Theorist (MBTI Equivalent: INTP) (Style: Scientist first, Ideator second) 5.3% of Australian Population*



Introverted Intellectual Spiritual

Typical Quote: "Ideas unlimited...Rather be right then liked" – Anon

Introverted Intellectual Spirituals ("introverted ISs" for short) have the Intellectual mental function (including critiquing/ analysing) most conscious in their mind, and therefore they are most aware of it and in control of this function. Their Spiritual mental function (including creativity/ originality) is also likely to be very conscious by the time they are adult. The other two mental functions E (Emotional-including harmonising/ sympathising) and P (Physical-including details/ practicality) are most in their sub-conscious and therefore they may not naturally be so competent at managing these.

General Summary

Introverted ISs are pensive, analytical folks. They may venture so deeply into thought as to seem detached, and often can be oblivious to the world around them. Precise "wordsmiths" about their descriptions, introverted ISs will often correct others if the shade of meaning is a bit off. While annoying to the less concise, this fine discriminant ability gives introverted ISs a natural advantage as, for example, grammarians and linguists.

As individuals who are more flexible than organised to the outer world, Introverted ISs are relatively adaptable and amenable but if principles are violated, particularly around their work, they can become outspoken and inflexible. They prefer to return, however, to a reserved albeit benign ambiance, not wishing to make spectacles of themselves.

A major concern for introverted ISs is the haunting sense of impending failure. They spend considerable time second-guessing themselves. Their open-endedness, natural ability to see the interconnections of many possibilities, combined with the need for competence can make the introverted IS acutely aware of the many alternatives and pathways to a solution and one's propensity to overlook a critical piece of data. In this way introverted ISs are markedly different from introverted SIs, who are much more confident in their competence and willing to act on their convictions.

This fascination for logical wholes and their inner workings is often expressed in a detachment from the environment, a concentration where time is forgotten and extraneous stimuli are held at bay. Accomplishing a task or goal with this knowledge is secondary.

Key Attributes

Typical Strengths:

They are reserved analytical and lateral thinkers. Always seeking logical consistency, they are skilfully capable of building innovative models and theories. They take a logical global view and make natural philosophers.

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Typical Development Areas:

They tend to have difficulty remembering or paying attention to details, routine, and follow-through. They may have trouble paying attention to the needs and feelings of others, can come across as critical and insensitive, and be bored with routine.

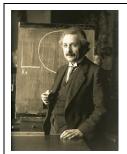
"Possible Shadow Side" (Mental Function deepest in the Sub-Conscious Mind)

The Emotional function of introverted ISs is deepest in their sub-conscious, and so their unrefined Emotional side tends toward "nothing or all". When present, the introverted ISs concern for others is intense and may not be realistic. They may also have uncharacteristic outbursts of anger and frustration. Alternatively, and more commonly they can become withdrawn, abrupt, and non-communicative.

In the absence of a clear principle, however, introverted ISs can defer judgement and to allow decisions about interpersonal matters to be left hanging lest someone be offended or somehow injured.

Famous Introverted ISs

Common Frustration for Others: They may be too theoretical.



Albert EinsteinTheoretical physicist



Thomas JeffersonFounding Father and 3rd President of United States



Marie Curie
Polish physicist and Nobel Prize Winner



Charles DarwinEnglish naturalist and geologist

^{*} See MBTI® Data Archive Project: Psychological Type Research Unit – Sample over 22000 Australians 2010