

Relational Intelligence

The material referenced below was created by lead pastors at [New Life Community Church](#) and should be considered a brief introduction to RI.

Are you a "thinker" or a "risker"?

Thinkers approach life mostly on an intellectual basis - things have to *make sense*. Thinkers make decisions primarily by rational analysis and learn best by thinking things through. **Riskers** approach life mostly by feelings - it has to *feel right*. They make decisions primarily based on intuition and they learn by experience. Thinkers say, "Let me think about it first - then I'll be prepared to experience it." Riskers say, "Let me experience it first - then I want to think about what my experience means."

We are most comfortable and effective when we lead with our naturally *dominant* strengths. However, the demands of our environment may require us to lead with our *supporting* strengths. Let's say one man's dominant strength is **philosophical** reasoning, but his job requires him to "flex" and lead with his supporting strength of being **action-oriented**. On his own time, he naturally prefers to analyze situations before responding. At work, he must *risk* more than *think* to solve problems, so he spends most of his time implementing action plans and engaging in high functioning tasks. Ultimately, he may adjust to the stress and come to believe he is a pattern-7. Yet, his true core strengths are that of a pattern-3. He may not realize he'd enjoy being a college professor more than an asset manager.

Constantly "flexing" can cause us to neglect our natural dominant strengths making it difficult to discover our true core pattern (but we all have one!). One effective way to discover your pattern is to "try on" each of the eight patterns to see how they fit. Consider the behavioral pattern descriptions below. The one that feels the most "natural" or "comfortable" is a good indicator of your core pattern.

8 CORE BEHAVIORAL PATTERNS

-DESCRIPTIVE WORDS ARE NOT AN EXHAUSTED LIST-

- **PATTERN ONE** - Thinking/Practical/Dependent: stable, dependable, conservative, cooperative, factual, kind, good listener, organized, gentle, agreeable, good listener; *May enjoy administration*
- **PATTERN TWO** - Thinking/Practical/Independent: realistic, efficient, determined, objective, reserved, independent, holds feelings within, ambitious, self-sufficient, competitive, analytical; *May enjoy servant leadership*
- **PATTERN THREE** - Thinking/Theoretical/Dependent: considerate, philosophical, quiet, supportive, idealistic, scholarly, sensitive, tactful, refined, peacemaker; *May enjoy teaching*
- **PATTERN FOUR** - Thinking/Theoretical/Independent: inventive, individualistic, original, introspective, works alone, likes to theorize, reflective, introvert; *May enjoy creative or fine arts*
- **PATTERN FIVE** - Risking/Practical/Dependent: outgoing, practical, sympathetic, down-to-earth, sociable, compromiser, expresses feelings, accepting, talkative, service oriented; *May enjoy event coordinating*
- **PATTERN SIX** - Risking/Theoretical/Dependent: warm, friendly, emotionally expressive, dramatic, romantic, generous, imaginative; *May enjoy marketing or public relations*
- **PATTERN SEVEN** - Risking/Practical/Independent: self-assertive, enterprising, action-oriented, leader, resourceful, takes calculated risks, energetic, confrontational; *May enjoy self-employment or entrepreneurship*
- **PATTERN EIGHT** - Risking/Theoretical/Independent: persuasive, explosive personality, optimistic, bored with details, charming, socially attractive, self-confident; *May enjoy sales or broadcasting*