

Interpersonal Intelligence

Interpersonal intelligence involves being able to “read” (i.e., understand) and communicate well with other people. It involves both verbal and nonverbal communication. It involves being keenly sensitive to others’ moods, feelings, temperaments and motivations. Interpersonally intelligent people have the ability to cooperate in order to work as part of a group. They communicate effectively and empathize easily with others, and may be either leaders or followers. They typically learn best by working with others and enjoy interpersonal discussions.

You probably have a gift for Interpersonal Intelligence if you:

- Are good at reading people
- Make friends easily
- Communicate well with others
- Understand other peoples’ motives
- Empathize with others
- Easily seduce members of the opposite sex
- Are outgoing and personable
- Enjoy socializing
- Love groups and crowds
- Enjoy teaching others
- Enjoy playing team sports more than individual ones
- Have people come to you for advice
- Love meeting new people
- Are cooperative in groups
- Are sensitive to others' moods/needs

Sample Interpersonal Leisure Activities

- Doing community projects
- Being involved in a club or organization
- Doing volunteer work
- Participating in a support group
- Participating in a discussion group
- Going out with a group of friends
- Playing team sports (especially with bodily-kinesthetic intelligence also)
- Going to camps/sleepovers (kids)
- Going to conferences (adults)
- Going to parties (or dinner parties)
- Being active in a fraternity or sorority
- Teaching or tutoring
- Going on vacation with close friends
- Helping a friend in some way
- Spending time with others

People who are famous for their Interpersonal Intelligence

- Alexandra Kollantai
- Alva Myrdal
- Anthony Robbins
- Arsenio Hall
- Art Linkletter
- Barbara Walters
- Benjamin Franklin
- Bill Clinton
- Bill Cosby
- Bob Barker
- Bob Hope
- Carl Rogers
- Dag Hammarskjöld
- Dale Carnegie
- David Letterman
- Dick Clark
- Earvin “Magic” Johnson
- Elizabeth Taylor
- Elvis Presley
- Gay Hendricks and Kathlyn Hendricks
- George Herbert Bush
- Harville Hendrix
- Henry Kissinger
- Jay Leno
- John F. Kennedy
- John Goodman
- John Kenneth Galbraith
- John Wooden
- Johnny Carson
- Joseph Patrick Kennedy
- Kathy Lee Gifford
- Lou Holtz
- Madeleine Albright
- Marilyn Monroe
- Mikhail Gorbachev
- Muammar Gaddafi
- Nelson Mandela
- Oprah Winfrey
- Pablo Neruda
- Peter Drucker
- Pope John Paul II
- Regis Philbin
- Ronald Reagan
- Shirley Temple Black
- Sidney Poitier
- Steven R. Covey
- Ted Kennedy
- Thomas Jefferson
- Tony Danza
- Virginia Satir
- William Shakespeare
- Yitzhak Rabin

There are numerous applications of the multiple intelligences system. The most popular application of multiple intelligences is in education, to nurture all the different kinds of intelligence in children. There are many wonderful books written about teaching and learning through the multiple intelligences so if that is an interest of yours I will refer you to my [Multiple Intelligences References](#) section for that information. My interest lies in using multiple intelligences for vocational guidance and relationship compatibility so that is what I will focus on here in this description.

People are naturally drawn to careers that make use of their giftedness. It is obvious that people like to do what they enjoy and are good at. What follows are some careers that make use of the Interpersonal intelligence as well as the Interpersonal intelligence combined with other intelligences.

Careers that Especially Utilize Interpersonal Intelligence

- Any job that requires good people skills, understanding of and empathy for others
- Administrator
- Advertising account executive
- Advertising and promotions manager
- Ambassador
- Arbitrator/mediator
- Baggage porter/bellhop
- Business manager
- CEO
- Child care worker/nanny
- Coach, life
- Coach, sports
- Community association manager
- Concierge
- Corporate or team trainer
- Correctional treatment specialist
- Counselor
- Crisis hotline operator
- Customer service representative
- Diplomat
- Director of admissions (academic)
- Director of student affairs (academic)
- Diversity manager
- Elected public official
- Employee assistance program coordinator
- Employment interviewer
- Event coordinator
- Flight attendant
- Foreign correspondent
- Fund-raiser
- Health care aide/assistant (nurse, home health, occupational therapist, etc.)
- Host/hostess, restaurant/lounge/coffee shop
- Hotel/motel/resort desk clerk
- Human resources manager/specialist
- Insurance sales agent
- Labor relations specialist
- Lodging manager
- Management consultant
- Manager (any)
- Marketing manager/consultant
- Medical or dental assistant (any)
- Meeting/convention/conference planner
- Motivational speaker
- News anchor/newscaster
- Nurse
- Occupational therapist
- Outplacement consultant
- Personnel recruiter
- Politician
- Probation officer
- Program director
- Public relations specialist/manager
- Publicist
- Radio disc jockey
- Real estate sales agent
- Receptionist
- Rehabilitation counselor
- Representative of the United Nations
- Residential advisor
- Sales person/manager
- School principal
- Secretary of state
- Social and community service manager
- Social and human service specialist
- Social director
- Social worker
- Sociologist
- Statesman/woman
- Store greeter (e.g., Wal-Mart)
- Supervisor
- Talent director
- Taxi driver (the good ones at least!)
- Teacher
- Telemarketer
- Telephone operator
- Tour guide/escort
- Training and development specialist
- TV/film/stage/radio producer
- TV game show host
- TV talk show host
- Travel agent
- University president
- Waiter/waitress
- Wedding coordinator

Sample Job Skills

- Accommodating
- Building trust
- Coaching
- Collaborating
- Communicating
- Confronting (diplomatically)
- Cooperating
- Coordinating
- Counseling
- Delegating
- Empathizing
- Encouraging
- Establishing rapport
- Facilitating
- Hosting
- Inspiring
- Interviewing
- Listening
- Mediating
- Mentoring
- Motivating
- Negotiating
- Peace making
- Persuading
- Publicizing
- Reading people's moods/behaviors/intentions
- Recruiting
- Selling
- Serving
- Socializing
- Supervising
- Teaching
- Trading
- Training
- Tutoring
- Understanding
- Uplifting

Sample Careers that Utilize Interpersonal Intelligence with Other Intelligences

Interpersonal and Verbal-Linguistic

- Adult literacy and remedial education teacher
- Advertising and promotions manager
- Business teacher, postsecondary
- Celebrity interviewer
- Corporate trainer
- Education administrator
- Elementary school teacher
- Executive editor
- Instructional coordinator/educational consultant
- Job analyst
- Judge
- Kindergarten teacher
- Literary agent
- Managing editor
- Marketer/marketing manager
- Middle school teacher
- Motivational speaker
- News anchor/newscaster
- Nursing instructor/teacher
- Preschool teacher
- Public relations specialist/manager
- Professional speaker
- Radio disc jockey
- Receptionist
- Relationship book author
- Salesperson
- School principal
- Secondary school teacher
- Secretary
- Sociology teacher
- Special education teacher
- Speech-language pathologist
- Telephone operator

- Training and development specialist/manager
- TV game show host
- TV talk show host
- University president

Interpersonal and Logical-Mathematical

- Bank manager
- Computer and information systems manager
- Dentist
- Engineering manager
- Financial manager
- Loan officer/mortgage broker
- Loan/credit counselor
- Natural sciences manager
- Real estate broker
- Social scientist
- Sociologist
- Stock broker

Interpersonal and Visual-Spatial

- Art/creative director
- Artist's manager
- Fashion designer
- Hairstylist
- Interior decorator/designer
- TV/film/stage/radio director

Interpersonal and Bodily-Kinesthetic

- Athlete's agent
- Coach, sports
- Construction manager/superintendent
- Physical therapist
- Sports scout
- Umpire/referee

Interpersonal and Musical-Rhythmic

- Band leader/director
- Choral director
- Music conductor
- Music director
- Musical instrument salesperson
- Radio disc jockey
- Sound effects manager

Interpersonal and Intrapersonal

- Clergy
- Clinical psychologist
- Coach, life
- Counseling psychologist
- Director of religious activities
- Early childhood development specialist
- Marriage and family therapist
- Minister
- Motivational speaker
- Occupational therapist
- Peace Corp volunteer
- Psychotherapist

- Religious leader
- School counselor
- Sociologist
- Substance abuse and behavioral disorder counselor
- Vocational counselor

Interpersonal and Naturalist

- Animal communicator
- Aquacultural manager
- Crop and livestock manager
- Nursery and greenhouse manager
- Park naturalist

Sample Interpersonal Majors in School

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| • Business communications | • International business | • Public administration |
| • Business management | • Marketing and sales | • Public relations |
| • Child development | • Mass communication | • Radio and television |
| • Communications studies | • Advertising | • Real estate |
| • Counseling psychology | • Ministry | • Social psychology |
| • Hospitality | • Nursing | • Sociology |
| • Human resources | • Political communication | • Teacher education |