



## MBTI Functions

- While we have a **PREFERENCE** for one or other of the functions, we have all four - S, N, F, T.
- But we're more adept and comfortable with our preferred functions than the others.  
e.g., ESFP

In use and preferred <i>Stronger</i>	Used but not preferred <i>Weaker</i>
Sensation	Intuition
Feeling	Thinking
<i>Perception</i>	Judgement

## MBTI Functions

- We have a hierarchy of preferences in the four functions:
  - The most preferred is called the **DOMINANT**;
  - the second most preferred is called the **AUXILIARY**; (Supports & Balances Dominant)
  - the **THIRD**; (Supports Auxiliary)
  - the function we're least comfortable with, have least developed and use least is the **INFERIOR**. (bridge to Unconscious self)

## MBTI Functions

- To determine the hierarchy of functions in your 4-letter profile :
  1. First see if you are P or J. This ATTITUDE indicates how you deal with the outer world.
  2. If P see which PERCEIVING Function is yours ( S or N ),
  3. OR if J see which JUDGING Function is yours ( T or F ).
  4. This indicates your 'face to the world' (How you face into the world and appear to others).

## MBTI Functions

- For EXTRAVERTS;
  - Their '*face to the world*' is their DOMINANT FUNCTION.
  - The second function in their type is their AUXILIARY and is exercised in the inner world (introverted).
  - The THIRD FUNCTION is opposite the AUXILIARY,
  - The INFERIOR FUNCTION is opposite the DOMINANT.

## MBTI Functions

- For example let us take ENFP:

E	Way of dealing with outer world	Present but Not preferred	I
<b>N(e)</b> Face to the world	1. Dominant Function	4. Inferior Function	<b>S(i)</b> Introverted
<b>F(i)</b> Introverted	2. Auxiliary Function	3. Third Function	<b>T(e)</b> Extraverted
<b>P(e)</b> Extraverted	Perception Attitude	Judgement Attitude	<b>J(i)</b> Introverted

Shadow

## MBTI Functions

- For INTROVERTS it is different;
  - Their '*face to the world*' is worked out the same, but their DOMINANT is INTROVERTED. Unlike extraverts, introverts do not easily reveal what is important to them. It takes time to know them.
  - The AUXILIARY function is their 'FACE TO THE WORLD' and is thus EXTROVERTED.
  - THIRD is opposite the AUXILIARY and INTROVERTED
  - INFERIOR is opposite the DOMINANT and EXTROVERTED.

## MBTI Functions

- For example let us take ISFJ:

<b>I</b>	Way of dealing with outer world	The Shadow Functions – Present but out of the light.	<b>E</b>
<b>S(i)</b> Introverted	1. Dominant Function	4. Inferior Function	<b>N(i)</b> Introverted
<b>F(e)</b> Face to the world	2. Auxiliary Function	3. Third Function	<b>T(e)</b> Extraverted
<b>J(e)</b> Extraverted	Judgement	Perception	<b>P(i)</b> Introverted

Diagram illustrating the MBTI Functions for an ISFJ type. The table shows the relationship between the four functions (Dominant, Auxiliary, Third, and Inferior) and their corresponding MBTI letters (I, E, S(i), F(e), J(e), N(i), T(e), P(i)). The Dominant Function (S(i)) is Introverted, and the Auxiliary Function (F(e)) is Extraverted. The Third Function (T(e)) is Extraverted, and the Inferior Function (P(i)) is Introverted. The diagram also indicates that the Dominant Function (S(i)) is the 'Face to the world' and the Auxiliary Function (F(e)) is the 'Way of dealing with outer world'. A curved arrow on the left indicates the flow from the Dominant Function to the Auxiliary Function, and from the Auxiliary Function to the Third Function. A diagonal arrow labeled 'INTROVERTED' points from the Dominant Function to the Inferior Function.

Insert your four-letter **TYPE** in the column at left.

Insert the opposite four-letter **TYPE** in the column at right.

Name which is your **FACE TO THE WORLD**.  
 Name the **DOMINANT** function.  
 Name the **AUXILIARY** function.

Name the **THIRD** function.  
 Name the **INFERIOR** function.


<p><b>ISTJ</b>                  Dominant = S                  FTW &amp; Aux = T                  Third = F                  Inferior = N</p>	<p><b>ISFJ</b>                  Dominant = S                  FTW, Aux = F                  Third = T                  Inferior = N</p>	<p><b>INFJ</b>                  Dominant = N                  FTW, Aux = F                  Third = T                  Inferior = S</p>	<p><b>INTJ</b>                  Dominant = N                  FTW, Aux = T                  Third = F                  Inferior = S</p>
<p><b>ISTP</b>                  Dominant = T                  FTW, Aux = S                  Third = N                  Inferior = F</p>	<p><b>ISFP</b>                  Dominant = F                  FTW, Aux = S                  Third = N                  Inferior = T</p>	<p><b>INFP</b>                  Dominant = F                  FTW, Aux = N                  Third = S                  Inferior = T</p>	<p><b>INTP</b>                  Dominant = T                  FTW, Aux = N                  Third = S                  Inferior = F</p>
<p><b>ESTP</b>                  FTW &amp; Dom = S                  Auxiliary = T                  Third = F                  Inferior = N</p>	<p><b>ESFP</b>                  FTW &amp; Dom = S                  Auxiliary = F                  Third = T                  Inferior = N</p>	<p><b>ENFP</b>                  FTW &amp; Dom = N                  Auxiliary = F                  Third = T                  Inferior = S</p>	<p><b>ENTP</b>                  FTW &amp; Dom = N                  Auxiliary = T                  Third = F                  Inferior = S</p>
<p><b>ESTJ</b>                  FTW &amp; Dom = T                  Auxiliary = S                  Third = N                  Inferior = F</p>	<p><b>ESFJ</b>                  FTW &amp; Dom = F                  Auxiliary = S                  Third = N                  Inferior = T</p>	<p><b>ENFJ</b>                  FTW &amp; Dom = F                  Auxiliary = N                  Third = S                  Inferior = T</p>	<p><b>ENTJ</b>                  FTW &amp; Dom = T                  Auxiliary = N                  Third = S                  Inferior = F</p>

### STRENGTHS OF THE DOMINANT FUNCTIONS

from *Introduction to Type* by Isabel Briggs Myers, Consulting Psychologists Press, Inc. 1987

**When Sensing Is #1 (Dominant),  
as in ISTJ, ISFJ, ESTP, and ESFP,  
you are likely to:**

Recognize the pertinent facts  
Apply experience to problems  
Notice what needs attention  
Keep track of essentials  
Handle problems with realism

**When Intuition Is #1 (Dominant),  
as in INTJ, INFJ, ENTP, and ENFP,  
you are likely to:**

Recognize new possibilities  
Supply ingenuity to problems  
See how to prepare for the future  
Watch for new essentials  
Tackle new problems with zest

**When Thinking Is #1 (Dominant),  
as in ISTP, INTP, ESTJ, and ENTJ,  
you are likely to:**

Be good at analysis  
Find flaws in advance  
Hold consistently to a policy  
Weigh "the law and the evidence"  
Stand firm against opposition

**When Feeling Is #1 (Dominant),  
as in ISFP, INFP, ESFJ, and ENFJ,  
you are likely to:**

Be good at empathizing  
Forecast how others will feel  
Allow for extenuating circumstances  
Be aware of values  
Appreciate each person's contributions

## THE INFERIOR FUNCTION

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- The fourth function becomes the inferior function most frequently when you are; overly stressed, physically ill, very fatigued, under the influence of drugs.
- The inferior function builds up a connection with the unconscious and therefore holds the secret key to becoming an integrated, whole person. A person who can access untapped potentials.

- Often assists in beginning the process of an ecstatic experience.
- When this function is "in control" you experience yourself behaving like a fool or a hero. Often shows itself as disowned parts of personality and you feel ridiculous and maladapted (not congruent to the "Me" I consciously know).
- You experience touchiness, often around someone criticizing any work or behaviour, which involves this function. You may become paralysed and send your tyrant out to defend yourself.

- Your judgment about your ability to competently use this function is not very positive so you can be easily influenced by others' judgments.
- Behaviour can become compulsive – you cannot seem to stop what you are doing even if a part of your conscious mind wants to.
- Often a tremendous charge of emotions is felt when the inferior function takes control.
- Often thoughts and feelings that surface aren't grounded in reality.

- When this function is "in charge", it is difficult for its opposite function to be usable (example: for a dominant Thinker when the Inferior Feeling function is "in charge", the person can't objective logical judgements).
- You can experience a state of inflation or hopelessness.
- You're not available to other people for "rational" discussions.
- You may be moody.

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