

"AS THE SOFT YIELD OF WATER
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YIELD WITH LIFE SOLVES THE
INSOLVABLE: TO YIELD, I HAVE
LEARNED IS TO COME BACK AGAIN."

- LAO TZU



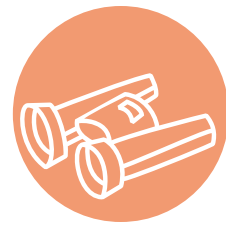
THINKING
explorer

The Explorer

The Explorer personality develops from the tendency to process information by thinking. This may sound like that's what everyone does, but the Explorer thinks before everything else. Explorers have a keen ability to think their way through situations that appear daunting to others.

This means that Explorers ignite with creativity and spontaneity and yet are ingeniously methodical. They are the ones you want to have on a dangerous expedition, constructing a new house, developing new software, or unearthing complexities of ancient civilizations – they can out-think anyone.

When others are tired or brain-dead, the Explorer can keep going on into the night even after hours of debate or thinking. An idea will start an Explorer to go off and find the solution even if on the highest peak or in the deepest canyon. The result is a personality that is mentally agile and energized to the point of either ridiculous or genius. Explorer ability to take a challenge and Explorer intelligence to tackle it can seem astounding to others.

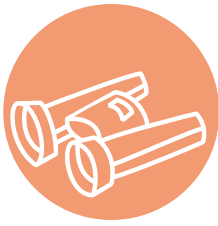


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explorer



FUN-LOVING, SPONTANEOUS, CREATIVE, AND DYNAMIC.



Inside the Explorer Circle

For the Explorer environment, an issue of caution resides in a space that is too controlled, ordered, and organized.

EXPLORER ISSUE 1

For the Explorer environment an issue of caution resides in a space that is too controlled, ordered, and organized. Confinement will stifle the Explorer. If you have a place to set your things, you will be satisfied. If your things are moved or rearranged without your consent or knowledge, you will be displeased or uneasy. Just where things go and where you set them is not as important as having the place for them and being able to access them without interference.

Function is paramount for the racing mind of the Explorer. You can appreciate form over function only when you admire the beauty of the workings of a piece or machine or object.

STYLE

Whatever comes along. Use objects that spark the imagination and continue to provide you with wonder. Objects rare, unusual, daring, that make a statement. The vanilla style of conservative will not satisfy you. You have a style all your own.

SPACE PLANNING

Explorers may live in what is a state of chaos for others. Keep spaces open for all of your ideas and things to have a place. You may not be aware of how your space is functioning because you require so little from it. Require more. Require specific storage for your many projects. Require comfort for your tired feet – the miles they go!

You will rarely find the Explorer behind a desk unless he or she is in an exploratory role. If you should find an Explorer at a desk, it is merely a base and the home for refueling. Explorers will function in a space that can provide adequate storage for all their “gear.” This leads to the next issue: build-up.

LIGHTING

Keep it bright. Your work is so intense and focused that you need plenty of lighting. Fluorescent lights work well and need fewer replacements for the Explorer, who has so many other things to think about and so many different projects to accomplish.



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EXPLORER ISSUE 2

Build-up. This can mean clutter of the past, present, and future, the summation of all of your ideas and projects. In a word – build-up is over-extending. Of all the personality types Explorers are the ones to over-commit because they have passion and energy for more than one thing.

Be wary of letting clutter amass before you begin your next endeavor. Explorers have a tendency to jump from one idea to the next often within a single project, simply because they have the great intelligence to do so. The danger is in burning the candle at both ends.

Explorers throw themselves into situations entirely. Rarely will they do things halfway, or “sort-of”. They often do too much – simply because they can.

Note to Explorers: keep a rein on your priorities. They often fragment, and you are in danger of sacrificing reality by keeping freedom the only priority.

Take care of yourself. Give yourself rest. You do not need to do it all in one day. And when the ideas in your head can rest for a moment, so can your heart.

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“WHEN LIFE GIVES YOU LEMONS, MAKE LEMONADE”

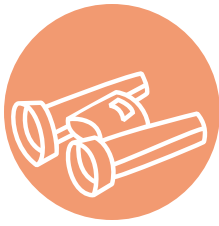
- ANONYMOUS



CASE STUDY EXPLORER

Sarah was a dedicated veterinarian who was always on the go. Her love of animals included a home full of pets of her own. Her two Australian border collies went with her on her weekend outings, while her cat, Tabby, enjoyed quiet weekends exploring the entire house at her leisure. Sarah knew exactly how her house should function but rarely had more than a few hours a week to care for her home. Sarah loves to hike, bike and kayak. She turned part of her garage into a pottery center where she spent many hours throwing, glazing, and firing her one-of-a kind treasures. Sarah's newest interest is Neil, an engineer who shares her love of the outdoors. Sarah faced a new challenge to make her home more appealing to Neil's exacting need for order.

Sarah called me to help her create a space where both she and Neil would feel comfortable and welcome. We worked on display space that unearthed her pottery treasures from the pile in the garage to carefully created places in her home. We also worked on storage areas and systems that kept the items of her many interests out of the way, but easy to organize. We selected bold colors to create visual accents that brought out the beauty of her pottery and the display of the numerous medals her prized border collies have regularly won at competition.



Explorer

Fun-loving, spontaneous, creative, and dynamic.

EATING

On the go.
Exotic foods are exciting and necessary to keep things interesting.

BATHING

Running water is important.
Clean water is even better.

SLEEPING

Function promotes relaxation.
Ruffles on the bedspread are not necessary.

WORKING

Keep a place for piles.
You know where things are.
Work with others or alone.

PLAYING

Spontaneous fun preferred over planned recreation.
The unknown is a lot more fun.
You take risks.

TRAVELING

Necessities are appreciated.
"Roughing it" is not having food or water.

STORING

Easy access is critical.
You use what you have.

THINKING

The thought process is logical and constant.
Share your thoughts or keep them to yourself.
You still keep thinking.



Strategies for Combining Profiles Within the Same Environment

Your health and inner balance in life are key to who you are and how you handle your space.

The following design combinations reflect individual relationships with their environment. You should think about how they apply to you. Knowing your LifeTraits is the first step in knowing the kind of LifeSpace environment that you require.

THE EXPLORER

Strengths: ability to get things going. You have the drive, focus and skill to mobilize a project.

Weakness: You tend to fragment a project with too many interests/explorations or excess fervency.

● ● **Explorer/Explorer:** When two Explorers are paired, they can be explosively exciting. But you run a risk of getting in each other's way with your spontaneity. Both of you are full of wonderful thoughts, and each of you needs a listener.

Take turns with ideas and in listening.

- Work to keep your visual spaces separate to avoid conflict. Communication is important to understand each other's plans and multiple goals.
- Learn to coordinate "like objects" to achieve a pleasing arrangement of favorite pieces.
- A strong interior paint color on a display wall can hold different objects together visually .

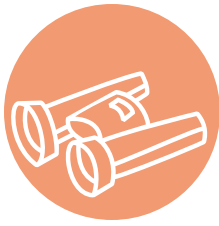
● ● **Explorer/Naturalist:** When an Explorer and a Naturalist are paired, the Explorer's love of the unusual can be used to share space with the Naturalist's openness and flexibility. Spend time listening to see where your dreams and goals are similar, for you both enjoy sharing your space with others.

- Combine your furnishings to capitalize on the unusual and the uniquely comfortable.
- Use the Naturalist love of the outdoors to have beautiful plants. House them in some of your exotic Explorer containers.
- Accept the Naturalist's need to have pieces of pure memory without function. Naturalists collect many things and love each one.
- Work to help the Naturalist take out what is not needed. Keep Naturalist creativity alive without letting intricate facts and procedures become stifling
- Avoid placing rules or requirements on intuitive ideas. Rather, help your Naturalist implement his or her ideas with your innate ability to solve problems.



PRIORITIZE

Decide what to hang on to and what to let go.



Your needs and the needs of your counterpart are very different.

● ● **Explorer/Purist:** When an Explorer and a Purist are paired, the Explorer needs to have a free-flow of ideas. Design or remodeling projects can be a potential conflict for the Purist who requires more order. The situation can be when too much meets not enough. Yet you both have the ability to compromise.

- Take advantage of the Purist's ability to maintain a minimalist environment. Your overflow of "things" can be managed.
- Ask for help in arranging your things to accommodate the Purist's need to streamline space. Work to reach a level of order that works for both of you. Or divide your space completely into what works for each of you.
- Work to expand the Purist idea of what can happen in a space. By slowly incorporating your ideas, you can add much to the environment without overwhelming it with too many different things.

● ● **Explorer/Director:** When an Explorer and a Director share space and make plans together, they are supreme idea generators. They have big dreams and grand goals. As an Explorer you should help the Director appreciate your adventuresome outlook when it comes to interior details.

- Remember that Directors need more visual order than you do. By understanding the Director's need for boundaries, you can help the two of you reach agreement on the use of space.
- Consider keeping some of your collections in a space that the Director cannot see and doesn't need to use. He or she will praise you for your sensitivity.
- Don't take a rejection of your things or ideas personally. The Director simply has a compact version of what he or she needs to see happen.
- Help the Director use your "outside" ideas to expand your shared world.

As you can see, each of the LifeTraits, including yours, is unique. Every personality will handle a situation individually. Your LifeTraits will help you better understand how to approach an environment situation with your partner or friend.

Your needs and the needs of your counterpart are very different. Knowing how to accommodate someone else and still fulfill your needs is the next step in communication.



“DISPLAY YOUR WORLD IN YOUR LIFESPACE.” - POLLY