

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

