

Personal Validation of the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator Test

The Myers-Briggs Type Indicator test is a series of questions that categorize people by their personality and psychological type. The results of the test assign four letters to a person; each representing a different attribute. I took the test three times using three different internet sources, and I received three different letter combinations each time. The discrepancy was probably because none of the tests were the true certified test; instead they were moderately accurate imitations. I then asked some close friends to evaluate the results and they even had difficulty deciding which letters suited me most.

The three tests results said that I was an *ISFJ*, *INFJ*, and *INFP*. I always seem to score *I*'s and *F*'s which stand for Introvert and Feeler respectively, but the other letters, *S-N* and *J-P* could not be determined accurately. Personally, I agree with the *I* and *F* letters completely. As an *I*, I am supposed to, and do, like quiet concentration, think before I act, and have no problem working on one project for a long period. The complimentary side to an *I* is an *E* (Extrovert) which I do have a few characteristics from, such as I enjoy interruptions and I formulate ideas through discussions. Though I exhibit characteristics from both sides, I believe that my introversion is greater than my extroversion because those characteristics are much stronger. For example, before I do anything, whether it is homework or a vacation, I think about every aspect of that activity and then after it is over, I think about what I did. Though I usually formulate ideas by discussing with others, I do not feel it is a necessity. Also, I do enjoy interruptions when I am working, but sometimes it can be very annoying and distracting.

I asked one of my roommates and my boyfriend if they see me as an *I* or *E* and they both said I am an *E* with some *I* characteristics. They said I exhibit Extrovert characteristics the most by indicating that I am never shy in big groups or gatherings, I am good at handling large

amounts of people, and I get bored easily doing the same thing for a while. The difference between their ideas and mine are probably because I am look at myself seriously, while they look at me playfully, not working or studying. It seems that I am either schizophrenic or I act very different when I am working versus playing.

On the other hand, everyone, including myself believes that I am an F. My friends and I both know that I am very unsettled by conflict; I listen to my heart when in situations, I ask and discuss options with many other people before making a decision, and I want to make sure everyone around me is comfortable and happy. If I have an argument or I think that someone is unhappy with me, I feel the need to confront that person and speak with them. I have never been able to stand knowing, or even thinking someone is unhappy with me. When I was a freshman in college, I was always thinking with my brain and I analyzed everything about life and people. I learned that to enjoy life and to be able to relate with people I need to let my heart speak every so often and now it seems that I have let my heart do all the thinking. Maybe if I had taken this test early in my college career, I would be able to know for sure if I have changed that much in just a few years.

The borderline characteristics are *S-N*, Sensor or Intuitior, and *J-P*, Judger or Perceiver. Two tests gave me *N*'s while only one gave me an *S*. I am not sure which letter represents me more because I have very strong characteristics of both. I trust experience and my past much more than the unknown, I cannot stand guessing when I do not have all the facts, and I use common sense to solve problems. Those are all attributes of Sensors. On the Intuitior side, I am always living in the future, and I remember things based on patterns and connections rather than small details. My boyfriend will vouch for the latter because I am always the one who has to ask

what day our anniversary is on, and whenever I am trying to tell him a story, I cannot remember exactly what happened, instead I see the big picture which then reminds me of another story.

Both friends and I agree that I am a Judger or *J*, without any doubt. It is interesting though that one of the tests said that I am instead a Perceiver. As a *J*, I am supposed to plan details ahead of time, which I definitely do. I make sure every aspect of my life has a plan; I plan when, where, and how long I need to do my homework for, and when it comes to leisure time, I prefer to know exactly what will happen. Those examples illustrate another characteristic shared by me and other *J*'s, which is that dates, targets, and deadlines manage my life. I must have a goal to look forward to or I get into a rut and become bored. My boyfriend laughed when he heard that one test said I was a *P*. He said "Just look at the difference in the ways we study for class!" He has a good point because I think about starting and then finishing a project while he just focuses on getting to campus so he can start working. He and I get into arguments because I try to plan every hour of every day so that I can get all my work done and then relax while he would rather relax now and worry about doing work later. That also shows I am a Judger because they like to get things settled and finished instead of leaving things open for changes. The one characteristic of a Perceiver that I do agree with is that I wait to make decisions until I have plenty of information and opinions.

I read an article that discussed the qualities that the Jet Propulsion Lab (JPL) looks for when promoting and hiring systems engineers. They divide the qualities into three groups, Technical Knowledge, Processes, and Personal Behavior. As an undergraduate, I do not have much, if any, of the Technical Knowledge that JPL wants in a systems engineer because I have no exposure to those topics. JPL states that having a basic understanding in all areas while also having an in depth knowledge of two or three is what they want in a systems engineer. I believe

that after I am in the work force for a few years, I will become specialized in some of the listed areas, as well as gain a basic understanding of the whole. I also believe that the qualities listed under the Processes group will become second nature to me after being in the work force for a few years. This area requires knowledge of how systems engineering works and what steps must be completed to finish a project. Since each company and manager is different, knowledge in this area would depend on where and what the project is.

The last group is a list of personal behaviors that JPL finds attractive and I have many of these attributes already. I have all the listed leadership skills because of a few jobs and leadership opportunities I have participated in during college and because I greatly enjoy leading and working with other people. When it comes to communication, I also believe I exhibit all of the listed traits mainly because I hold other people's opinions highly and I enjoy listening to their ideas. I also solve problems in a very systematic way, but I am not sure how to manage risk. That will come through on the job experience, as well as having a complete view and understanding of a systems engineering job. I am hoping that this class will give me a greater insight to both of those areas. Finally, the one attribute that I do not hold is having intellectual self-confidence. I know what I am good at, which is leading and organizing people and tasks, but I do not believe that I know everything about my field or even about what I am studying. Though that seems negative, I do not feel that it is a hindrance to my success in any way. I know I am not the best at everything, therefore I know what I need to work on; to me that attribute is much more important than being cocky about intelligence.