

# How do you Doodle?

Today, some psychologists use doodles as a guide to personality. They are, they argue, a useful way of gaining insight into people's characters, a way of seeing people's inner personalities.

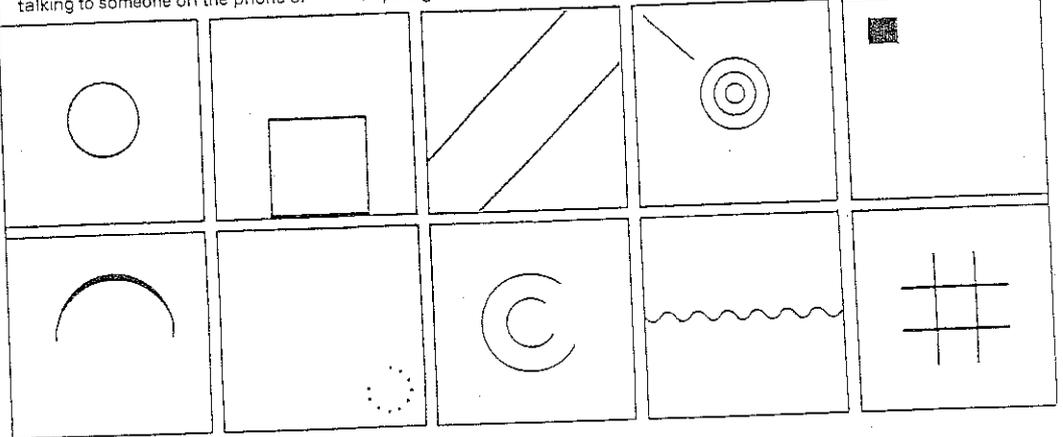
A doodle is something you draw or scribble, for example, while you are talking to someone on the phone or

attending a meeting. The doodles appear without your thinking about them, and because they come straight from the sub-conscious, they can be used to uncover your deeper feelings.

Below are 10 half-finished doodles. All you have to do is complete them. Draw or scribble something — anything at all — in each of the 10

squares. Then compare your doodles with the answers on the next page and see what they reveal about you. You might be in for a surprise.

If you make a copy of the 10 original shapes, you can try them out on your friends. By comparing your results with theirs you can learn a lot about yourself and others.



## Check your answers on this page



### SELF-IMAGE

If you draw a charming or comic figure or face, it shows good nature, a sense of humour, diplomacy.

An ugly figure shows you have difficulty getting close to other people.

A sun indicates a strong, self-confident personality.

A flower is feminine. You care about your surroundings and appearance.

If you make a regular, balanced design, you're the type who is always worrying if you've left the gas on, or forgotten to lock the front door.

You are a worrier.

An eye signifies pride, a suspicious nature. You attempt to control your life and your relationships.

Anything else — you'll have to work it out for yourself. (Do you think of yourself as a balloon or a bomb?)

**HOME**  
If you draw something within the box, then your interests lie in the home. If you draw outside it, then your interests lie outside the home.

Unattached people may make nest-like symbols (a fireplace, house, or window, for example) and put something in the box to indicate their idea of home (champagne, cat, bed).

**FRIENDSHIP**  
Most people make several separate and distinct shapes in this square. Drawing many shapes indicates many friends.

Shapes within the two lines indicate friends restricted to a small group.

Shapes outside the two lines indicate acquaintances, casual friends. A single line suggests you are reserved, self-centered.

A coffin or box means you're lonely and moody.

Females who make parallel lines have mostly male friends.

Males who make circular shapes have mostly female friends.

Cross-crossing of X's inside the lines indicate a person who is only interested in close, lasting relationships.



### ASPIRATION

An arrow headed for the target shows an ability to work for a specific goal.

If you make other lines or arrows pointing to the target you're ambitious but faced with a choice of goals.

If you obscure the symbol by changing it to something else (bird, wagon, lollipop) you are rebellious and imaginative.

**SOME GENERAL POINTS**  
Are there any human figures in the squares? A person who draws figures makes friends and enemies easily.  
If you use words or write titles to the pictures, you are an intellectual and you like thinking in abstracts.  
Small, detailed drawings show a perfectionist with perseverance.  
If you use perspective in your boxes, you have ability to plan ahead. People who use perspective in their doodles usually end up as bosses.  
People who draw horizontal lines are cautious, and don't like to get involved.  
Frightening, unpleasant or weird faces (eg phre, mechanical monster) show an unsuitable person who gets on with other people only on his or her own terms.  
Drawings of food indicate a person who feels unappreciated and wants to be noticed for, or of, a square, maybe the person is just hungry!  
Clothing, glasses, jewellery, show concern with appearance, status and an awareness of what people think.



### IMAGINATION

The dots in this square are a challenge to many people. If you use the dots as part of a specific picture (bird seed, rabbit tail, ant) it shows you are imaginative.

If you obscure the dots by drawing a solid circle around or through them, you're practical and logical.

If you draw nothing in this square you are unimaginative and will lend people money.

**MATURITY**  
If you close these circles, you want to be protected, and need approval. (How tightly did you close them?) You are still influenced by what you learnt as a child.  
If you don't close the circles you are independent and your ambitions and hopes project into the future.  
If you make an ear — you have a secret.

If you make a cup you have a loving maternal or paternal disposition.

If you draw above the line you are secure, well-adjusted. A ship is common.

If the ship is moving, you're very secure.

If you draw below the line, it means the opposite (of course!).

If you draw above and below the line — which part of the drawing is more important?

If you draw someone drowning, you're worried about the future.

If you make a chain or pattern out of the centre line then you are hard-working and hardly ever make a mistake.

**COMPETITION**  
If you play noughts and crosses in this square you are competitive.

If you draw a winning line you are a winner, or at least aggressive. If you make a winning game by cheating, you're tricky and probably rich.

Men usually win with X's, women with O's.

If you obscure the symbol and don't play noughts and crosses, you're passive, uncompetitive.

Some people will play the game with their own symbols (not X's or O's). These people are aggressive individualists, who secretly wish to conform.

Adapted from an article by Christopher Market in Cosmopolitan.