

Judging or Perceiving

The dimension of judging or perceiving refers to how we deal with the external world. In other words, do we prefer the world to be structured or unstructured? In the general school population, the percentage of each of these types is approximately equal.

Judging (J) types like to live in a structured, orderly, and planned way. They are happy when their lives are structured and matters are settled. They like to have control over their lives. **Judging does not mean to judge others.** Think of this type as being orderly and organized.

Perceptive (P) types like to live in a spontaneous and flexible way. They are happy when their lives are open to possibilities. They try to understand life rather than control it. **Think of this type as spontaneous and flexible.**

Since these types have very opposite ways of looking at the world, there is a great deal of potential for conflict between them unless there is an appreciation for the gifts and talents of both. In any situation, we can benefit from people who represent these very different points of view. For example, in a business situation, the judging type would be good at managing the money, while the perceptive type would be good at helping the business to adapt to a changing marketplace. It is good to be open to all the possibilities and to be flexible, as well as to have some structure and organization.

ACTIVITY

Judging and Perceptive

As you **read through each pair of items**, quickly highlight or place a checkmark next to the items that generally describe yourself.

Judging (J)

- Happy when the decisions are made and finished
- Work first, play later
- It is important to be on time
- Time flies
- Feel comfortable with routine
- Generally keep things in order
- Set goals and work toward them
- Emphasize completing the task
- Like to finish projects
- Meet deadlines
- Like to know what I am getting into
- Relax when things are organized
- Follow a routine
- Focused
- Work steadily

Perceptive (P)

- Happy when the options are left open; something better may come along
- Play first, do the work later
- Time is relative
- Time is elastic
- Dislike routine
- Prefer creative disorder
- Change goals as new opportunities arise
- Emphasize how the task is done
- Like to start projects
- What deadline?
- Like new possibilities and situations
- Relax when necessary
- Explore the unknown
- Easily distracted
- Work in spurts of energy