

The Activator

Composer (ISFP), Crafter (ISTP), Performer (ESFP), and Promoter (ESTP)

Activators are concrete in speech and utilitarian in pursuing their goals. Their greatest strength is tactical variation. Their most developed intelligence role is that of either the *Operator* (Promoters and Crafters) or the *Entertainer* (Performers and Composers). As the *stimulation-seeking* temperament, Activators prefer to live one day at a time. They may spontaneously pursue activities that offer fun or pleasure. Playful in their interpersonal relationships, Activators tend to be more permissive as parents than the other temperaments, wanting their children to explore and enjoy the world.

Interests: In education, Activators want to learn art crafts and techniques that they can use in their career. They tend to seek work involving operations and equipment which could range from a scalpel to a fighter jet.

Orientation: Activators live in the here and now. They want to enjoy the present moment. They tend to be optimistic about the future and cynical about the past, believing that life is a series of risks or random events without any larger pattern or meaning. Driven to master others, they are particularly social, they follow sexual and libidinal impulses and have a keen perception of what is beautiful and attractive. They follow desire and follow through with their creative potential. They work well in and with groups and highlight the importance of collective wisdom.

Self-image: The Activators' self-esteem is rooted in their grace and artistry; their self-respect in their boldness; and their self-confidence in their adaptability.

Values: Activators enjoy excitement and perform well when in a state of restless energy. "They are excitable as children and they never seem to get less excitable as they grow up." They seek stimulation and trust their impulses. Prone to spontaneous acts of generosity, they want to make an impact on others. They aspire to virtuosity, taking great pleasure in practicing and mastering their technique in the pursuits that interest them.

Social roles: In romantic relationships, Activators want a *playmate*, someone who can share in the pleasure and excitement they seek. As parents, Activators are *liberators*, exposing their children to a wide variety of activities, encouraging them to push beyond their limits, and guiding them toward independence and self-sufficiency. In business and social situations, they are *negotiators*, making the most of the opportunities at hand.

Learning: Activators want teachers who are interesting, active, and playful. They will avoid sedentary forms of learning and uninteresting learning assignments. They will also avoid reading assignments that are not succinct, practical and relevant. Energizers want to demonstrate their learning through actions.

Stress: As a defense mechanism, Activators may respond with *denial*, insisting that a fact is untrue despite overwhelming evidence. Since Activators feel a need to make an impact and to be spontaneous, they become stressed when their ability to do these things becomes constrained. Boredom is another source of stress for Activator. When under stress, they can become reckless, and they may retaliate against the source of the stress. They can become dramatists, unaware of their effects on others, becoming defensively over-confident, manic, overwhelmed, burnt out, intolerant, exhibitionistic, prickly and just switch off. Providing Activators with options, such as new ways to make an impact and new activities, can relieve the stress.

Traits in common with other temperaments

- Concrete in communication (like Stabilizers)
Activators are realistic. They want to experience events in the moment. They enjoy manipulating concrete objects, whether for practical or artistic purposes.
- Pragmatic in pursuing their goals (like Clarifiers)
Activators take pride in bold and unconventional behaviour. They aren't interested in following a rule if they don't see how it serves a practical purpose.

References

Keirsey, David (1998). *Please Understand Me II: Temperament, Character, Intelligence*. Del Mar, CA: Prometheus Nemesis Book Company.

Rodionova, D.E. (2007). "Specifics of defensive-coping strategies in connection with typological characteristics of the personality". *Psychological Science and Education* (in Russian) (Moscow, Russia) (2007, N5): 259–266.