Good Jobs for Introverts

By Selena Dehne, JIST Publishing

"Although introverts make up only 25 percent of the population, they make up a majority of the gifted population. Many highly successful people are thought to be introverts—even some presidents of the United States," says Laurence Shatkin, Ph.D., co-author of "200 Best Jobs for Introverts" (JIST © 2008).

But what about introverts who aren't vying for the presidency or hoping to direct an award-winning film? What do they do?

"Introverts sometimes get very frustrated working in today's service-based economy, with so many jobs that emphasize serving the public or working in teams. Fortunately, there are plenty of good jobs that let people work by themselves and without interruption," says Shatkin.

He identifies the following occupations as some of the best jobs for introverts who want a career that complements their personality.

Computer Software Engineers, Systems Software

Annual Earnings: \$82,120 Percent Growth: 43.0 percent Annual Openings: 37,000

Accountants and Auditors

Annual Earnings: \$52,210 Percent Growth: 22.4 percent Annual Openings: 157,000

Actuaries

Annual Earnings: \$81,640 Percent Growth: 23.2 percent Annual Openings: 3,000

Editors

Annual Earnings: \$45,510 Percent Growth: 14.8 percent Annual Openings: 16,000

Market Research Analysts

Annual Earnings: \$57,300 Percent Growth: 19.6 percent Annual Openings: 20,000

Graphic Designers

Annual Earnings: \$38,390 Percent Growth: 15.2 percent Annual Openings: 35,000

Technical Writers

Annual Earnings: \$55,160 Percent Growth: 23.2 percent Annual Openings: 5,000

Electrical and Electronic Engineering Technicians

Annual Earnings: \$48,040 Percent Growth: 9.8 percent Annual Openings: 18,000

Automotive Body and Related Repairers

Annual Earnings: \$34,810 Percent Growth: 10.3 percent Annual Openings: 18,000

Postal Service Mail Carriers

Annual Earnings: \$46,330 Percent Growth: 0.0 percent Annual Openings: 19,000

Good Jobs for Visual Thinkers

Computer programming -- Wide-open field with many jobs available especially in industrial automation, software design, business computers, communications and network systems

Drafting -- Engineering drawings and computer aided drafting. This job can offer many opportunities. Drafting is an excellent portal of entry for many interesting technical jobs. I know people who started out at a company doing drafting and then moved into designing and laying out entire factories. To become really skilled at drafting, one needs to learn how to draw by hand first. I have observed that most of the people who draw beautiful drawings on a computer learned to draw by hand first. People who never learn to draw by hand first tend to leave important details out of their drawings.

Commercial art -- Advertising and magazine layout can be done as freelance work Photography -- Still and video, TV cameraman can be done as freelance work Equipment designing -- Many industries, often a person starts as a draftsman and then moves into designing factory equipment

Animal trainer or veterinary technician -- Dog obedience trainer, behavior problem consultant

Automobile mechanic -- Can visualize how the entire car works

Computer-troubleshooter and repair -- Can visualize problems in computers and networks

Small appliance and lawnmower repair -- Can make a nice local business

Handcrafts of many different types such as wood carving, jewelry making, ceramics, etc.

Laboratory technician -- Who modifies and builds specialized lab equipment

Web page design -- Find a good niche market can be done as freelance work

Building trades -- Carpenter or welder. These jobs make good use of visual skills but

some people will not be able to do them well due to motor and coordination problems.

Video game designer -- Stay out of this field. Jobs are scarce and the field is

overcrowded. There are many more jobs in industrial, communications business and
software design computer programming. Another bad thing about this job is exposure to
violent images.

Computer animation -- Visual thinkers would be very good at this field, but there is more competition in this field than in business or industrial computer programming. Businesses

are recruiting immigrants from overseas because there is a shortage of good programmers in business and industrial fields.

Building maintenance -- Fixes broken pipes, windows and other things in an apartment complex, hotel or office building

Factory maintenance -- Repairs and fixes factory equipment

Good Jobs for Non-Visual Thinkers: Those who are good at math, music or facts

Accounting -- Get very good in a specialized field such as income taxes Library science -- reference librarian. Help people find information in the library or on the Internet.

Computer programming -- Less visual types can be done as freelance work

Engineering -- Electrical, electronic and chemical engineering

Journalist -- Very accurate facts, can be done as freelance

Copy editor -- Corrects manuscripts. Many people freelance for larger publishers

Taxi driver -- Knows where every street is

Inventory control -- Keeps track of merchandise stocked in a store

Tuning pianos and other musical instruments, can be done as freelance work

Laboratory technician -- Running laboratory equipment

Bank Teller -- Very accurate money counting, much less demand on short-term working memory than a busy cashier who mostly makes change quickly

Clerk and filing jobs -- knows where every file is

Telemarketing -- Get to repeat the same thing over and over, selling on the telephone.

Noisy environment may be a problem. Telephone sales avoids many social problems.

Statistician -- Work in many different fields such as research, census bureau, industrial quality control, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, etc.

Physicist or mathematician -- There are very few jobs in these fields. Only the very brilliant can get and keep jobs. Jobs are much more plentiful in computer programming and accounting.

Table 4 Jobs for Nonverbal People with Autism or People with Poor Verbal Skills

Reshelving library books -- Can memorize the entire numbering system and shelf locations

Factory assembly work -- Especially if the environment is quiet

Copy shop -- Running photocopies. Printing jobs should be lined up by somebody else

Janitor jobs -- Cleaning floors, toilets, windows and offices

Restocking shelves -- In many types of stores

Recycling plant -- Sorting jobs

Warehouse -- Loading trucks, stacking boxes

Lawn and garden work -- Mowing lawns and landscaping work

Data entry -- If the person has fine motor problems, this would be a bad job

Fast food restaurant -- Cleaning and cooking jobs with little demand on short-term memory

Plant care -- Water plants in a large office building