

## ISTP "UNSTOPPABLE OPERATORS" \*'GLADIOLA'

\*(excerpted from *Blending Temperaments* book)

**AS AN ISTP**, you join 6% of the population in the land. ISTPs are a joy to watch as they become involved in an activity. Your type may work 36 hours at a stretch, never letting up until the activity releases you from its hold. Because of this tireless attention, your type may be found among the performing artists and the craft artisans—all which require long concentration.

Your type is also successful in the building trades and in the technician occupations of scientific laboratories. They do not particularly enjoy service and clerical work.

Although they give tireless energy to certain activities, this does not necessarily show up in their general life-style, where they can let things slide and put off doing boring jobs. Therefore ISTPs appear to be unpredictable and unstable. Impulsive often describes them.

Inactivity causes ISTPs to be restless. Sitting, reading, idle chatter and the like are too slow for them. Time without activity may cause an ISTP to become grouchy, anxious, and moody.

An ISTP's enjoyment of being involved in an activity or project is not to get it finished, but it is in the actual process of doing that which intrigues them. Activity is an end in itself.

ISTPs enjoy quiet, solitude. They enjoy activities where body-movement is involved more than face to face dialogue; like ballgames, mountain climbing, etc... Some people find ISTPs distant and detached for this reason.

Your type prefers the *use* of knowledge rather than just accumulating knowledge. Advanced levels of education interest them only so far as it helps them gain expertise in a particular activity or project. They prefer experience and action; on the job learning.

ISTPs are sports people, either spectator or participant or both. Probably 50% of surfers are ISTPs, for surfing requires a willingness to perfect a performance, concentration, a tolerance for solitude and a bit of risk.

ISTPs respond to the challenge of complicated equipment that provides action. For example, large trucks, earth movers, 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, dare-devil acts, acrobatics, athletics and the like. Outstanding craftsmen are also apt to come from this type; the sculptor, the wood carver, the furniture maker, the cabinet maker, the weaver, the rug maker.

ISTPs may want to develop their extraverted, friendly side to offset their quiet, serious mind because Feeling deciders measure their importance Thinking spouses initiate. Also, developing discipline in completing projects before beginning another would be advantageous.

## THE INDIVIDUAL LETTERS MEAN...

**I •INTROVERSION**—means that you prefer quiet and privacy to people. It means that you think before you speak; say what you mean, and make few verbal errors. Being an introvert is an in-born trait, not just a result of your home life. Being with people for long periods probably exhausts you and you feel the need to recoup after a day of it. Your mate, if an Extravert, would need to understand this.

**S •SENSING**—means that you are good at gathering facts from the logical, obvious sources through the senses; smelling, hearing, seeing, touching, etc... It means that you like routine of doing the same thing over and over provided, in your case, that there is plenty of action involved. You keep good track of facts, remember them, rely on them, trust them in making decisions.

**T •THINKING**—indicates that after you've gathered your facts and are ready to make a decision, and that decision is made without regard to what others say, think, feel or demand. You make cause and effect decisions to which you usually stick, unless someone very important to you prevails upon you to alter your decision, or brings to mind an important emotional consideration which you enter on your list of facts. Feeling-deciders accuse logical-thinkers of being cold, uncaring, hard-nosed, having ice-in-the-veins. Thinking people are wise to listen to Feeling people since Feeling-deciding is the bridge to people. This world is a social one where Feeling relationships are important. We really do need each other. A balance between Thinking and Feeling is excellent. Thinking, however, is the soundest and most practical, efficient and sensible, but not always the warmest... nor is it always right.

**P •(Perceptive) SPONTANEOUS**—is the measurement for which process you use on the world; Sensing. Society notices your facts. However, you save your favorite process – logical decisions – Thinking for your private world when you do the activity which you really enjoy. You prefer a spontaneous day to a planned one, and prefer a non-structured routine. Spontaneous people dislike authority – someone dictating what has to be done. You put play before work. "Work, it must be fun" is your motto.

**ISTP** is unusual, so enjoy it. Some people may regard you as snobbish or dull because your friendliness comes slowly, only after you know someone well. Talking is not one of your favorite things, but you can surely enjoy playing ball or working on a project (active one) with several people and the chit-chat that naturally emerges from the activity.

\*In God's flower-garden, an ISTP is a *gladiola*—Strong, colorful, independent and important background for gardens;

**TIPS ON TEMPERAMENT MANAGEMENT**

**ISTP "UNSTOPPABLE OPERATORS"  
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**TIPS ON TEMPERAMENT MANAGEMENT**

**T**emperament does NOT label or limit a person, but rather frees one to be who they were designed to be. Discovering temperament completely changes some peoples' view of themselves and others, improving their self esteem and giving them a new lease on life. Others who have not struggled with low self worth, having never been put in a box, just appreciate knowing the legitimate differences in people, and make few immediate adjustments.

Temperament does not determine attitudes. Two people sharing the same temperament preferences may exhibit very different dispositions. Temperament can be compared to musical chords in various keys... distinctive in their own right, but enhanced when blended with tones from other keys. The more skilled the musician, the more beautiful the melody.

- Occasionally people will use temperament preferences to excuse inappropriate or tactless behavior such as:
- "Don't fault me for giving you the silent treatment; I'm an Introvert."
  - "I'm late, but it's OK; I'm Spontaneous".
  - "You know how Extraverts are; we can't help but ask personal questions."
  - "I have every right to do this job differently each time because I'm an Intuitive."
  - "I've always done it this way and that's the way Sensing people are."

Temperament is a wonderful tool, but is not to be used as a hammer to beat someone over the head. Some people dislike being analyzed, categorized or discussed. Respect their privacy.

You are more than just an ISTP. You are like a house with many rooms, acting and responding a little differently depending on which room you're in, with whom and under what circumstances.

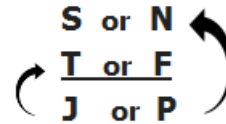
Every normal person is a blend of reserved/cautious Introversion; outgoing/confident Extraversion; fact & figures/hands-on Sensing; ideas & possibility iNtuitive; organized/closure Structure (J); open ended/crises sPontaneous (P). Temperament merely identifies our most natural or favorite way of acting or responding to people and situations

Everyone Extraverts their last letter: 'J' or 'P'. 'J' reflects the decision making preference—Thinking or Feeling; 'P' reflects information gathering preference—Sensing or iNtuition.

Introverts' last letter *happens* to be their second favorite preference, but because it is used on the world, it becomes their best developed function.

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Extracted from *Self-Esteem—Gift From God*, (Smyth & Helwys). Other related titles: *Coaching Kids—Practical Tips for Effective Communication* by Jim and Ruth Ward (Smyth & Helwys);

This final column explains the order which individuals access their four preferences. Although the information is beneficial, not everyone desires to digest it fully. Hopefully, a quick reading will reveal understanding for behavior. Don't miss the last paragraph's thumb-nail for your temperament.



Introverts prefer to reserve use of their first and favorite preference for private use. Since Introverts are forced to use their second preference through Extraversion, they develop both the first and second functions.

Extraverts' last letter is their first and favorite preference which they easily Extravert on the world. However, since Extraverts prefer to use their favorite preference on the world, they often neglect developing their second preference.

Opposite our first preference is our fourth (least) preference.

Opposite our second preference is our third preference..

Purposely using less preferred preferences encourages healthy balance and enables better handling of different situations more wisely—produces a clearer and more beautiful melody. We can get "visas" anytime to enter the camps of our less preferred functions. Even though we will feel strange or awkward as we consult the third and fourth functions—our shadow side camps—we'll benefit from the practice and use of those helpers.

I		
<u>S</u> 2		N 3
T 1		F 4
P		J

THUMB-NAIL:

As an ISTP, you Extravert your second preference (Sensing) which causes the world to see you as an open-ended facts and figures person who knows what to do in a physical crisis. You prefer to make logical decisions (first) which involves yourself rather than manage a group. Consulting iNtuition (3rd) and Feeling (4th) would be most awkward for you but worthy of practice

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