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## Campbell's Personality Classification System

These terms were developed by actual use as I assembled my large private database of contacts in the UFO field (many thousands of researchers, correspondents and customers). As I encountered various pleasant, unpleasant and difficult people, I needed tags to help me recall how to deal with them on the next encounter. For example, if I receive an ambiguous request from someone I have already had contact with, their category would tell me whether and how I should respond. In theory, labels may be changed if the person mends their ways or I receive new information that indicates I was mistaken, but in practice the labels, except for **Unease**, rarely change. A **Jerk** is always a **Jerk** and will generally remain so until he dies.

People are classified by the behavior I actually observe, and I try to give them plenty of opportunity to prove themselves before I classify them. I do not classify most people, only those who irritate or impress me. I only assign a category when a person exhibits sufficient symptoms to warrant it.

This is a private classification system, and I do not usually reveal my terms for specific people (except in the case of **Enemies**--whom I may have no interest in protecting and perhaps a reason to expose). I do not have to defend these labels in court or account for them in public; I only need sufficient grounds to satisfy myself. I can often render these diagnoses based solely on letters, email correspondence or brief telephone conversations. Such remote diagnoses usually remain valid when I actually meet the person.

The terms are arranged in order from most uncomfortable to me to least. If a person fits more than one category, the higher one prevails.

1. **Enemy** -- Someone who has acted against me in some treacherous, inexcusable and permanent way. There is no pretense of cordiality in our relationship and little hope for recovery.
2. **Sicko** -- A dangerously irrational person with violent inclinations. He should be avoided at all costs, but he has not acted against me in any substantial way (apart from verbally perhaps), and he may not know that I regard him as dangerous. He may also be **Paranoid**, but my predominant sense from him is of repressed violence that could erupt at any moment. A Sicko need not be a physical threat to warrant the classification; verbal violence, including email "flames," is sufficient to earn the classification.
3. **People User** -- Also known as a "sociopath," this is a con artist or manipulator who feels no discomfort about

taking advantage of others and abusing them to serve his ego. In many cases, he has built his whole career upon this behavior. Radio "shock jocks" and some TV talk show hosts fall into the category, as do a number of charlatans in the UFO and New Age fields. This person is purely evil and without conscience on the inside, but he can be very smooth and charming in public. In a social setting, he can instantly sense the needs and mood of the group and will give people exactly what they want. He usually appears sincere and friendly when the spotlight is upon him, but he will instantly turn against you if he sees some personal advantage in it. This person needs gullible followers to feed his ego, and he often finds them in the **True Believers**.

4. **Paranoid** -- Sees enemies everywhere, and is prone to act against those enemies before they can possibly attack him. He is quick to sense perceive affronts, often imaginary, and he will act against you instantly if he feels you turn against him. Extremely dangerous if given any sort of power. Prolonged contact with this person is sure to turn him into an **Enemy**, so contact should be avoided wherever possible.
5. **Creep** -- This person spooks me. May be pleasant on the surface, but knowing him better causes my revulsion. He does not recognize the boundaries of personal privacy and is always overstepping them. Being socially eccentric or exhibiting inexplicable behavior is not sufficient to warrant this label; there must evidence of personal intrusion or destructive perversion, although it need not be exhibited in any criminal way. E.g. rapists and child molesters may be **Creeps**, but I will not judge them on their criminal records, only on the behavior or attitudes I observe from them. The way a person talks about others, although protected legally as "free speech," could be sufficient grounds for the label if it indicates a sadistic, masochistic or intrusive world view. The **Creep** is less demanding than a **Jerk**, but the subterranean nature of his impulses makes him even less trustworthy and much more unpredictable.
6. **Jerk** -- A pompous, demanding person who acts as though he is the center of the universe. (Known in the vernacular as an "asshole.") Does not recognize the needs or feelings of others, but he probably won't kill you like any of the above. Tends to blame his problems on others and is quick to complain about perceived wrongs. May also be **Dim** or **Bore** but is more actively demanding. Distinguished from the **Paranoid** by the absence of elaborate theories of persecution.
7. **Dim** -- Just plain dumb. Asks stupid questions, and fails to ask the important ones. Due to his poor judgment, he is often suffers mishaps and disasters whenever he leaves home, but unlike a **Jerk** he does not necessarily blame these problems on others (or at least I have no evidence that he does).
8. **Bore** -- Someone who has nothing to say but who says it in many, many words. Takes the simplest statement and stretches it into an endless, empty monologue. A person does not warrant this classification just for being talkative; they must also be an emotional drain on their listeners and miss all the social cues that indicate when he has said enough. A Bore may call me on the phone ostensibly to ask for information but he cannot stop his monologue long enough to listen to it. Although this person has no malicious intent, he is a leech on time and resources and is unpleasant to interact with. He is essentially talking to himself without any communication taking place. Contacts with the person must be firm, decisive and often brusque, because if you give him any opportunity for expression he will use it.
9. **Loony Tunes** -- Wildly delusional individual who spouts incoherent ramblings typical of a schizophrenic. This person is usually more entertaining than dangerous. He is so absorbed with the desperate theories and voices in his head that he poses little threat to others. Often expresses himself in long messages on my answering machine or massive, rambling letters that took hours to write. This person is probably no stranger to mental institutions, but does not threaten violence like the **Sicko**. Distinguished from the **Bore** by the incoherence of his monologue, which can be amusing for its absurdity.
10. **True Believer** -- A proponent of a UFO, psychic, religious or New Age field who is attached to his beliefs with blind, unquestioning faith. Since he has already made up his mind, he asks poor questions, and there is little chance of influencing him with logic. Because he does not filter his information (as in the UFO field), his accounts and information are usually of little value. Distinguished from a **Conspiracy Buff** or **Political Fanatic** by the unearthliness of their claims, which focus on some form of extraterrestrial or interdimensional life not yet

recognized by mainstream society.

11. **Conspiracy Buff** -- A theorist who believes in any of a variety of popular conspiracies about insidious government control. To warrant this classification, subject must believe not just in one limited conspiracy but many wide-ranging ones, sufficient to classify him as "conspiracy prone." This person does not take the conspiracies personally, however, and lives a more-or-less normal life otherwise. (As distinguished from the **Paranoid**, who does take the conspiracies personally and may easily believe that YOU are a part of them.)
12. **Pseudo Scientist** -- A believer in perpetual motion machines, free energy generators or various equivalents, who spends much of his personal time theorizing about or trying to build such devices. Distinguished from a real scientist by an absence of intellectual discipline and a disinterest in all conventional scientific knowledge. (One does not warrant this classification merely for pursuing an unconventional idea; the abandonment of scientific principles is required.)
13. **Fraidy Cat** -- A natural coward who is afraid of even the most innocuous deviations from the normal. He invents obstacles for himself that prevent him from driving down any unexplored road. He usually has no discomfort, however, about taking a tour with a group.
14. **Petty** -- Creates mountains out of molehills. A whiner, but not so demanding as to classify him as a **Jerk**. This person may be useful for his technical knowledge if you tip-toe around him carefully and watch your words so as to not offend.
15. **Political Fanatic** -- Blindly adheres to a certain political or religious view which may seem extreme at times but still falls within the American mainstream. Although milder than a **Conspiracy Buff**, he construes the whole world in terms of his political theory. Lately, the typical theory has centered on the federal government and its perceived intrusion into local and personal rights. It is a serious mistake to try to debate this person on his political views, as he will revert to dogma and become incensed at your arrogance. Related to the **True Believer**, but his beliefs are purely political and do not approach the spiritual realm or the scientific unknown. Distinguished from the **Obsessive** by a lack of technical ability or content; their talk is purely opinion.
16. **NCG** -- short for "No Common Ground." I have no substantial complaint against this person; we simply have nothing in common. Their world view is sufficiently alien to mine that we essentially speak different languages. This person does not understand my metaphors or humor; and I see nothing in them that I can relate to. We can communicate about nothing more than the simplest physical problems. Attempts to approach deeper subjects are uncomfortable for me because the risks of misinterpretation are high and we appear to have no common needs or interests worth talking about. This label may be applied to people who I regard as humorless, colorless and uncreative, who inhabit the social world and adhere to social conventions but exhibit no obvious inner life apart from those conventions. Theoretically, **NCG** may also be used for "aliens" who I simply have no means of communicating with, or people who are "all business" and simply have no interest in communication. Thus, the label does not necessarily imply a criticism, simply an observation that we cannot communicate and that it is fruitless to try. Distinguished from **Dim** by the presence of some native intelligence, albeit with a lack of any intuition or creativity that might form a basis for communication. Speaking a foreign language is itself not sufficient grounds for this label; non-verbal communication must fail also.
17. **Obsessive** -- This person is obsessed with a certain narrow technical field and devotes nearly all of his personal time and energy to it, to the exclusion of all other topics and often a healthy personal life. This person is confident in this field, however, and certainly has extensive knowledge in it. He is not necessarily hard to get along with, but communication tends to be limited to the chosen field. He does not get upset when you talk about other things, but he tends to "tune out" or steer the conversation back to his obsession.
18. **Unease** -- This catch-all category is a temporary warning to myself which says that something about this person makes me uncomfortable. This may be based only on a "feeling" and not necessarily a specific behavior. If I have more experience with this person, I should be able to either remove my **Unease** or classify the person as one of the above.

19. **[no category]** -- Most people in my database have done nothing to warrant a classification.
20. **Pleasant** -- This person impresses me as unusually easy to get along with. He has a full grasp of the human protocols and is sensitive to emotional nuances and the needs of others. He tends to recognize your thoughts before you even speak them.
21. **Rational** -- A person (usually **Pleasant**) who possesses an unusually clear and rational mind. Doesn't let his emotions interfere with observation of the data. By my definition, he represents a very rare segment of the general population: well less than 1%.

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