

Thinking - Feeling

Australian population T = 50%, F = 50%

This scale describes the two opposite or mutually exclusive styles of judging, i.e. coming to conclusions or making decisions. This dimension is concerned with the priorities we consider during the decision making process.

One way to decide is through your Thinking Function. A person with a highly developed Thinking Function will first want to be logical, orderly and systematic. They give priority to deciding things objectively on the basis of cause and effect. This is not to say they exclude their feelings but their feelings are usually kept in some order during the decision process. People with a preference for Thinking seek an objective standard of truth and are frequently good at analysing people and situations objectively.

Firm
Exact
Fair
Argumentative
Blunt
Deliberate

The other way to decide is through your Feeling Function. A person with a highly developed Feeling Function will first want to consult their own value system in making a decision - what is important, valuable and meaningful for them. Again, this is not to the exclusion of the objective Thinking Function but a priority for making decisions from what they believe in and what they consider important. Those with a preference for Feeling tend to seek harmony in relationships and tend to deal with people tactfully and with apparently more care than the Thinking Type.

Flexible
Heart driven
Need for harmony
Relaxed
Subtle
Agreeable

It is important to note in this dimension that Thinking and Feeling Types can be equally intelligent and equally emotional. This dimension is speaking about the priority we place in making a decision, so the word feeling in this context means making decisions based on values.

Some examples, again generalisations, will serve to explain the difference between the types further.

Thinking Types want to be respected, whereas Feeling Types want to be liked. Feeling Types tend to need more praise than Thinking Types.

Thinking Types can hurt people unintentionally, Feeling Types will know they have hurt somebody.

The Feeling Types like to help people ... Thinking Types don't like to be helped!

In an argument over an issue, a Thinking Type is more likely to stick more closely to the logic of the argument, whereas a Feeling Type may well compromise the argument for the sake of harmony with the other person.

When out to dinner at a friend's house, the Feeling Type will wash up just to be nice, the Thinking Type may only wash up if there is a good reason.

Thinking Types tend to be fair in their dealings with people; Feeling Types, although they seldom like to admit it, can compromise fairness for what they believe in.

Thinking Types will weigh things tip whereas Feeling Types tend to control the world from their beliefs and convictions.

Using this page, and other examples you can think of within the definitions described here, you can now plot your type on the scale below and compare that to your M.B.T.I. result.

HOW DO I MAKE DECISIONS?

