



ENNEAGRAM MISTYPING GUIDE

Mistyping Guide

The Enneagram reveals **why** a person thinks, feels, and behaves in particular ways. It is all about the motivations behind what they do, and not the behaviors themselves. When trying to find your main Type, you want to pay close attention to your personality's Core Motivations (Core Fear, Core Desire, Core Weakness, and Core Longing). Download a free Core Motivations print-off at www.yourenneagramcoach.com/coremotivations.

Often those who are struggling to find their Type will look at their behaviors and say, "But I do this, and I do that." It is key to remember that it is not about looking at the outward actions, since all Types can do the same things, but for very different reasons. Therefore, you must always go back to your Core Motivations - **why** you do what you do.

I created this mistyping guide to help you see the differences between any two Types more clearly. I hope this guide brings you more clarity in your journey of discovering your main type.

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TYPE 1 & TYPE 2

Type 1s have a loud inner critic that constantly berates them about what needs to be fixed, both internally and in the world. They take a logical, moral, and precise approach to issues to ensure the outcome is correct. Type 2s are highly personable and try to connect with others through advice, service, and thoughtfulness to be appreciated, wanted, and loved. Their external behaviors might look similar, but their internal motivations are very different. The Type 1 does good things to right what is wrong and be seen as upstanding and good, while Type 2 does them to feel important and gain validation from others.

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TYPE 1 & TYPE 3

This is a common mistyping. Type 1s are all about the rules, ethics, procedures, and doing what is right. It is not about their image or what others think. They do what is right to satisfy their loud and berating inner critic. Type 3s who desire to what is good and right (typical of Self-Preservation Type 3s) are still deeply motivated by having a successful image for others to see and admire. For Type 1s, their behavior is rooted in being right or perfect, while for Type 3s, it's about being admired, successful, and valuable.

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TYPE 1 & TYPE 4

This is not a common mistyping, but both do want an ideal world. A Type 1's ideal world is moral and perfect, whereas a Type 4's ideal world is emotionally deep, authentic, and aesthetically pleasing. It is helpful to note that when Type 1s are under stress, they take on some of the unhealthy attributes of Type 4s, becoming melancholy, temperamental, and feeling misunderstood. When a Type 4 is around their family or closest friends, they can appear more critical like a Type 1, but their motivations are very different.



TYPE 1 & TYPE 5

Both Type 1s and Type 5s are logical and practical, thinking through issues and not allowing their emotions to get in the way. Introverted Type 1s can look like a Type 5. When Type 5s feel depleted, and their boundaries are not respected, they can be prickly and critical. Type 1's Core Weakness is resentment. They resent that others are not striving for perfection and doing what is right. Type 5's Core Weakness is avarice. They fear they will experience catastrophic depletion if they do not take care of their inner resources by setting strict boundaries.



TYPE 1 & TYPE 6

This is a very common mistyping. Type 1's inner critic is very clear and decisive. Their gut tells them that their inner critic is right, and they don't question it. They follow what it says with precision and accuracy. Type 6s have an inner committee that is chiming in with multiple perspectives. They think, "Well, what about this? What about that? It could be this. Don't forget about that." It causes confusion and self-doubt. Unlike Type 1s, Type 6s don't trust their thinking and look outside themselves to find trusted resources or people who will guide and support them.



TYPE 1 & TYPE 7

This is not a typical mistyping. A Type 7 who is under a lot of stress will take on some of the average to unhealthy attributes of Type 1 by being critical, judgmental, prickly, and rigid. But this is not their typical way of being. This behavior usually appears when their fun is limited, or they feel deprived. Type 7s normally reframe anything negative into a positive, which is not typical of Type 1, who must see reality at hand and address it to ensure imperfections are fixed. Type 7s are constantly pursuing the next fun and spontaneous stimulation, whereas Type 1s are constantly striving to appease their loud inner critic by correcting themselves and the world.



TYPE 1 & TYPE 8

These two Types can be confused since both are in the Gut Triad and desire justice and struggle with anger. Most Type 1s repress their anger, except for the One-to-One subtype, who can look like a Type 8 when they outwardly express their anger. However, the motivations behind their anger are very different. Type 1s are angered by imperfections in the world, and people are not doing what is morally and ethically right to fix these imperfections. Their focus is all about right and wrong and following rules and procedures correctly. Type 8s, on the other hand, refuse to be controlled by others. They follow their gut's "code of ethics" and say, "I will do what my gut says because it is always right." Type 8's anger comes out viscerally when they or others are being harmed, controlled, betrayed, or left to experience injustice.

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TYPE 1 & TYPE 9

It's common for a Type 9 to think they are a Type 1. They might have a strong Type 1 Wing that is causing this confusion. Type 9s might think they are a Type 1 because they have a loud inner critic. But their inner critics' messages are very different. A Type 9's inner critic is upset with them for not being good enough in making people happy or causing disappointment in others. They desire to keep the peace, please others, and feel inner stability. A Type 1's inner critic is not about making others happy. It is solely focused on right and wrong, ethics, morals, and following the rules, though it does merge with or accommodate others' wishes and desires like a Type 9.

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TYPE 2 & TYPE 3

Type 2s with a 3 Wing can look very similar to Type 3s with a 2 Wing. People often don't initially recognize Type 2's ambition and strength. They have firm opinions and accomplish a great deal, which can cause them to be confused with a Type 3. But Type 3's primary focus is their successful image, so they accomplish and strive for success to be admired and seen as highly valuable. Type 2's primary focus is on helping and supporting others to be seen as selfless. They achieve and accomplish for the good of others. Type 2s want to be appreciated and seen as thoughtful and helpful. They fear being rejected or viewed as selfish, while Type 3s fear failure and having their image devalued.

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TYPE 2 & TYPE 4

This is not a common mistyping. It usually happens when a Type 4 is not doing well, and they take on some of the average to unhealthy attributes of Type 2 by being more manipulative, clingy, and possessive. Type 2 can look like a Type 4 when around those they are closest to by being more self-focused, moody, temperamental, and indulging themselves. The big distinction is that Type 4s look inward at their emotions and focus on understanding their inner world since they feel defective and flawed. But Type 2s ignore their feelings and needs and solely focus on the feelings and needs of others, confidently inserting their advice or help to get the approval they crave.

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TYPE 2 & TYPE 5

This is not a common mistyping. An introverted Type 2 who loves learning might confuse themselves with a Type 5. But Type 2s are all about connecting. They know others' needs and come through for others, even at the expense of themselves. This is the opposite of Type 5, who are primarily focused on minimizing their own needs, setting up boundaries, and protecting their internal energy resources. Type 2s fear others will see them as selfish and reject them. Type 5s fear being ignorant and experiencing catastrophic depletion from too much interaction with others.



TYPE 2 & TYPE 6

This is a common mistyping, as both Types are warm, serving, and supportive of others. But their motives are very different. Type 6s are more likely to think they're a Type 2, rather than the other way around. Type 2s fear being seen as selfish and therefore rejected by others, so they confidently insert their help and advice to receive the appreciation and affirmation they crave. Type 6s are dutiful, trustworthy, and committed to gain support and loyalty of others. They struggle with self-doubt due to their inner committee that chimes in with ideas of what could go wrong. They seek advice, guidance, and support with those they trust to feel safe and secure. Type 2s, on the other hand, pride themselves in believing they have the answers and insights others need. Therefore, they give their advice and opinions freely and assertively.



TYPE 2 & TYPE 7

This is a common mistyping, as both Types are positive and optimistic, and desire for others to be happy. Type 2s primarily focus on the feelings and needs of others and will forgo their feelings and needs to ensure they are not seen as selfish. Type 7s, on the other hand, feel a great emptiness inside and have an insatiable desire to fill themselves up with exciting stimulation and fun. Type 7s are focused on satisfying their desires to feel content, while Type 2s struggle to balance caring for others with caring for themselves.



TYPE 2 & TYPE 8

This can be a common mistyping. Type 8s (especially the Social subtype) can mistype as a Type 2 since they're focused on helping others. Their big-heartedness can make them think they are a Type 2. But their Core Fear of being harmed, controlled, betrayed, and vulnerable is very different than the Type 2's Core Fear of being unwanted, unimportant, rejected, and unloved. Type 8s seek to obtain intensity, control, and power to protect themselves and others from being vulnerable. Type 2s are searching for affirmation and appreciation for their acts of service. They believe they have to give love to get love. Type 2s can think they are a Type 8 because when under stress, they take on the 8's average to unhealthy attributes.



TYPE 2 & TYPE 9

This is one of the most common mistypings. Both Types are focused on others, helpful, kind, warm, supportive, and personable. But there are key differences in how they help people when they are not at their healthiest. When Type 2s feel the need for love and affirmation, they will see the needs of others and confidently insert their help, advice, and support with bold assertiveness. Type 9s will do the opposite when they are not at their healthiest. When they see a need, they will offer help, but will never insert themselves into another person's life without being asked. They fear upsetting the person, causing discord, tension, or conflict. It is much safer for them to help others only when they have been asked to help. The healthier a Type 2 is, the more they humbly offer assistance and wait to be invited. And the more healthy a Type 9 is, the more they assert their kindness and bless others instead of waiting to be asked.



TYPE 3 & TYPE 4

Type 3s and Type 4s aren't typically mistyped for one another unless their Wings are very strong. Type 3s strive to achieve a successful and admirable image and will push their emotions and identity aside to accomplish it. They will put on different personas or shape-shift to win people over. They struggle to know their true and genuine self. Type 4s, on the other hand, must be their most authentic, genuine, and true self while experiencing and expressing their deep emotions. They know themselves and refuse to become something that is not true to who they are at their core.



TYPE 3 & TYPE 5

This is not a typical mistyping. Type 5s can be very proactive and productive, which might cause them to think they're a Type 3, but the underlying motivations are very different. When Type 5s are not at their healthiest, they don't feel confident they have enough knowledge to go out and accomplish, so they retreat to gain more knowledge before moving forward. Type 3s, on the other hand, have a great deal of self-confidence and will set out to achieve even if they don't have enough knowledge. They know how to shape-shift and appear knowledgeable and competent, even if they are not. When Type 3s are not at their healthiest, they will fake it until they make it.



TYPE 3 & TYPE 6

This is not a common mistyping. Although Type 3 and 6 share a connecting line, they have distinct differences. Type 6s prioritize authenticity, being genuine, and avoiding any facade or pretense. Their sense of security is built on anticipating reality and potential risks. They are less likely to be mistyped as a Type 3. However, Type 3s may mistake themselves for Type 6 if they identify as loyal, responsible, and dedicated. But they typically don't relate to the anxiety and inner turmoil of Type 6s. Type 3s are self-assured, decisive, and don't struggle with the self-doubt and indecisiveness that characterize Type 6s.



TYPE 3 & TYPE 7

Type 3s and Type 7s can be confused because they are both assertive, positive, busy, and accomplish a great deal. But the biggest difference is that when a Type 3 sets their sights on a goal or task, they must accomplish it with absolute excellence. They fear failure and others not seeing them as successful, admirable, or valuable. They will go to great lengths to be the best and accomplish their goals, and there is no room for anything less than stellar success. Type 7s, on the other hand, might have a long list of things they want to accomplish or experience, but they can easily pivot and change course without it feeling like a failure. Type 7s don't often experience feelings of failure since they reframe negative situations into a new and positive opportunity.



TYPE 3 & TYPE 8

Type 3 and Type 8 can mistype since they are both assertive types and accomplish a great deal, but there are some major differences. Type 3s will shape-shift and put on different personas to be seen as accomplished and admirable. They believe they must have a smooth persona, look the part, and be a polished charmer. Type 8s, on the other hand, are the most authentic on the Enneagram and refuse to deal with anything or anyone who is not completely authentic and real. They are blunt, straight-forward, and won't change who they are for others. What you see is what you get with the Type 8.



TYPE 3 & TYPE 9

Type 3s don't often mistype as a Type 9, but a Type 9 can mistake themselves for a 3. Type 9s can be a go-getter, extremely active, and accomplish a great deal, making them appear as a Type 3. But Type 3s confidently know what they want to become and achieve, and decisively plan out how they will accomplish their goals. They will stay focused on what they want to accomplish and do not veer off that path. Type 9s, on the other hand, have an internal fog which hinders them from knowing themselves, their desires, and what they want to become. They merge with what they think others want them to be and do. If you ask a Type 9 what they want for themselves in the next five years, they will struggle. They naturally go along to get along, making others happy and keeping the peace.



TYPE 4 & TYPE 5

These two types are mistyped often because of their Wings. Type 5s with a 4 Wing (especially the One-to-One subtype) will often appear as a Type 4. They can be very creative, more emotional, people-oriented, and expressive than other Type 5s. When drawing distinctions between these two types, notice that Type 5 is in the Thinking Triad, and Type 4 is in the Feeling Triad. Also, the Core Weakness of Type 5 is Avarice, which makes them fear catastrophic depletion if they are with too many people without recharging. The Type 4's Core Weakness is Envy because they feel they are misunderstood, defective, and flawed, and that others possess qualities that they lack. Type 5 detaches from their feelings, whereas a Type 4 experiences and navigates a tsunami of emotions.



TYPE 4 & TYPE 6

Type 4 and Type 6 can mistype because both pursue authenticity and truth. They are emotionally reactive in conflict and want others to react with the same emotional intensity. They also do not easily trust others and have strong opinions. But Type 6s are in the Thinking Triad, and their mind is constantly racing with all the possible outcomes and worst-case scenarios, causing analysis paralysis. Type 4s are in the Feeling Triad and experience a tsunami of emotions. Type 6s are more focused on creating alliances, conforming to authority and traditions, and finding a safe community. Type 4s are more into what their soul and emotions are telling them, living a unique and authentic life, and not conforming to others.

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TYPE 4 & TYPE 7

It might seem unlikely for these two Types to be confused, but it is possible since both are highly creative. Self-Preservation Type 4s can appear less melancholy and more outwardly happy, but they still deal with deep emotions that can easily derail them. Type 4s dive deep into their emotional world to make sense of it, whereas Type 7s avoid experiencing unpleasant emotions by fleeing to exciting external stimulation. When trying to distinguish between these two Types, notice if the person dives into their emotions to work through them, or if they avoid pain with new and fun experiences.

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TYPE 4 & TYPE 8

Type 4 and Type 8 can mistype because both want authenticity and truth. They passionately and intensely react in conflict and want others to respond with the same emotional intensity. They also do not easily trust others and have strong opinions. But Type 8s are in the Gut Triad, and they instinctively react to what their gut says. They can seem void of emotions, believing they need to “get over it” and toughen up to maintain their autonomy and personal authority. Type 4s are in the Feeling Triad and experience a tsunami of emotions that paralyze them. They are more likely to express their emotions and vulnerabilities to others so they can feel seen, valued, and unique.

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TYPE 4 & TYPE 9

It is more typical for a Type 9 to mistype as a Type 4 than the other way around. Both are withdrawing Types. 9s withdraw from anything that is externally or internally uncomfortable. They will disengage from their thoughts and feelings to keep their inner world peaceful and tension-free. Type 4s will withdraw from the external world that has caused painful emotions, but will not disconnect from their emotions. They will dive deeper into them so they can experience them, sort them out, and express them more fully. Type 9s prefer to see the world through rose-colored glasses to bring comfort within. Type 4s, however, see the world as an outsider looking in, and they sense they are somehow defective or lacking.

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TYPE 5 & TYPE 6

Type 5 and Type 6 can often mistype, especially if they rely on one another as Wings. Both Types are in the Thinking Triad, and while they can both be very intellectual, they go about it differently. Type 6's thoughts are more analytical and linear. They are true troubleshooters who develop methods and procedures that follow a tradition, system, or authority's rules. Type 5's thinking is more non-linear, and they enjoy finding the holes in established theories and dismantling them intellectually. 5s are bolder and more outspoken in their positions, and only trust their minds since they don't believe others are as well informed. Type 6s don't trust their minds, so they frantically seek trusted mentors, authority, or belief systems to guide them.



TYPE 5 & TYPE 7

This is not a common mistyping, but they do have some common traits. They are both in the Thinking Triad, and are highly curious, inquisitive, and desire to explore new ways of doing things. Both Types also enjoy collecting things and can be restless and excitable. However, Type 5s are very withdrawn and isolate themselves for long hours when working or learning. Their mind is their preferred source of entertainment. Type 7s, on the other hand, struggle to stay in one place for very long and desire to always experience and enjoy new things. Type 7s are true optimists, whereas 5s tend to be more cynical and see the darker sides of life.



TYPE 5 & TYPE 8

Type 5 and Type 8 can mistype since both see themselves as outsiders who have been rejected. Both are highly independent and will fight for their autonomy. Type 8s mistype as a 5 if they have been under stress for long periods and pick up some of the 5's average to unhealthy attributes, such as withdrawing and seeking more knowledge. But they use these tactics to get back on the offensive and protect themselves. Type 8s are more self-confident, directly dealing with issues intensely and assertively. Type 5s withdraw to avoid being dependent on others. When with their closest relationships, Type 5s can appear as 8s by taking on the average to unhealthy attributes of being intense, abrupt, blunt, and domineering. Type 8s remain in their gut and 5s remain in their heads, staying less focused on their bodies.



TYPE 5 & TYPE 9

Type 9s can often mistype as Type 5s, but not usually the other way around. Like a Type 5, Type 9s love learning, can withdraw, and fear obligations being placed on them. But Type 9's sense of self is undefined, and they have little awareness of who they are apart from those with whom they typically identify and merge. They ignore anything that disturbs their peace of mind, whereas Type 5s love diving into details, theories, research, and anything that disrupts the norm. Type 9s are easy-going, gentle, and accommodating, while Type 5s are intense, highly opinionated, and contentious. 5s have no problem arguing their thoughts and beliefs and find it fun to do so. 9s are trusting of others, whereas 5s are suspicious and cynical of people.



TYPE 6 & TYPE 7

Type 7s and Type 6s do not mistype often. Both Types are in the Thinking Triad, but Type 7s tend to reframe any negative situation or emotion as they do not want to be trapped in emotional pain or boredom. They are also more self-focused, seeking to fill themselves up with stimulation and fun to feel satisfied and content. In contrast, Type 6s are others-focused, seeking to build a community and security system. They feel a great deal of responsibility and loyalty to others, and they need to see what is happening so they can plan and predict all possible outcomes, especially preventing worst-case scenarios.



TYPE 6 & TYPE 8

Type 8s don't usually mistype as Type 6, but Counterphobic 6s can mistype as Type 8s because both types desire authenticity and truth. They both react passionately and intensely in conflict and want others to respond with the same emotional intensity. Both types do not easily trust others and have strong opinions. Type 8s are in the Gut Triad and confidently listen to and fully trust their gut instincts before they will trust a person. They are confident, clear-minded, and decisive. Type 6s who push into their fears are called Counterphobic 6s and can look like 8s externally since they are tough, intimidating, and powerful. They move into their fears with enthusiasm and strength. However, 6s and 8s are very different internally. 6s have an inner committee that is constantly chiming in from all perspectives, "Well, what about this? What about that? It could be this. Don't forget about that." This causes analysis paralysis, confusion, indecisiveness, and self-doubt. Unlike a Type 8, Type 6s do not trust their own thinking, so they look outside themselves to find security, guidance, and support from trusted resources, belief systems, or people.



TYPE 6 & TYPE 9

This is a common mistyping. When Type 9s are stressed they take on the average to unhealthy attributes of a 6, but they deal with conflicts and problems very differently. Type 9s want to keep their inner world peaceful and steady, so they remain easy going and unaffected by life's ups and downs. Type 6s, however, react passionately and intensely in conflict and want others to react with the same emotional intensity. 6s do not easily trust others and have strong opinions, whereas 9s idealize, trust, and merge with others easily. A Type 6's mind is constantly racing with all the possible outcomes and worst-case scenarios, while 9s don't want to be bothered with conflict or difficulty. Type 9s disassociate from too much external or internal turmoil, while Type 6s vent their internal anxieties to relieve their anxiety.



TYPE 7 & TYPE 8

These two Types are mistyped often since they are both aggressive and assertive personalities. They both know what they want and go after it. Type 8s are seeking intensity, power, and control. They make decisions from their gut and are pragmatic, grounded, and realistic. They deal with life as it is. Type 7s are the true optimists and have brilliant and quick minds that reframe anything negative, so they don't feel deprived, limited, or trapped. 7s are searching for variety, spontaneity, and excitement to fill an inner emptiness. They can be scattered and constantly strategizing on how to obtain the next exciting experience, while Type 8s want to deal with life as it truly is and meet it head-on.



TYPE 7 & TYPE 9

These two Types easily get mistyped since they're both optimists and want to connect with others. If a Type 9 is an extrovert, they might mistake themselves for a Type 7. They both are escapists who flee conflict and problems. But 7s know what they want and desire and go after it. They are primarily focused on filling themselves up with exciting stimulation since they feel a great emptiness inside. Type 9s have an internal fog, which hinders them from knowing themselves, their desires and passions, and what they want to become. They merge with what they think others want them to be and do. If you ask a Type 9 what they want for themselves today or in the next five years, they will struggle to give you a clear answer. They naturally go along with others to keep the peace and avoid disharmony.



TYPE 8 & TYPE 9

These two Types are not likely to mistype since Type 9s are always avoiding any tension or conflict, while Type 8s are comfortable with and embrace conflict and tension. They call it confrontational intimacy. The less healthy a Type 8s is, the more they intensely show their anger. Type 9 does the opposite. When struggling, 9s passively withdraw and shut down. Type 8s are confident, direct, and abrasive, while 9s are gentle, accommodating, and out of touch with themselves. Type 8s want constant intensity, control, and power, while 9s want inner stability and peace of mind.