



THE COMMUNICATION EDGE TEST

Find out how you communicate — and where your edge lies.

A free self-check made by

INSIDE EDGE

24 statements • about 10 minutes • 4 styles

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About This Test

The Communication Edge Test is a simple self-check made by Inside Edge to help you understand how you naturally communicate at work — how you explain things, respond to others, and get your point across. It's based on well-known ideas about communication style, and made for working professionals, not doctors or therapists.

There are no right or wrong answers. Most people use a mix of styles, and the style you use can (and should) shift depending on who you're talking to. This test simply shows your default style — the one you fall back on without thinking about it.

How to take it

- Read each statement and answer honestly, based on how you actually behave — not how you'd like to behave.
- Rate each statement from 1 (Strongly Disagree) to 5 (Strongly Agree).
- Answer quickly, with your first thought — this isn't a test to overthink.
- Takes about 10 minutes.

Rating scale

1	2	3	4	5
Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree

Write your score (1–5) directly in the box next to each statement. When you finish, turn to the Scoring Key to find your result.

The Statements

Rate how much each statement sounds like you at work, from 1 (Strongly Disagree) to 5 (Strongly Agree).

#	Statement	Score (1–5)
1	I get straight to the point instead of easing into a topic.	
2	I like to explain things with a story or example, not just facts.	
3	I let others finish speaking before I respond.	
4	I prefer to think things through in writing before I speak.	
5	I'd rather give a short, clear answer than a long explanation.	
6	I naturally use my tone and expressions to make a point.	
7	I ask questions to understand someone fully before replying.	
8	I like to back up what I say with facts, data, or examples.	
9	I don't mind disagreeing with someone directly, out loud.	
10	I enjoy talking through ideas out loud, even before they're fully formed.	
11	I choose my words carefully so I don't come across as harsh.	
12	I re-read my messages before sending, to make sure they're accurate.	
13	I focus on what needs to be decided, more than how it's said.	
14	I like starting a conversation with some warmth before getting to business.	
15	I notice tone and body language as much as the words being said.	
16	I ask a lot of clarifying questions before I respond.	
17	I prefer bullet points over long paragraphs.	
18	People say I'm easy to listen to and fun to talk with.	
19	I'm comfortable with silence in a conversation.	
20	I prefer detailed information over a quick summary.	
21	People sometimes think I'm blunt, even when I don't mean to be.	
22	I get more energy from talking to people than writing to them.	
23	I'd rather smooth over a disagreement than push my point.	
24	I notice small inconsistencies in what people say.	

Scoring Key

For each style below, add up the scores you gave to the listed statements. Write the total in the last column. Your highest total is your Main Style. Your second-highest total is your Second Style — together, they show how you actually show up day to day.

Style	Add up your scores for statement numbers...	Your Total
The Direct	1, 5, 9, 13, 17, 21	
The Storyteller	2, 6, 10, 14, 18, 22	
The Listener	3, 7, 11, 15, 19, 23	
The Analyst	4, 8, 12, 16, 20, 24	

If your top two totals are close, think of both as your style — most people lead with a mix of two.

Your Result: The Four Communication Styles

Find your Main Style below (and your Second Style too, if it's close). Read both — most people communicate using a real mix of styles.

The Direct — Clear, quick, and to the point

You lead with clarity — you get to the point, fast.

Strengths

- Gets to the point fast, saves time in meetings
- Comfortable delivering hard messages
- Keeps conversations moving toward a decision

Watch-outs

- Can come across as blunt or abrupt
- May skip over context other people actually need
- Can unintentionally shut down softer voices in the room

Best-fit situations: Fast decisions, crisis updates, status reports, leadership briefings.

Your growth edge: Add one sentence of context or warmth before the point — it costs little and helps people receive it better.

The Storyteller — Warm, expressive, easy to listen to

You communicate with warmth — people enjoy listening to you.

Strengths

- Builds rapport quickly
- Makes ideas memorable through stories and examples
- Brings energy to a room or a conversation

Watch-outs

- Can take longer to get to the actual point
- May lose more detail-oriented listeners along the way
- Can be seen as “too much” in very formal settings

Best-fit situations: Pitches, team kickoffs, motivational talks, relationship-building conversations.

Your growth edge: Practice a one-line summary you lead with, before the story.

The Listener — Patient, attentive, easy to open up to

You communicate by listening first — people feel safe opening up to you.

Strengths

- Makes people feel genuinely heard
- Picks up on what's not being said
- Defuses tension well in a conversation

Watch-outs

- Can hold back your own view to keep the peace
- May take longer to say what you actually think
- Can be overlooked in fast-moving conversations

Best-fit situations: One-on-ones, coaching conversations, conflict resolution, sensitive feedback.

Your growth edge: Practice stating your own opinion clearly, even briefly, before asking for others'.

The Analyst — Careful, precise, fact-based

You communicate with precision — accurate, thorough, and fact-based.

Strengths

- Communicates accurately, with few errors
- Catches inconsistencies others miss
- Builds trust through thoroughness

Watch-outs

- Can over-explain or add too much detail
- May come across as slow to respond or overly cautious
- Can seem distant in casual conversation

Best-fit situations: Technical write-ups, reports, data-driven decisions, contracts and documentation.

Your growth edge: Practice giving the headline first, then the detail — not the other way round.

Want to Go Deeper?

This test gives you a starting point. If you'd like to explore how your communication style shows up in real conversations — or how to flex it for different people and situations — Inside Edge offers one-on-one coaching, team workshops, and communication skills programs built for exactly this.

Reach out to discuss what would help most for you or your team.



This test is an original tool made by Inside Edge to help with personal and career growth.

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