

3 SUBTYPES

3 SUBTYPE COMBINATIONS

Archetypes of the Enneagram by Susan Rhodes

<p>Self-Preservation (SP) individuals are self-reliant and down-to-earth people who like their own company, take responsibility for themselves, and value their independence. When it comes to their personal security or the safety of their family, they don't take chances. They like to be in control of their lives and their immediate environment. Although they can have a pioneering attitude, they carefully consider their options before moving into unknown territory. If the unforeseen should happen, they usually have a backup plan (perhaps several!) to help things get back on track. They value dependability in others but have little use for people who are "all show, no substance." In love, they enjoy companionship with someone they like and respect; they are usually more interested in a long-term commitment than casual romance. Because of their independence, they can get a bit lonely at times and need to be careful not to let themselves become socially isolated, especially if they work alone (quite common for this subtype).</p>	<p>SP-SX individuals have the groundedness and practicality of SPs combined with the restlessness and intensity of SXs. They're often intensely creative individuals who have the self-discipline to getting deeply involved with creative projects for long periods of time, pouring themselves into their work. When they come up for a break, they prefer to be with one or two close companions (rather than a large group). They can find casual social contacts difficult or tiresome and will make some excuse to leave if they're forced into social situations they don't like. They're especially keen to avoid highly formal, social occasions like weddings (unless the bride or groom are close friends). When they're down, they'd rather be alone or with one special friend than to seek out the company of people whom they don't know very well. They tend to be somewhat unconventional, although their SP side usually keeps them financially solvent and ground enough to avoid the extravagances often associated with SXs.</p>
<p>Sexual (SX) individuals are intense, magnetic, and restless. Their gaze often has an intent, penetrating quality that can make you feel like they're looking right through you. They're always seeking something that is just out of reach, and usually have a hard time settling down to do one thing at a time or to do anything methodically. They hate to be tied down or stuck with tasks they consider boring, so they need to have work that really engages their interest. They enjoy the romantic chase, but can have difficulty hanging onto one partner for any length of time, either because of fighting, boredom, or the temptation to seek out somebody new. Sometimes they can alternate between being overly clinging and aloof (which reflects their difficulty in sustaining a steady relationship). Although they can usually pick up a new partner with little difficulty, it can be easy for them to fall into a pattern of serial monogamy. They can have difficulty pursuing a moderate course in life, but are inventive, creative individuals who can liven up any social event.</p>	<p>SP-SOC individuals are careful, responsible and dependable individuals who easily adapt to social rules and conventions of their chosen community. They think of themselves as agreeable people who are friendly but reserved, and they seek out opportunities for social interaction that don't take them too far outside of their comfort zone. So they enjoy congenial gatherings, but nothing too fancy or ostentatious. They would rather be with people they know well than strangers, and they often like to entertain at home, where they feel particularly at ease. They also like to participate in regular social events with established groups. When they approach a new group, they'll often seek out some kind of niche where they can make a special contribution without being the center of attention. They're at their best in familiar or structured surroundings but can feel like a duck out of water in situations that are unstructured, unfamiliar or unpredictable.</p>
<p>Social (SOC) individuals are naturally at home in group settings. Although they tend to be cool, somewhat formal, and emotionally restrained, they're very attuned to group dynamics and instinctively know how to work with others. They also know how to make friends with those who share their interest, so they usually have a big network of social contacts. They're often attracted to work that focuses on social or political concerns (as organizers, networkers or commentators), especially work that makes use of their diplomatic talents. But they don't appreciate people who are blunt, rude or socially gauche; they see a certain degree of refinement and social restraint as essential for promoting harmony. They don't like conflict and appreciate social structures that help them avoid it. Although they're cordial, they can be hard to get to know really well, because intimacy brings with it the kind of intensity and potential for conflict that's not their cup of tea.</p>	<p>SX-SOC individuals are warm, attractive and socially-aware. They're naturally attuned to current trends and tend to be popular with others, because their personal magnetism is paired with an innate sense of how to make a positive social impact. They know how to entertain people without going over the top – or how to facilitate a group in a way that allows everybody to enjoy the experience. Amiable and charming, they make excellent politicians, diplomats, or PR specialists, especially when times are good. Their weakness lies in their tendency to shy away from tasks that take them away from the center of attention or from relationships that might jeopardize their popularity. And their ability to charm a group can make it easy for them to rely too heavily on their winning ways (and not enough on the actual quality of their work). So they have to be careful to make sure they've got something substantive to back up their believable-sounding claims.</p>