



The open-ended J and the decision-making P

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Participants are asked to sit with dominant alike colleagues:

Dominant introverted perceiving function: Si & Ni (ISTJ, ISFJ, INTJ, INFJ)

Dominant introverted judging function: Ti & Fi (ISTP, ISFP, INTP, INFP)

Dominant extraverted perceiving function: Se & Ne (ESTP, ESFP, ENTP, ENFP)

Dominant extraverted judging function: Te & Fe (ESTJ, ENTJ, ESFJ, ENFJ)

My story

I became confused when a doctoral student with preferences for ISTJ was not able to complete a draft of her thesis by an agreed timeframe. My values related to providing my best possible feedback on a draft of her thesis is driven by my dominant Fi (introverted Feeling) function. Thus I arranged my schedule with two weeks of free time to read and give considered feedback so as to leave time for any revisions before the examination due date. This situation occurred on several occasions and confused me. Knowing ‘typical’ type behaviour, I was surprised the ISTJ did not get work to me on time and my INFP had structured time to work on the thesis feedback. I decided to explore what was happening.

Why is it that some people with a Judging orientation find it difficult to bring rapid closure in their decision making? Similarly, why do some people with a Perceiving orientation hold fast to decisions they have made?

Please respond to the following questions:

On a Tuesday ideally what does your next weekend look like?

By Friday morning ideally what does your weekend look like?

I have collected responses from people with different dominant preferences.

Perhaps responses are influenced by:

- Myers-Briggs dominant function and its attitude
- Socialisation within family, work, or other environments.
- Age (and potential development of third, fourth and other functions-in-attitudes)

Identify dominant function:

Dominant Perceiving function	Si	Ni	Se	Ne
Dominant Judging function	Ti	Fi	Te	Fe

Compare your responses with those from types with similar dominant function-attitude.
Then compare with other dominant function-attitudes.

Dominant perceiving function responses

On a Tuesday ideally what does your next weekend look like?

By Friday morning ideally what does your weekend look like?

Dominant introverted perceiving function- sensing: Si (ISTJ, ISFJ)

Si Fe ISFJ: Female Age: 32 *By Tuesday I would have some fairly detailed plans made for the next weekend. I would have usually contacted friends/family to discuss details such as where and when we will meet.*

Si Fe ISFJ Female Age: 50 *Just a minute I have to get my diary!*

By Friday: I am wishing it is less busy

Si Fe ISFJ: Male Age: 50 *A plan*

By Friday: A schedule

Si Fe ISFJ: Female Age: 50 *A fair way off.*

By Friday: Exciting, looking forward to having family around, sleeping in.

Si Te ISTJ: Female Age:38 *Gym on Saturday and Sunday morning, visit with family on Saturday afternoon and nothing else planned except for maybe a dinner with friends.*

Lots of alone time.

By Friday: See my response to the first question

Si Commentary: With Si (= IS_J) as a dominant function, organised practical detail is a source of power for this person. However, as this function is open to gathering further detail, closure is not a driving feature so the organisation need not be 'set in concrete'.

Dominant introverted perceiving function - intuition: Ni (INTJ, INFJ)

Ni Fe INFJ: Male Age: 35 *Generally won't know.*

By Friday: Have it planned. This may not mean I know what we are doing every hour but we have catch up time with family and friends planned and some objectives for the weekend.

Ni Fe INFJ: Female: 47

By Friday: *I usually have a pretty good idea of what I will be doing with a little openness for something I haven't thought of, but not much. What I do have planned doesn't necessarily conform to a time frame – just an intention that, at some point during the weekend, I will do such and such.*

Ni Te INTJ: Female Age: 37 *One planned event for night and day, the rest of the weekend free.*

By Friday: *Same as above.*

Ni Te INTJ : Female Age: 50 *Unplanned*

By Friday: *Unplanned*

Ni Te INTJ: Male Age: 54 *Nothing is planned and the house is empty and the telephone will be disconnected*

By Friday: *Nothing is planned and the house is empty and the telephone will be disconnected*

Ni Commentary: With Ni (= IN_J) as a dominant function the long term vision or sense of knowing is a source of power for this person. Planning for the upcoming weekend may not be relevant. Introverted intuition offers long term conceptual possibilities and, if nothing eventuates, the weekend alone with free time for personal reflection can easily be accommodated according to the conceptual parameters and may well be a preferred vision for the weekend.

Dominant extraverted perceiving function - sensing: Se (ESTP, ESFP)

Se Fi ESFP: Male Age: 58 *Catch up on things I didn't get to do last weekend. Reason: Weekends give me the balance to the structure of the week. I can do what I like.*

By Friday: *Easy, fun, lots on, see people I see each week (newsagent/butchers etc) Reason Same as above - I'm running the agenda*

Se Commentary: With Se (= ES_P) as a dominant function there is a sense of freedom to focus on structuring time for practicalities as appropriate in the moment to do a myriad of normal fun activities.

Dominant extraverted perceiving function - intuition: Ne (ENTP, ENFP)

Ne Fi ENFP: Female Age:38 *There is a weekend at the end of the week? No idea...and I don't want one either. Too many plans for the weekend are stressful. After a scheduled working week I prefer an unstructured weekend. Tentative plans may be made, but I like breaking them too. Also if there has to be a commitment made (which I acknowledge does have to happen sometimes) I don't like too many of them during the 2 days.*

By Friday: *Full of promise and ideas. Exciting, with lots of time to play.... hopefully*

Ne Fi ENFP: Female Age:50 *lots of free time no serious plans... time to be in nature and to socialise with friends*

By Friday: Finish early Friday arvo and get away quickly to holiday house... start relaxing the moment I get into the car and drive out of the city... no firm plans ...just free time to decide what to do at the time...

Ne Ti ENTP: Male Age:27 *It looks more like a month than a weekend! I've managed to rearrange the Calender and put all the Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays at the end (Oct, Nov, Dec). The good news is Jan, Feb, March and April are chockers full of Saturdays and Sundays!!!*

By Friday: Unplanned (very predictable I know!), maybe just an idea of what mates are free and a list of events – concerts, sporting events etc. Nothing is booked.

Ne Commentary: With Ne (= EN_P) as a dominant function there can be active avoidance to finalise weekend plans. The weekend is free to keep options open for any new ideas or possibilities. A weekend with too many pre-planned commitments will not provide the required freedom to take up emerging options.

Dominant perceiving function types S /N = E __P & I __J

ES_P, = Se dominant

EN_P, = Ne dominant

IS_J, = Si dominant

IN_J = Ni dominant

Why do these people like to continue exploring options?

People with a dominant Perceiving function are open to additional information and resist applying their Judging function to bring closure until all possible information is in place, or the deadline is imminent.

Each dominant Perceiving function addresses data gathering with a different focus:

Introverted Sensing - Si - to ensure all the relevant details and facts have been gathered and will fit into the well structured time frame or environment (The doctoral student wanted to be certain all the relevant data were incorporated in the thesis)

Introverted iNtuiting - Ni - to ensure there is flexibility to incorporate new possibilities into the big picture vision

Extraverted Sensing - Se - while a known structure is in place, a variety of activities can be slotted in according to the practicalities of the moment

Extraverted iNtuiting - Ne - all possible possibilities need to be explored in an environment uncluttered with prior commitments or structure

Dominant judging preference responses

**On a Tuesday ideally what does your next weekend look like?
By Friday morning ideally what does your weekend look like?**

Dominant introverted judging function - thinking: Ti (ISTP, INTP)

Ti Ne INTP: Female Age: 49.4 *Knowing that there are choices out there.....not locked in, with some free time to play with*

By Friday: Lots of possibilities, and no prep for Monday.....best part is when I know that I do not have to go shopping for food or anything and that all the time for the next 2 days is for adjusting. Perhaps knowing that I will have some good conversations.....

Ti Ne INTP: Female Age: 53 *Have no idea*

By Friday: Depends - might have something organised with friends

Ti Ne INTP: Male Age: 53 *One or (at most) two planned social events (e.g. lunch or dinner with family or friends; an outing to a film, concert, etc), with lots of free space in between.*

By Friday: As for Tuesday (above).

Ti Se ISTP: Female Age: 25 *No idea unless I am invited to an event and have that booked in!*

By Friday: Same as above. If I have nothing organised I will wake up and see what I feel like doing!

Ti Se ISTP: Male Age: 37 *Lots of free time – a bit of carpentry, video editing, play with my family, dinner with close friends on Saturday night*

By Friday: As above

Ti Se ISTP: Male Age: 37 *I have no idea, we will take it a bit as it comes.*

By Friday: Time to get some exercise, time to have breakfast somewhere out with the family, visit to a few open homes (we are looking for a new house).

Ti Commentary: With Ti (= I_TP) the dominant introverted Thinking function there is a focus on ensuring time is available for personal freedom and reflection.

Dominant introverted judging function - feeling: Fi (ISFP, INFP)

Fi Ne INFP: Female Age: 25 *I'd have a couple of options I'd be considering*

By Friday: I'd have plans for Friday night and I'd still be keeping my options open for sat and sun.

Fi Ne INFP Female Age: 40: *Unplanned*

By Friday: *Completely unplanned! - see what comes up and prefer to 'stay loose' until then!!!*

Fi Ne INFP: Female Age: 55 *Nothing planned so that there is a sense of doing whatever I feel like when the time comes. That may be a full and busy weekend or a gentle relaxing weekend.*

By Friday: *Have had some thoughts about the possibilities e.g. do I want to plan anything or not – maybe mention dinner out with friends e.g. “lets go for dinner Sat night – give you a ring Sat afternoon to decide where”. Still prefer to have flexible time and have some ideas of the range of things that I may like to do.*

Fi Ne INFP Female Age: 61: *Hopefully nothing planned, so if possibilities arise I can decide at the time or maybe one planned event or activity if someone else has arranged it.*

By Friday: *Much the same - perhaps I will also plan to go to the gym and have coffee with friends early Saturday morning. Stressed if too many things are planned or too much time organised.*

Fi Commentary: With dominant Fi (= I_FP) Certain social events or tasks may be planned. These will include flexibility of time for relaxation. Important values pertaining to time for personal reflection and space need to be available.

Dominant extraverted judging function - thinking: Te (ESTJ, ENTJ)

Te Ni ENTJ: Female Age: 43 *Ideally it has 1 social event set in concrete or else I have a plan for some thing I will do.*

By Friday: *Ideally it would look the same but usually it has far too much in it and I have niggling questions about whether I am doing too much*

Te Ni ENTJ: Male Age: 51 Always busy

By Friday: Fantastic

Te Commentary: With Te (= E_TJ) as the dominant function time is planned and efficiently organised with multiple activities.

Dominant extraverted judging function - feeling : Fe (ESFJ, ENFJ)

Fe Si ESFJ: Female Age: 36 *Sometimes I know what I'm going to do, and sometimes not. Most Tuesday's I'd have at least a SENSE of what the weekend might hold. Sometimes I know what my weekends are going to be like WEEKS or sometimes even MONTHS in advance.*

By Friday: *It has probably taken shape a little more since the Tuesday, but it would be unlikely to have anything major come into it that I didn't know about or have a sense about on the Tuesday.*

Fe Si ESFJ: Female Age: 47 *Very few planned social events. Get together with family. Housework & lots of "I" time to rest my brain from work*

By Friday: Usually have targeted 1 thing to accomplish in relation to my house outside normal every week chores e.g. make new curtains, go to Bunnings to do some retail therapy, repair something that I've been putting off etc. Usually have a confirmed "something to do" with family.

Fe Si ESFJ: Male Age: 50 *Half planned, half not waiting for whatever we feel like doing.*
By Friday: 80% planned, 20% not

Fe Si ESFJ: Female Age: 55 *By Tuesday .. usually a social event or 2 is planned and if there is nothing booked by Wednesday I would be on the phone booking some coffee/drink time with friends. Usually on a one to one basis now. Love a Saturday night free but not too many.*

By Friday: I will be planning my free time in chunks (garden, shopping cooking etc ... in my head) Lists are for Saturday am !

Fe Commentary: With Fe (= E_FJ) as the dominant function time is planned and efficiently organised with multiple activities, some time arranged to be with family or friends.

Dominant Judging function types: T / F = E _ _ J & I _ _ P

I_TP = Ti dominant

I_FP = Fi dominant

E_TJ = Te dominant

E_FJ = Fe dominant

What decisions have these people made and are reluctant to let go of?

Dominant Judging functions are focussed on making a decision and bringing closure.

Ti - analyse and categorise precisely to bring closure

Fi - want to make 'it' correct for people, once 'it' is correct there is no point in changing

Te - organise the process or task to bring the most effective outcomes

Fe - organise people for the best possible harmonious outcome

The important understanding here is where the dominant function is Introverted. In these situations the person with a P orientation actually has a dominant Judging function and is likely to bring closure. While the person with a J orientation has a dominant Perceiving function and is likely to want to keep things open until there is enough information for the correct solution to be in place.

Each person has an extraverted and an introverted function represented within their first two functions. Thus it will be important the weekend will include both extraverted and introverted functions. For someone with an Extraverted dominant function there are likely to be a greater number of activities taken up spontaneously by Perceiving dominant (Ne & Se) people or planned by Judging dominant (Te & Fe) people for an upcoming weekend.

Introverted Judging function people are supported by their auxiliary extraverted Perceiving function (Se or Ne) and therefore appear to require space for spontaneity during a typical weekend.

With my doctoral student ISTJ and her dominant perceiving function, I assume she wanted to gather all the relevant data in order to have her thesis absolutely correct. Once the judging function brought closure, she probably did not want me to make any additional changes or suggestions regarding other ways of bringing closure or bringing in other facts.

Understanding differences is powerful in helping people with interpersonal interactions - as we all know so well.

Boundaries

Filling the dishwasher.
Is there a right way?
Are guests ‘allowed’ to fill it?



J preference: Boundary where J ends and P begins

P preference: Boundary where P ends and J begins

For some people personal space begins at the front door of their house, for others at the boundary of where they live, and for others could be elsewhere ...

P - switches from flexible data gatherer to structured decision making person bringing closure

J - switches from structured decision making person bringing closure to flexibility and data gathering

Where is your boundary?

Self, House, Fence, other?

In a close relationship like family, partner do you switch to the non-preferred JP preference - which function is it (dominant or auxiliary)?

What is it like when visitors try to stack your dishwasher?

Some people restack the dishwasher after the visitors have left, while others leave it and are not concerned about how it has been done.