

Sorting Clues for Similar Types – INTJ vs INTP

On the surface, for these two types, their interests, roles and contributions to society can look fairly similar. Both are creative deep-thinkers and innovators. But looking closely, we find they work in different, sometimes even opposite ways. Here are some clues:

- As a general rule: **INTPs** focus more on theory around solving problems, whereas **INTJs** focus more on mapping out and completing projects.
- **A clear contrast is Nicola Tesla (INTJ) versus Albert Einstein (INTP).** Tesla at times literally dreamed up ideas for inventions and then went about trying to build them. If the result was effective (the device works!), then he was satisfied and either kept building off of it or started implementing some new vision. In contrast, Einstein observed the world around him, asking questions and forming hypotheses, and worked those out in his head (and with math) to find a singular theory (or framework) to explain a very deep "problem" (aka question).
- **INTP asks**, "Is the wording or thinking accurate?" Whereas **INTJ asks**, "Is the idea implementable, and if so, is it effective?"
- **INTP tends to form arguments** based on definitions, abstract principles, and ethics guidelines, whereas **INTJ tends to form arguments** based on factual accuracy, appeal to likely measurable consequences, and moral implications.
- **INTP focuses on** the act and philosophy of problem solving, and has a deep psychological need to be right. Whereas, **INTJ focuses on** visible progress and has a deep psychological need to be invulnerable.
- **INTPs** are generally less aware of their emotions, and mostly view emotions as social or relational in nature—that is, caused by interactions with other people. In contrast, **INTJs** are generally more aware of their emotions, and mostly view emotions as intra-personal—that is, something arising from within themselves, and as their responsibility to deal with privately.
- **In the workplace, INTJs** focus more on "success of individuals and tasks"—for example, training persons based on their capabilities in order to successfully complete creative work projects. In contrast, **INTPs** focus more on "solving problems for everyone"—for example, defining organizational health, and then asking how we can find and leverage innovative solutions based on that.
- Overall, **INTJs** are more socially presentable, more organized in daily life, and better able to communicate their ideas and make them useful. In contrast, **INTPs** are flexible and more relaxed, more mentally organized (e.g. logical deduction), and more prone to actually do a lot of in-depth reading and digging into background and tangential material for in-depth understanding.