFILE

### ISTP

#### Personality

The action orientation of the ISTPs will not be as apparent as it is in the ESTPs and the ESFPs; nonetheless, it is most assuredly there. ISTPs direct their action toward the factual and the practical. They are a joy to watch, as they become involved in an activity. At such a time, they may work 36 hours at a stretch, never letting up until the activity releases them from its hold. Because of this, they can be found among the performing artists and the craft artisans. They are often successful in the building trades and in the technician occupations of scientific laboratories, tending to the general population, and the one word which best describes the ISTP is artisan.

The precision and tireless energy, which ISTPs exhibit when focusing on a particular activity, does not extend to their lifestyle in general. They are not interested in perfectionism in all areas and so may tolerate disorder in the general environment. They can even be somewhat on-again, off-again in their intense interests, which causes them to be seen at times, as unpredictable and unstable, even impulsive. They are uneasy when not active and find sitting, reading, idle chatting, and the like uncomfortable. Time that stretches out ahead with no option to act raises the ISTP's anxiety. They are more content working on a project which interests them, but the interest is not in the project's outcome; rather, in ties processes. Activity is the thing, and end in itself.

#### Career

For ISTPs knowledge for the sake of knowledge is not as important as the use of knowledge in providing a foundation for activity. They are not particularly interested in acquiring advanced levels of education through formal channels, preferring to gain expertise through experience and action. In recreation, they are involved in sports, either as participant or spectator or both. Probably 50 percent of the surfers are ISTPs, for surfing requires a willingness to perfect a performance and a tolerance for solitude.

ISTPs respond to the challenge of complicated equipment that provides action. For example, large trucks, earthmovers, and construction machinery are apt to fascinate an ISTP. They also find their need for excitement and action met in such occupations as surgery, electronics, car racing, bicycle racing, daredevil acts, acrobatics, athletics, and the like. Surely the gunslinger of yesterday and the hit man of today draw their great virtuosos from the ISTP pool. Outstanding craftsmen are also to come from his type – for example, the sculptor, the wood carver, the furniture maker, the cabinetmaker, the tile maker, the weaver, and the rug maker.

#### Home

ISTPs enjoy solitude; and their ties with others can be somewhat superficial because they tend to connect with others through activities where body movement is involved rather than through face-to-face dialogue. Others sometimes find ISTPs distant and detached.

#### Midlife

At midlife ISTPs may be at the point of developing outstanding expertise in their craft, and a shift away from this may not be productive. They may, however, want to work on expanding the extraverted, gregarious side of their personalities and may need to develop discipline in completing one project before beginning another.

## MYERS-BRIGGS TYPE INDICATOR MATING PROFILE

### ISTP

#### Mates

The adventuresome artisan may seek out his opposite in the ENFJ “teacher.” As noted previously, in the ENFJ he finds a catalyst to growth, certainly a complementary quality to his artisanship. There is nothing, however, in the nature of the ENFJ that is catalytic to the adventurer side of the ISTP’s temperament. If this theme is dominant in the ISTP, then the ENFJ-ISTP mating is headed for trouble.

The ISTP is at least as attracted to the soothing, hosting, and giving ESFJ. It takes the ESFJ “master of ceremonies” to get the ISTP off his motorcycle (surfboard, airplane, hang-glider) long enough to relate to others in more productive and facilitative ways. The ISTP needs this anchorage, else he wanders off into the frontier (when Horace Greeley said, “go west, young man,” The ISTP took him seriously and went!)

#### Courting

An SP is likely to be compliant and agreeable with whatever is happening in the sexual sphere. They may seem quite decisive in sexual choices, but this is apt to be the result of impulse rather than the carefully thought through decisions that would characterize an NT. SPs can find themselves quickly involved with another, only to find this liaison a burden; then, they might be puzzled as to how to go about getting uninvolved. Confrontation is not likely to seem to be the way to solve this problem; rather, absence and silence are more likely to be the solution of choice. Long drawn-out courtships are not apt to hold the attention of SPs, oriented as they are by their need for freedom, which includes being able to express emotions, as they occur. Expressions of deep emotional commitment directed toward an SP are apt to cause the SP to become restive and to feel trapped. Under pressure, an SP is capable to tactlessness and even brutality, but once the scene is over, may be quite oblivious to any scars marring the relationship. If an SP does not meet another’s expectations, he or she is readily willing to “reform,” although it usually turns out that the promised new behavior doesn’t last long. Generally, SPs tend to have uncritical, happy dispositions. They live so thoroughly in the present that they are not always reliable in meeting the obligations of daily life. But the intention to displease is seldom present. An SP may be as quick to anger as to act, but the anger is likely to pass as quickly as it arises. They can accept positive or negative comments about their behavior or character with perfect ease, not long bothered by it either. In and out of the mating relationships, an SP may not bother to sort out priorities, responding to each successive demand with equal energy. A small crisis may be given as much attention as a crisis of great magnitude; a claim for attention from a stranger can be given as much attention as a claim from an intimate. This can lead to some dissatisfaction on the part of a mate. At times the delightfully generous nature of the SP (what is his is yours and what is yours is his to give away if the impulse strike) troubles mates of differing perspectives.

SPs love to receive and give gifts. Not only is the SP temperament likely to give the extravagant gift, but the SP will especially appreciate having an audience to witness the effects of this exuberant generosity. A mink coat could well appear under the Christmas tree even though there might be only minimum necessities in the closet. SPs often express sexual attraction through bringing gifts to those they want to please. The transaction involved is what is stimulating to the SP; the pleasure of playing Santa Claus in and out of season is what delights him. The receiver’s reactions of pleasure and surprise and the reactions of other witnesses are what count for an SP.

#### Sex

Whether Extraverted or Introverted, Thinking or Feeling, male or female, and SP may present the image of a bedroom virtuoso. A sexual superman or superwoman who voices an avid interest in experimentation. The details of the experimentation, however, are usually left for others to provide. SPs seem to enjoy talking about sex, may have an extensive repertoire of ribald sexual stories, and love to

hear details of sexual activities of all types. Modern novels, which focus on sex, tend to describe the SP more than any other type. SPs are more responsive than others to tactile, auditory, and visual sexual stimuli, which are concrete, real, and graphic. Symbolic stimuli (e.g., poetry) do not have the same power to excite the SP as they might other types.

The attitude that living is to be enjoyed applies to sex as well as work, play, or sleep. Variety in all things, including sex, is likely to appeal to an SP. An SP can become sexually excited by expressions of conflict as well as of lust and love, and perhaps will find quarreling, tears and anger – whether these emanate from themselves or their mates – sources of stimulation. Horror movies, disaster and war films, pictorial presentations of the cruel, the terrifying, the graphically erotic may excite an SP. The slow-moving love story is less likely to have appeal, eliciting impatience in the SP to get on with it. The larger-than-life love goddess or sexual superhero performing on the screen can titillate an SP, who in the hedonic style is ever seeking excitement and adventure. Romeo and Juliet, Heloise and Abelard were clearly not SPs; in fact the two pairs of lovers and their styles of loving may appear to an SP to be rather pitiful.

### Interpersonal

Although SPs give an impression of being extremely alert, their realism in accepting whatever exists at the moment can lead them into being oblivious to differences between quality and quantity of relationships. Whoever and whatever happens to be there is likely to be accepted, and in this process the SP may not differentiate between a person, for example, who is capable of great loyalty and a person who is only “passing through.” An SP also is, at times, not alert to potential dangers in relationships. This can lead female SPs particularly into involvements, which might be unwise. SPs truly do often rush in where angels fear to tread – sexually, socially, and, at times, economically. For an SP, living may be feast or famine. They may be good providers today, but spendthrifts tomorrow. Money, like sex, is to be used and enjoyed. SPs do not tend to attach much priority to saving for a rainy day, sexually or financially, as might an SJ; rather, time, money, and energy might be used to explore the newest restaurant, the newest fashion, the newest companion, and the newest car. Buying new gadgets or acquiring new acquaintances to tinker with might well fascinate the SP for hours, until interest is turned elsewhere.

### Social

SPs are usually energetic propagandists for their own personalities, and sexually they promote themselves well, whether extraverts or introverts. They are very likely to obtain the mate of their choice in a whirlwind courtship. If the SP's mate does not project onto the SP unrealistic expectations, the relationship can develop into a satisfactory, active way of life. If the SP is expected to be someone he or she is not, disappointment may be in store for both. Given a reasonable degree of compatibility in sexual rhythm, SPs are not apt to dissolve their relationships with selected mates. Unlike the NF, who is haunted by his lifelong romantic quest for the perfect love, the SP is not inclined to fantasize that another choice would have been all that much different.

### Domestic

As a homemaker, the SP female tends to find outlets for her hunger for action through arts and crafts. Her home tends to be filled with various projects in various stages of completion. Clutter is acceptable to the SP. She may get heavily involved in gourmet cooking for a time, and then move on to an avid interest in weaving or pottery. Color is likely to be abundant and strong. Plants are apt to be set about the rooms in profusion. Drop-in guests are sure to be welcome almost any time and the SP female is not apt, as would the SJ to be put off-balance by a less-than-guest-ready home. She is more likely to share cheerfully and freely whatever is there, pushing aside current projects to make seating or eating room. The SP mother is likely to be very much in charge of her children. She is not subject to the notion that she ought to be of service to her children; not does this mean she is subject to guilt, wondering whether she is doing the “right thing” or whether she did the same thing as other types. She does what seems right at the moment and that is that. More often than not, she expects and gets obedience, although she also allows her children a great deal of autonomy. She cannot be conned by her children and does not allow them to rule her. It is, perhaps, easier for the SP mother to allow others to participate in the raising of her children than it is for other temperaments. When her firstborn goes to kindergarten, for example, the SP mother is apt to take it in her stride in a way other types may not.