

ClearerThinking.org Reasoning Styles
for the "How rational are you, really?" test

[Take the test here.](#)



Your "reasoning style" classification is based on four factors, which refer to whether your reasoning style is more:

- reflective or intuitive
- quantitative or subjective
- prepared or carefree
- skeptical or open

Since there are two possibilities for each of four factors, that leads to $2^4 = 16$ reasoning styles in total.

Below we describe in detail each of the 16 reasoning styles, which are:

1. Free Spirit
2. Journalist
3. Explorer
4. Attorney
5. Speculator
6. Cardsharp
7. Coordinator
8. Meditator
9. Field Commander
10. Skeptic
11. Introspector
12. Executive
13. Inventor
14. Detective
15. Strategist
16. Rationalist

1. Free Spirit



Most Free Spirits like to seek out new experiences; they prefer to enjoy these experience on an emotional level without poring over or analyzing them. They tend to enjoy the more colorful and artistic parts of everyday life. Approximately 21% of the populace are Free Spirits.

You are Intuitive: You tend to trust your intuitions — you size up situations quickly and stick with your judgments once you've made them. This tendency can be useful when you need to think on your feet, or when you're using a skill that you've already honed to perfection.

You are Subjective: People and stories interest you more than facts and figures do; you focus on the essence of ideas over the details. Your mind is more qualitative than quantitative. This trait lets you focus on the big picture over the nitty-gritty.

You are Carefree: You tend to live in the moment. You don't waste a lot of emotional energy fretting about the future. Instead, you focus on getting the most out of life right now.

You are Open: You're not an aggressive skeptic or naysayer. You tend to consider information without immediately disputing it unless given clear reason to do so. Proving people wrong is not a high priority for you.

2. Journalist



Most Journalists are open to new experiences and enjoy learning about others. They also have a skeptical streak that makes them difficult to trick or manipulate. Their combination of openness and skepticism make them fine judges of character. Approximately 13% of the populace are Journalists.

You are Intuitive: You tend to trust your intuitions — you size up situations quickly and stick with your judgments once you've made them. This tendency can be useful when you need to think on your feet, or when you're using a skill that you've already honed to perfection.

You are Subjective: People and stories interest you more than facts and figures do; you focus on the essence of ideas over the details. Your mind is more qualitative than quantitative. This trait lets you focus on the big picture over the nitty-gritty.

You are Carefree: You tend to live in the moment. You don't waste a lot of emotional energy fretting about the future. Instead, you focus on getting the most out of life right now.

You are Skeptical: You treat new information and ideas with caution and skepticism. Spurious arguments rarely fool or confuse you, and your beliefs are based on foundations of hard logic. You possess a fine-tuned BS detector.

3. Explorer



Most Explorers are adventurous sorts who enjoy new and unfamiliar experiences. They are also often in the habit of preparing for such experiences in advance. Explorers often find themselves in novel situations, but they're rarely caught unawares. Approximately 6% of the populace are Explorers.

You are Intuitive: You tend to trust your intuitions — you size up situations quickly and stick with your judgments once you've made them. This tendency can be useful when you need to think on your feet, or when you're using a skill that you've already honed to perfection.

You are Subjective: People and stories interest you more than facts and figures do; you focus on the essence of ideas over the details. Your mind is more qualitative than quantitative. This trait lets you focus on the big picture over the nitty-gritty.

You are Prepared: You tend to think clearly and comprehensively about the future. This makes you an excellent planner; you're usually well prepared when you begin a new project, and you're rarely caught by surprise.

You are Open: You're not an aggressive skeptic or naysayer. You tend to consider information without immediately disputing it unless given clear reason to do so. Proving people wrong is not a high priority for you.

4. Attorney



Most Attorneys have a powerful eye for detail and good instincts for evaluating the behavior of others. They're also comfortable with thinking on their feet and making snap judgments, which gives them an edge in social situations. Approximately 4% of the populace are Attorneys.

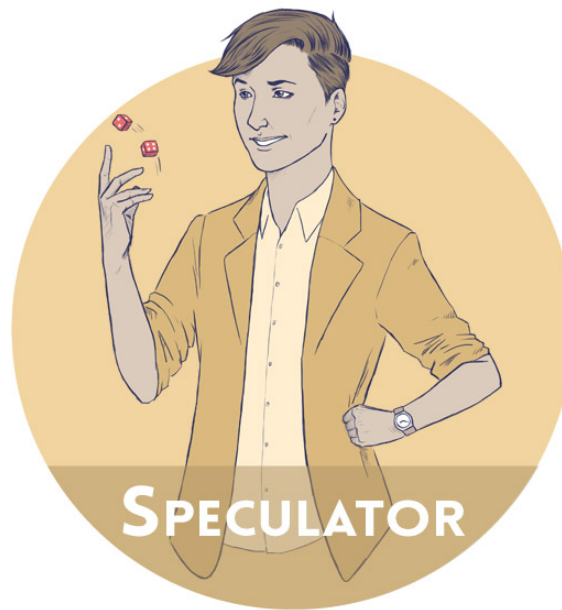
You are Intuitive: You tend to trust your intuitions — you size up situations quickly and stick with your judgments once you've made them. This tendency can be useful when you need to think on your feet, or when you're using a skill that you've already honed to perfection.

You are Subjective: People and stories interest you more than facts and figures do; you focus on the essence of ideas over the details. Your mind is more qualitative than quantitative. This trait lets you focus on the big picture over the nitty-gritty.

You are Prepared: You tend to think clearly and comprehensively about the future. This makes you an excellent planner; you're usually well prepared when you begin a new project, and you're rarely caught by surprise.

You are Skeptical: You treat new information and ideas with caution and skepticism. Spurious arguments rarely fool or confuse you, and your beliefs are based on foundations of hard logic. You possess a fine-tuned BS detector.

5. Speculator



Most Speculators are quick reasoners who frequently rely on their guts to make decisions on the fly. They also tend to have a strong grasp of numbers, which they use to back up their snap judgments. Speculators are versatile people who thrive on activity. Approximately 4% of the populace are Speculators.

You are Intuitive: You tend to trust your intuitions — you size up situations quickly and stick with your judgments once you’ve made them. This tendency can be useful when you need to think on your feet, or when you’re using a skill that you’ve already honed to perfection.

You are Quantitative: You’re good at working with numbers. Not in a schoolbook way, necessarily — you’re adept at putting this skill to use while solving problems in all manner of real-world situations.

You are Carefree: You tend to live in the moment. You don’t waste a lot of emotional energy fretting about the future. Instead, you focus on getting the most out of life right now.

You are Open: You’re not an aggressive skeptic or naysayer. You tend to consider information without immediately disputing it unless given clear reason to do so. Proving people wrong is not a high priority for you.

6. Cardsharp



Most Cardsharps have powerful intuitive decision-making abilities, but their skills don't end there. They're also good with numbers and capable of seeing through deceit, which can give them formidable powers in games of chance. Cardsharps are quick learners and adaptable thinkers. Approximately 6% of the populace are Cardsharps.

You are Intuitive: You tend to trust your intuitions — you size up situations quickly and stick with your judgments once you've made them. This tendency can be useful when you need to think on your feet, or when you're using a skill that you've already honed to perfection.

You are Quantitative: You're good at working with numbers. Not in a schoolbook way, necessarily — you're adept at putting this skill to use while solving problems in all manner of real-world situations.

You are Carefree: You tend to live in the moment. You don't waste a lot of emotional energy fretting about the future. Instead, you focus on getting the most out of life right now.

You are Skeptical: You treat new information and ideas with caution and skepticism. Spurious arguments rarely fool or confuse you, and your beliefs are based on foundations of hard logic. You possess a fine-tuned BS detector.

7. Coordinator



Coordinators are detail people — they're adept at planning and thinking about numbers, but they're also comfortable with collaboration. This combination of features makes them good at orchestrating large events and other plans that involve both organizing people and dealing with logistics. Only approximately 1% of the populace are Coordinators.

You are Intuitive: You tend to trust your intuitions — you size up situations quickly and stick with your judgments once you've made them. This tendency can be useful when you need to think on your feet, or when you're using a skill that you've already honed to perfection.

You are Quantitative: You're good at working with numbers. Not in a schoolbook way, necessarily — you're adept at putting this skill to use while solving problems in all manner of real-world situations.

You are Prepared: You tend to think clearly and comprehensively about the future. This makes you an excellent planner; you're usually well prepared when you begin a new project, and you're rarely caught by surprise.

You are Open: You're not an aggressive skeptic or naysayer. You tend to consider information without immediately disputing it unless given clear reason to do so. Proving people wrong is not a high priority for you.

8. Meditator



Meditators often combine two features that are rarely seen together — a relaxed, big-picture worldview and a strong propensity to question their own judgments. This mixture inclines Meditators to ponder life's big questions, which they can consider in great depth if they choose. Approximately 6% of the populace are Meditators.

You are Reflective: You dislike jumping to conclusions quickly. You're adept at reflecting on your own thoughts. When it looks like your intuitions might be leading you astray, you don't have a problem overriding them — instead, you take the time to re-evaluate the situation and figure out the wisest course of action.

You are Subjective: People and stories interest you more than facts and figures do; you focus on the essence of ideas over the details. Your mind is more qualitative than quantitative. This trait lets you focus on the big picture over the nitty-gritty.

You are Carefree: You tend to live in the moment. You don't waste a lot of emotional energy fretting about the future. Instead, you focus on getting the most out of life right now.

You are Open: You're not an aggressive skeptic or naysayer. You tend to consider information without immediately disputing it unless given clear reason to do so. Proving people wrong is not a high priority for you.

9. Field Commander



Field Commanders have powerful rationality skills — they're adept at thinking about numbers, reasoning about the future, and sifting through evidence. They're also comfortable with making quick decisions under stress, which equips them to deal with tough and complex situations rapidly. They're good people to have by your side in a pinch. Only approximately 2.5% of the populace are Field Commanders.

You are Intuitive: You tend to trust your intuitions — you size up situations quickly and stick with your judgments once you've made them. This tendency can be useful when you need to think on your feet, or when you're using a skill that you've already honed to perfection.

You are Quantitative: You're good at working with numbers. Not in a schoolbook way, necessarily — you're adept at putting this skill to use while solving problems in all manner of real-world situations.

You are Prepared: You tend to think clearly and comprehensively about the future. This makes you an excellent planner; you're usually well prepared when you begin a new project, and you're rarely caught by surprise.

You are Skeptical: You treat new information and ideas with caution and skepticism. Spurious arguments rarely fool or confuse you, and your beliefs are based on foundations of hard logic. You possess a fine-tuned BS detector.

10. Skeptic



Skeptics are just that — skeptical. Not only do they question new information that they receive from others, but they also tend to treat their own thoughts and ideas with some suspicion. They tend to focus this critical perspective on the present, allowing their views to develop as they come across more information. Approximately 5% of the populace are Skeptics.

You are Reflective: You dislike jumping to conclusions quickly. You're adept at reflecting on your own thoughts. When it looks like your intuitions might be leading you astray, you don't have a problem overriding them — instead, you take the time to re-evaluate the situation and figure out the wisest course of action.

You are Subjective: People and stories interest you more than facts and figures do; you focus on the essence of ideas over the details. Your mind is more qualitative than quantitative. This trait lets you focus on the big picture over the nitty-gritty.

You are Carefree: You tend to live in the moment. You don't waste a lot of emotional energy fretting about the future. Instead, you focus on getting the most out of life right now.

You are Skeptical: You treat new information and ideas with caution and skepticism. Spurious arguments rarely fool or confuse you, and your beliefs are based on foundations of hard logic. You possess a fine-tuned BS detector.

11. Introspector



As the name suggests, most Introspectors have a strong tendency to analyze their own thoughts and feelings; they also tend to think carefully about how their actions will play out down the line. Because they're comfortable with people, many Introspectors like to pass the wisdom they gain from these reflections on to others. Approximately 7% of the populace are Introspectors.

You are Reflective: You dislike jumping to conclusions quickly. You're adept at reflecting on your own thoughts. When it looks like your intuitions might be leading you astray, you don't have a problem overriding them — instead, you take the time to re-evaluate the situation and figure out the wisest course of action.

You are Subjective: People and stories interest you more than facts and figures do; you focus on the essence of ideas over the details. Your mind is more qualitative than quantitative. This trait lets you focus on the big picture over the nitty-gritty.

You are Prepared: You tend to think clearly and comprehensively about the future. This makes you an excellent planner; you're usually well prepared when you begin a new project, and you're rarely caught by surprise.

You are Open: You're not an aggressive skeptic or naysayer. You tend to consider information without immediately disputing it unless given clear reason to do so. Proving people wrong is not a high priority for you.

12. Executive



Executives tend to be people of vision. They consider their own ideas as carefully as they consider ideas that others put before them, and they're adept at organizing both types of thought into clear plans of action for the future. However, they often prefer to leave the nitty-gritty components of these plans to others. Approximately 4% of the populace are Executives.

You are Reflective: You dislike jumping to conclusions quickly. You're adept at reflecting on your own thoughts. When it looks like your intuitions might be leading you astray, you don't have a problem overriding them — instead, you take the time to re-evaluate the situation and figure out the wisest course of action.

You are Subjective: People and stories interest you more than facts and figures do; you focus on the essence of ideas over the details. Your mind is more qualitative than quantitative. This trait lets you focus on the big picture over the nitty-gritty.

You are Prepared: You tend to think clearly and comprehensively about the future. This makes you an excellent planner; you're usually well prepared when you begin a new project, and you're rarely caught by surprise.

You are Skeptical: You treat new information and ideas with caution and skepticism. Spurious arguments rarely fool or confuse you, and your beliefs are based on foundations of hard logic. You possess a fine-tuned BS detector.

13. Inventor



Inventors possess active, restless minds that constantly seek engagement. Their potent reasoning skills allow them to envision and realize complex ideas from beginning to end when they choose, and they're good at checking their own work for errors. Many of them prefer to create for the sheer joy of it. Approximately 3% of the populace are Inventors.

You are Reflective: You dislike jumping to conclusions quickly. You're adept at reflecting on your own thoughts. When it looks like your intuitions might be leading you astray, you don't have a problem overriding them — instead, you take the time to re-evaluate the situation and figure out the wisest course of action.

You are Quantitative: You're good at working with numbers. Not in a schoolbook way, necessarily — you're adept at putting this skill to use while solving problems in all manner of real-world situations.

You are Carefree: You tend to live in the moment. You don't waste a lot of emotional energy fretting about the future. Instead, you focus on getting the most out of life right now.

You are Open: You're not an aggressive skeptic or naysayer. You tend to consider information without immediately disputing it unless given clear reason to do so. Proving people wrong is not a high priority for you.

14. Detective



Detectives are tough cookies. They're often caught up entirely in their immediate pursuits, which they attack with vigor and determination. Detectives are highly adept at seeing through nonsense, whether it be verbal, mathematical, or psychological. They are excellent problem-solvers and dogged seekers of the truth. Approximately 5% of the populace are Detectives.

You are Reflective: You dislike jumping to conclusions quickly. You're adept at reflecting on your own thoughts. When it looks like your intuitions might be leading you astray, you don't have a problem overriding them — instead, you take the time to re-evaluate the situation and figure out the wisest course of action.

You are Quantitative: You're good at working with numbers. Not in a schoolbook way, necessarily — you're adept at putting this skill to use while solving problems in all manner of real-world situations.

You are Carefree: You tend to live in the moment. You don't waste a lot of emotional energy fretting about the future. Instead, you focus on getting the most out of life right now.

You are Skeptical: You treat new information and ideas with caution and skepticism. Spurious arguments rarely fool or confuse you, and your beliefs are based on foundations of hard logic. You possess a fine-tuned BS detector.

15. Strategist



Strategists tend to take a bird's-eye view of the world — they can absorb large amounts of information, consider it carefully, and use it to make accurate predictions or construct detailed plans for the future. Crucially, they're also good at checking their own thought patterns for errors. Approximately 4% of the populace are Strategists.

You are Reflective: You dislike jumping to conclusions quickly. You're adept at reflecting on your own thoughts. When it looks like your intuitions might be leading you astray, you don't have a problem overriding them — instead, you take the time to re-evaluate the situation and figure out the wisest course of action.

You are Quantitative: You're good at working with numbers. Not in a schoolbook way, necessarily — you're adept at putting this skill to use while solving problems in all manner of real-world situations.

You are Prepared: You tend to think clearly and comprehensively about the future. This makes you an excellent planner; you're usually well prepared when you begin a new project, and you're rarely caught by surprise.

You are Open: You're not an aggressive skeptic or naysayer. You tend to consider information without immediately disputing it unless given clear reason to do so. Proving people wrong is not a high priority for you.

16. Rationalist



Rationalists are excellent reasoners in all respects. They can cogently evaluate others' reasoning as well as their own whenever they choose to. They can also think fluidly about facts and figures, and they can evaluate and plan for the future with aplomb. They're rarely susceptible to the cognitive foibles that trip up others. When they apply themselves, Rationalists can master most cognitive tasks. Approximately 9% of the populace are Rationalists.

You are Reflective: You dislike jumping to conclusions quickly. You're adept at reflecting on your own thoughts. When it looks like your intuitions might be leading you astray, you don't have a problem overriding them — instead, you take the time to re-evaluate the situation and figure out the wisest course of action.

You are Quantitative: You're good at working with numbers. Not in a schoolbook way, necessarily — you're adept at putting this skill to use while solving problems in all manner of real-world situations.

You are Prepared: You tend to think clearly and comprehensively about the future. This makes you an excellent planner; you're usually well prepared when you begin a new project, and you're rarely caught by surprise.

You are Skeptical: You treat new information and ideas with caution and skepticism. Spurious arguments rarely fool or confuse you, and your beliefs are based on foundations of hard logic. You possess a fine-tuned BS detector.