

the quiz

what's your hobby personality?

With so many hobbies to choose from, how do you figure out which of these diversions is likely to be right for you? Start with this quiz. It will help you identify the personality traits that comprise your hobby personality. Then match your results to the hobby personality profiles that appear at the top of each hobby entry; these represent the most prominent characteristics of the many hobbyists who enjoy these pastimes. If two or more of your personality traits are represented, there's a good chance you'll enjoy that particular pastime, too. It's that simple.

Of course, even the most insightful test is no substitute for the real thing, so don't feel limited by the quiz results. Your hobby personality profile is only a starting point. If you allow yourself to experiment with a variety of different hobbies, you might discover a previously unsuspected aptitude or rekindle a long-buried obsession. Feel perfectly free to change your hobby preferences according to your schedule, mood, or even the weather.

1) A THRILLING VACATION WOULD BE:

- a) Trekking in the Alps.
- b) Driving around Napa Valley visiting vineyards.
- c) Watching the grass grow in my backyard.

2) WHICH BEST SUMS UP YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE ANIMAL KINGDOM?

- a) Snakes are actually very sweet creatures.
- b) I can't resist an adorable puppy/kitten.
- c) Yeeeeeaaugh! There's a spider on me! Get it off! Is it gone!

3) THE LAST TIME YOU USED A PAINTBRUSH WAS:

- a) To create a replica of the Last Supper on my dining room wall.
- b) To apply "Breathless Nights" to my toenails.
- c) When I tripped over the one the contractor left in the hallway.

4) WHEN IT'S TIME TO WRAP A PRESENT, YOU PREFER TO:

- a) Stencil your own wrapping paper; a personal touch makes a gift truly special.
- b) Purchase a snazzy gift bag and matching card, then write a personal note.
- c) Ask the store clerk to gift wrap it.

5) HOW HANDY ARE YOU?

- a) I built a multi-level shed with individual compartments for my woodworking tools.
- b) I can assemble an Ikea chair.
- c) I can change a light bulb.

6) ARE YOU A GOOD COOK?

- a) Everyone says my duck à l'orange is out of sight.
- b) I can whip up a Betty Crocker box cake, with frosting.
- c) I burn frozen waffles.

7) DO YOU ENJOY PERFORMING?

- a) I have performed a one-man/woman show based on my life.
- b) I have sung karaoke in public.
- c) I sing to myself in the shower.

8) NAME ONE OF THE LEADERS OF THE PEASANT'S REVOLT OF 1381.

- a) Wat Tyler—that's why it's also called Tyler's Rebellion.
- b) I have no idea, but I know when WWII began and ended.
- c) Excuse me while I yawn.

9) WOULD YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY DESCRIBE YOU AS SELF-SUFFICIENT?

- a) Absolutely—they joke that I can entertain myself with some rubber bands and a ball of string.
- b) Yes, but I like a balance between "me time" and my social life.
- c) Are you kidding? If it were up to me, I wouldn't go to the mailbox without company.

10) HOW CONNECTED ARE YOU?

- a) I spend three weeks each year at a Zen retreat in the mountains.
- b) I occasionally enjoy a yoga class.
- c) I sleep with my Blackberry.

11) WHAT BEST DESCRIBES YOUR ATTENTION TO DETAIL?

- a) I have built a life-size model of my hometown with pistachio shells.
- b) I can put together a jigsaw puzzle.
- c) My shoelaces always come undone.

12) DESCRIBE THE ROLE OF MUSIC IN YOUR LIFE.

- a) In my spare time, I compose operettas.
- b) I can sing "Frère Jacques."
- c) I can turn on the stereo.

13) YOUR IDEA OF A GOOD PLACE FOR A WALK IS:

- a) The Appalachian Trail.
- b) The beachfront at a Caribbean resort.
- c) From the front door to my car.

14) DO YOU HAVE PETS?

- a) A bunny would be a great companion for my three dogs and two cats.
- b) I have a goldfish.
- c) Our family cat ran away when I was seven.

15) AN EXCELLENT WAY TO SPEND A SUNNY SPRING DAY WOULD BE TO:

- a) A morning jog through the woods, picnic lunch, afternoon at the ballpark, watch the sunset on the beach.
- b) Be sure to get out in the garden for an hour or two.
- c) Catch up on Star Trek reruns.

16) WHICH BEST DESCRIBES YOUR ATTENTION SPAN?

- a) I enjoy the "hold" music my phone company plays.
- b) I skip to the last page of a book to see how it ends.
- c) I've already moved on to the next question.

17) MY IDEA OF A FUN FRIDAY NIGHT WOULD BE:

- a) Hosting a party—the more the merrier.
- b) Drinks with one or two of my closest friends.
- c) Curling up with a good book and a cup of tea.

18) DESCRIBE YOUR MOST RECENT FORM OF EXERCISE.

- a) I'm jogging on a treadmill as I read this.
- b) A game of Frisbee in the park this weekend.
- c) Does bending over to pick up some loose change count?

19) ARE YOU A TECHIE?

- a) I rebuilt the engine of my 1969 VW Beetle.
- b) I download all my own songs on my iPod.
- c) I can successfully check my voicemail.

Every time you answered "a" above, circle the corresponding trait in the list below. String the traits together and you have your hobby personality. Some examples follow. Happy dabbling!

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|------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| 1) adventurous | 8) history-loving | 15) outdoorsy |
| 2) animal-loving | 9) independent | 16) patient |
| 3) artistic | 10) meditative | 17) social |
| 4) crafty | 11) meticulous | 18) sporty |
| 5) dexterous | 12) musical | 19) technical |
| 6) epicurean | 13) nature-loving | |
| 7) extroverted | 14) nurturing | |

Are you artistic, dexterous, and meticulous?

You might like beading, model ships, or silk-screening.

Are you adventurous, sporty, and technical?

You might like caving, scuba diving, or soapbox derby.

Are you extroverted, history-loving, and social?

You might like docenting, historical reenactment, miniature wargaming.

Are you independent, nature-loving, and outdoorsy?

You might like birding, fly-tying, or mushroom hunting.