

“When we talked about the poems it was his interpretation that was the right one, and never anything different. I did poorly in that course, didn’t enjoy it, and remember nothing from it except the frustration.”

Interacting with Other Learners

Generally, other learners see Explorers as open ended and exploratory. They come across as enthusiastic, questioning, and innovative. Asking questions and discussing ideas in a group help Explorers process and build on ideas. Preferring to think out loud, these learners can find it difficult to process their ideas internally.

In a group setting, Explorers often jump in with many questions and may take up a lot of the group’s time exploring diverse and tangential ideas. Their open-ended discussion style can be uncomfortable for those learners and instructors who prefer completing specific objectives or coming to closure.

If the learning environment does not provide an opportunity to discuss what is being learned, Explorers may seek out someone willing to have a discussion. One Explorer found an online learning course challenging until she discovered this solution:

“I ended up partnering with another student and we would call each other after working on modules to discuss and bounce our thoughts off each other.”

Learning from Feedback

Explorers want feedback on their ideas and models. They benefit from feedback that helps them structure and organize ideas. Explorers also benefit from feedback that points out gaps between their ideas and the realities of a situation. However, they may interpret this kind of feedback as a lack of vision.

“I want to explore and learn with options and possibilities, and sometimes the reality checks seem too much like someone is throwing a bucket of cold water on my ideas.”

Some Explorers have a complementary decision-making preference for Feeling, and others for Thinking. Explorers preferring Feeling (Compassionate Explorers) tend to like hearing positive feedback presented in a sensitive manner, while Explorers preferring Thinking (Logical Explorers) tend to want corrective feedback presented in a frank and matter-of-fact manner.

Learning Style Checklist

Use the checklists below to mark which characteristics of this learning style fit for you as an ENTP or ENFP.

Explorers as learners tend to

- Be enthusiastic, innovative, and adaptable
- Have a work style of bursts of inspiration
- Read extensively and have broad interests
- Skim facts to get a general idea of what is important
- Learn a little about a lot of topics
- Be spontaneous and curious
- Like exploring ideas more than coming to closure

In the learning environment, Explorers tend to

- Like lots of stimulation
- Integrate information from a variety of sources
- Improvise rather than prepare extensively
- Be easily bored with details
- Need variety and change to keep their interest level high
- Resist structure and control or challenge authority
- Like to start things more than follow things through to completion

In learning with others, Explorers tend to

- Like to initiate new ideas and seek change
- Think out loud
- Like group work
- Want to discuss information
- Share and build on ideas
- Enjoy brainstorming and visioning
- Seek out different points of view

Thoughts for Explorers

How has your learning style helped you manage or learn information in the past? Write down one or two ways you can use your learning style to help you learn now or in the future.
