

ENFP –Relationship Profile

You Can Never Be Too Close

General Statement: Their sphere of close personal relationships can include more than just a mate, extending to anyone from the Little League team to a community group, all of which are approached with intensity and affection. Their mate may feel it necessary to compete for the ENFP's prime-time affection with these and other individuals and entities.

First Impressions: Easy-going and engaging, upbeat and highly enthusiastic. They can be all over the place at once, wanting everyone to be involved and happy. As a result, ENFPs can appear a bit touchy-feely and smothering at the outset.

Communications: They are prone to blurting out expressions, and their words may seem charged with emotions. Often, they are very tuned in to other people, often taking on their emotions, even to the point of unconsciously mimicking them. While quite good with words, their enthusiasm can be given to overkill and become tiresome to listeners.

Sex and Intimacy: The ENFP's rich imagination can make intimacy a constant pursuit -- even when a conquest has seemingly been achieved. Their pursuit of perfection in intimacy can keep them highly involved, energized, and focused in all aspects and moments of an intimate relationship.

Finance: Unless they have a knack for handling money, they will tend to go with the flow, doing whatever seems right at the time. For example, they may change banks or open new accounts rather than balance their checkbook. Where money is concerned, they tend to go in streaks -- one week being very hot, seemingly psychic on investments, the next very cold and even uninterested in the process. More often than not, they would prefer that someone else handled money matters.

Conflict: Often, their enthusiasm and spontaneity can unknowingly start a conflict, at which point the ENFP will immediately wish to be somewhere else. Unfortunately, their response to conflict doesn't often help the situation and can even compound it. For example, they may blurt out a harsh reaction, then be consumed with guilt or sorrow over their action.

Commitment: It runs deep with an ENFP, though their imagination can provide a longing or searching for the "perfect" relationship. While being true to their vows, their natural tendency to fantasize can seduce them to consider other possibilities, though they may never act on them.

Parenting: They are very affirming, creative, and dynamic parents. Children feel positive and are central to the family structure. ENFP parents turn "growing up" into a day-by-day adventure filled with many activities and lessons.

Contracting: For ENFPs, this is a process, not a goal. Hence, a contract is likely to be constantly revisited and redefined. Though intense and meaningful, a contract always can be changed in light of new data.

Ending Relationships: More than any other type, they can have trouble ending relationships. Frequently, they hang in long after the relationship is dead, wondering what went wrong and where they failed, saying, "If only I had tried harder. . . ."

Excerpted from 16 Ways to Love Your Lover by Otto Kroeger and Janet M. Thuesen