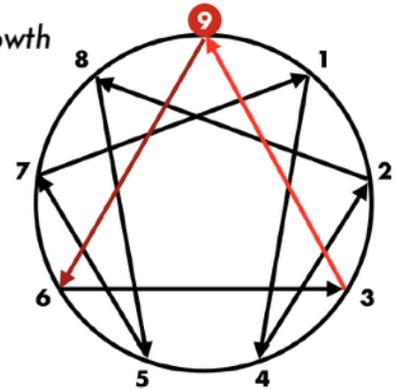


TYPE NINE: The Peacemaker



Overview:

Nines are easy-going people. They are simple and uncomplicated and therefore a pleasure to deal with, considered by many to be the **least controlling** number on the Enneagram. Nines are pleasant and diplomatic because they are motivated by a need to keep the peace; especially their inner peace. They go with the flow, and it doesn't bother them if the plan changes. Nines make great mediators. They are empathetic and have an easy time putting themselves in other people's shoes. So much so, in fact, that Nines often struggle with merging with other people's viewpoints to the point that they may have trouble knowing what they themselves feel about something.

Nines tend to withhold their thoughts and preferences to avoid conflict. They express their anger in passive ways. They won't tell you if they don't like something, but instead will quietly refuse to budge or participate, and you won't coerce them to do otherwise. They can be quite stubborn. If you want to know what a Nine thinks, prefers, or feels, you may have to give them space to sort this out for themselves and get back to you. If there is a problem, a Nine will prefer it if you figure out on your own (a) that they're unhappy, (b) why they're unhappy, (c) avoid doing again whatever caused this displeasure, and (d) go on with life as if nothing happened.

Whales spend 3x as much time playing as searching for food. Their ears are 20x more sensitive than humans.

The defense mechanism of a Nine is for them to go **numb** and **disconnect**, ignoring how they feel to keep the peace. For this reason Nines are friendly, but also blurry. They avoid conflict, sometimes before considering whether their involvement might actually lead to peace for the larger group. They can sometimes come across as absent-minded. They follow whatever is in front of them, regardless of whatever task is at hand, and have a high

Color: **Gold**

National Code: **Mexico**



Healthy Mascot:

Dolphin



Moderate Mascot:

Whale



Unhealthy Mascot:

Sloth



propensity for distraction. They actually gain energy from avoiding what needs to be done. It spurs their creativity. Susanne Stabile (whose husband is a Nine) says, they tend to work on the "right thing at the wrong time."

When a Nine feels a conviction and speaks up, it is often out of empathy and a desire to protect. Their compassion makes them great supporters of social causes. In a healthy place, Nines can set attainable goals for themselves, and enjoy doing and accomplishing them. People are generally pleased when Nines feel sure of themselves, and are confident to contribute what they're capable of. Their shifting interests over time makes them solid generalists who are capable of great contributions to the group.

When I am sharing space with someone who has good boundaries, I automatically merge with them. It would take too much energy to separate what I think and feel from what the other person expresses with such clarity. But when the other person is gone, I can think more clearly and know what I want, what I think, and what I believe. It requires a lot of energy for me to know myself. So, if I'm using up that energy to know you, then I have a weird amnesia about me.

- Dr. Chris Gonzalez, Lipscomb University

Am I A Nine?

- Do you easily see multiple points of view, but struggle somewhat to know where you stand?
- Are you easily distracted, having a hard time focusing on the task right in front of you?
- Do you choose the easiest way out of a problem, especially if it avoids a potential conflict or argument?
- When people are too demanding, do you employ passive-aggressive strategies? (Do you "forget" things you don't actually want to do or fall asleep to avoid reality?)
- Do you believe other people's opinions carry more weight than your own?
- Do other people perceive you as worry-free, even when it's not true of how you're feeling inside?
- Do you have many gifts, but fail to bring them forward?
- Is it hard for you to prioritize and accomplish the things you have to do in a day?

Nines in Scripture:



Jonah, the stubborn prophet. Jonah was disapproving of God's call so he avoided it. After preaching to Nineveh, he went up on a hill in silent protest of how things had been handled. He was thrilled with the random plant that grew above his shelter to give him shade. When the plant died and his peace was disturbed, he was angry enough to want to die. Jonah was a capable preacher, poet, and prophet, but was slothful in carrying out his given task.

Parable of the Talents (Luke 19:11-26)

This is a good cautionary parable for Nines. The men who were entrusted with something and did what they could produced something good with what they'd been given. The final man given one talent chose to bury it, rather than go through the stress of doing something with it or potentially losing it. Nines must challenge themselves and seek out friends to help hold them accountable for doing what they're capable of. Nines need encouragement and affirmation. Sloth is an ever-present temptation for them.

Nines in Pop Culture:



Columbo the great investigator is a good intellectual Nine. He is always calm, always being underestimated, and puts people at ease until he starts cracking the case.

Mister Rogers the always calm and inviting presence. He found quiet and subtle ways to protest things he believed were wrong in society while never being confrontational. Everyone likes Mister Rogers. He always makes you feel like he is highly interested in you, though it's a bit harder to know a lot about him.



A Joke About Nines:

A man went to his rabbi one day to complain bitterly about his shrewd wife. He wound up the discussion with a desperate announcement: "I'm getting a divorce!" The rabbi had listened with great attention and sympathy and nodded thoughtfully at the end, "Yes, you're quite right."

The next day the wife came in to lament her husband's bad habits. Her tirade ended with a similar threat: "I'm getting a divorce!" The rabbi had listened intently. He nodded and said, "Yes, you're right."

His disciple, who had witnessed both of the meetings, began to chastise the rabbi. "You can't tell him one day that he's right and then the very next day tell her that she's right!" The rabbi listened attentively and then responded, "Yes, you're right, too."

Growth for Nines:

Nines grow through getting in better touch with themselves and what they feel, and in then taking

decisive action. When a Nine is healthy, they will participate and engage, even risking conflict because their participation can help bring about greater good. Nines must push themselves toward action. Because of how agreeable they are most of the time, they may be surprised at how gladly other people will welcome their opinions and contribution. Nines need to grow in their love, most of all for themselves. They may not realize that their own thoughts and needs matter. They need the experience of being wanted, being important, and having something to give.

Helpful Reading For Nines:

- *Living Forward: A Proven Plan to Stop Drifting and Get the Life You Want* by Michael Hyatt
- *The 5 Second Rule: Transform Your Life, Work, and Confidence With Everyday Courage* by Mel Robbins



type nine image from

the
**Visual
Enneagram**

available on [amazon](#)

Nines Need To Know:

- You can learn good tools for avoiding some conflicts and resolving others.
- It is possible to navigate the tension between being overly compliant and overly noncompliant
- Relationships are best when you do not give up your personal identity.
- Avoiding conflict sometimes actually causes more conflict. Problems don't fix themselves.
- "Later" is not a point in time.
- Some relationships won't last. That's ok.
- People can't read your mind.
- If you spend all your life setting yourself aside to mesh with others, you'll not be healthy or whole.
- There is no such thing as a healthy relationship where anger, disappointment, and conflict do not occasionally occur.
- The people in your life think you matter a lot. They rely on you, trust you, and want your full involvement in the life you share.

How To Care For The Nines In Your Life:

- Nines need much affirmation and affection.
- If a Nine gets up the strength to say "no" to you, let them know how much you appreciate their honesty and that you aren't going away, regardless of their response.
- Nines do have desires and dreams. Encourage them to name and own them.
- Encourage Nines to develop their own identity in your relationship.
- Nines need a peaceful environment. Help them create one so they can have time alone, space, and independence.
- To ask their opinion, avoid saying, "DON'T you think we should....?" They'll inevitably say "Yes." Instead, say, "DO you think we should....?" Let them sort out their thoughts.
- Celebrate what Nines do, and don't criticize too harshly for what they fail to do.
- Nines meander a bit when they're talking. Allow them some room and don't interrupt them.
- Nines have a generous spirit. Don't take advantage of them.
- Nines don't like confrontation, but this doesn't mean you should never confront them. Opposing views are part of life.
- Encourage Nines to share with you what upsets them.
- Nines want clear communication regarding what's expected of them.
- If a Nine is distracted and off-task, you can redirect them by asking questions.
- With Nines, (1) agreement doesn't always lead to participation and (2) participation doesn't necessarily indicate commitment.
- Nines don't make personal decisions quickly and they don't want your help doing it.