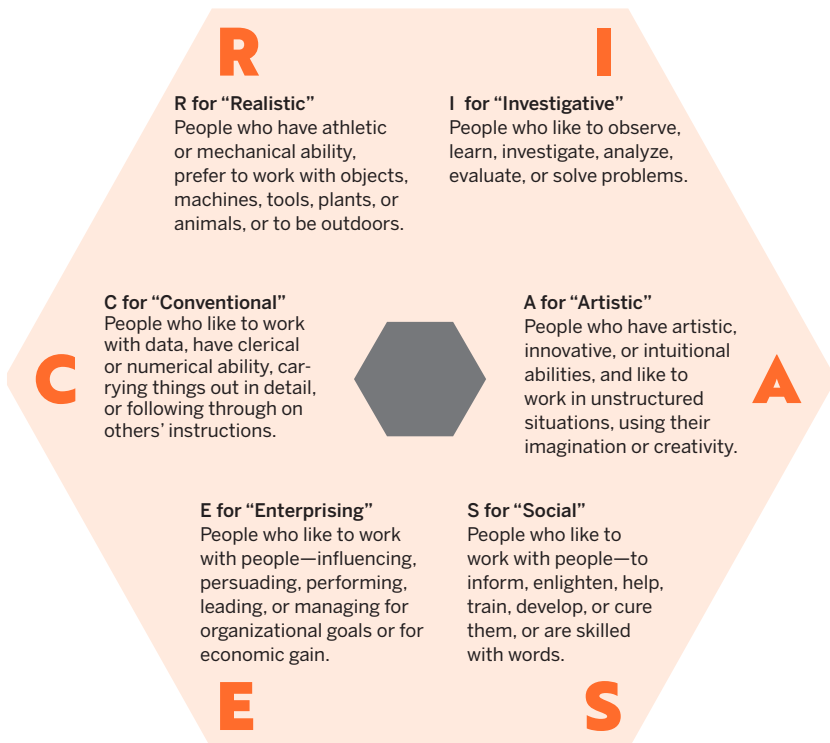


Generally, most people can just “guess” at their type. (I was friends with John for many years, and back in 1975 I invented a quick and easy way for you to find out your code, based on John’s Self-Directed Search [SDS]. It turned out that it agrees with the results you would get from John’s SDS 92 percent of the time—this made John laugh.) But if you want a more certain answer, and one of the best ways to learn your code, you can take the free O*NET Interest Profiler online, which will give you your three-letter code (www.mynextmove.org/explore/ip). You can also take Dr. Holland’s official SDS (\$9.95 at www.self-directed-search.com).

But if you’re in a hurry, this is close. And doesn’t require access to the internet. I call it “The Party Exercise.” Here is how the exercise goes:

This hexagon diagram is an aerial view of a room in which a party is taking place. At this party, people who share the same interests have (for some reason) gathered in one of the six corners.



1. Which corner of the room would you instinctively be drawn to, as the group of people you would most enjoy being with for the longest time? (Leave aside any question of shyness, or whether you would have to actually talk to them; you could just listen.)

Write the letter for that corner here:

2. After fifteen minutes, everyone in the corner you chose leaves for another party across town, except you. Of the groups that still remain, which corner or group would you be drawn to the most, as the people you would most enjoy being with for the longest time?

Write the letter for that corner here:

3. After fifteen minutes, this group, too, leaves for another party, except you. Of the corners and groups that still remain, which one would you most enjoy being with for the longest time?

Write the letter for that corner here:

The three letters you just chose are your Holland Code.

Put that code here:

Now, copy that code onto Petal One, My Preferred Kinds of People to Work With, found on pages 119–124. So far, so good.