

Horse Personality Questionnaire

**From *Know You, Know Your Horse* by Eunice Rush & Marry Morrow
Trafalgar Square Books/www.HorseandRiderBooks.com**

Circle one number from each pair of statements. Which one describes your horse best?

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. My horse gets frustrated when I want him to stand still. | 25. My horse can be pushy when he's nervous. |
| 2. When coming upon something new, he will stop and smell it. | 26. He will paw when he wants something. |
| _____ | _____ |
| 3. My horse is "mouthy." | 27. My horse will think before he does anything new. |
| 4. He likes being in a group. | 28. On the longe line he anticipates coming back in from the circle. |
| _____ | _____ |
| 5. My horse likes to see the tail of another horse in front of him. | 29. My horse moves really quickly when he is frightened. |
| 6. He has a lot of endurance. | 30. He is unconcerned about new things. |
| _____ | _____ |
| 7. My horse likes to race. | 31. My horse thinks anything around the barn is something to play with. |
| 8. He will work for food. | 32. He spooks easily. |
| _____ | _____ |
| 9. My horse runs and runs when he's turned out. | 33. My horse can spin on a dime. |
| 10. He enjoys trying to find ways to escape. | 34. He goes more slowly the more you push him. |
| _____ | _____ |
| 11. My horse learns through repetition. | 35. My horse does not like being held to a walk. |
| 12. He influences the behavior of other horses in a group. | 36. He does better with a gentle hand. |
| _____ | _____ |
| 13. My horse can be defensive. | 37. My horse doesn't like to back up. |
| 14. He is receptive. | 38. He doesn't come when called. |
| _____ | _____ |
| 15. My horse likes to "go." | 39. My horse enjoys new tasks. |
| 16. He likes going slowly. | 40. When startled by another horse or human he will kick. |
| _____ | _____ |
| 17. My horse likes new and different things. | 41. My horse can be over-reactive. |
| 18. He is unpredictable. | 42. He is stubborn. |
| _____ | _____ |
| 19. My horse is distrustful of many people. | 43. My horse rears when scared. |
| 20. He is smart. | 44. He easily forgives humans for their mistakes. |
| _____ | _____ |
| 21. My horse values treats over any distraction. | 45. My horse bucks or paws when upset. |
| 22. He has a tendency to run. | 46. He is timid. |
| _____ | _____ |
| 23. My horse understands best when an exercise is repeated several times in succession. | 47. My horse likes to be told where to "put his feet." |
| 24. He gets bored easily. | 48. He doesn't like to move sideways. |

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SCORING

Scoring the horse's personality is slightly different from the way you score your own:

- 1 Take the numbers of your 24 answers to the questionnaire and locate them in the chart containing numbers that relate to Extroverts, Introverts, Left and Right Brain traits (see below).
- 2 In numerical order, write the numbers down and place an **E, I, L, R** next to each one, depending on which line of numbers you find it. For example, taking a random sample of six numbers, you would write: 1E; 4I; 6E; 17L; 34L; 43R (and so on).
- 3 Next, calculate the total number of each of the letters to discover if your horse is a Left Brain Introvert (*LBI*); Left Brain Extrovert (*LBE*); Right Brain Introvert (*RBI*); Right Brain Extrovert (*RBE*). For example, if you have *LBI 11; LBE 13; RBI 5; RBE 19*, then the horse's highest score is *RBE 19*, which designates his core personality as a **Talker**. His next highest score, his primary modifier, is *LBE 13*, a **Worker**. (These designations are contained in the chart below.)

Questionnaire Scoring Chart

Extrovert (E): 1, 3, 6, 7, 9, 15, 22, 26, 28, 35, 37, 48

Introvert (I): 2, 4, 5, 8, 10, 16, 21, 25, 27, 36, 38, 47

Left Brain (L): 12, 14, 17, 20, 24, 30, 31, 34, 39, 42, 44, 45

Right Brain (R): 11, 13, 18, 19, 23, 29, 32, 33, 40, 41, 43, 46

Results

Left Brain Introvert (*LBI*) = **Thinker**

Left Brain Extrovert (*LBE*) = **Worker**

Right Brain Introvert (*RBI*) = **Actor**

Right Brain Extrovert (*RBE*) = **Talker**

In order to explain how the scoring works let's look at Rosie.

Rosie

Rosie's questionnaire scores are *Extrovert 2; Introvert 10; Right Brain 3; Left Brain 9*.

What do these numbers say about Rosie?

Rosie is a definitely a **Thinker** (*LBI*).

Rosie's scores mean she gets bored easily, needs lots of rest time, and is food oriented. However, when content, she will be confident and curious.

When she was a filly her introverted side would cause her to be the one in the pasture that tired quickly when running with the other foals. If the other "babies" tried pushing her into playing, she would start bucking

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and send them off. She was happy to just go back to eating grass. As she matured, her introverted side caused her to enjoy adventure but not long training sessions.

Her high-scoring left-brained results mean that Rosie spends quite a bit of time being playful and clever: figuring out how to open various gates with her mouth and pull off other horses' fly masks. They also contributed to her finding training when young easier. When asked to face a new object all you had to do was let her smell it, think about it a minute, and then proceed.

Her low-scoring points (3) on the right-brained side means she will spook momentarily, but will quickly think it through and then show more curiosity than fear.

Rosie became a cow horse. She was very clever at working her way into a herd of cows, cutting out one, and pushing it to the pen. When her turn was over she would stand at the trailer and take a nap.

For a complete description of the four horse personalities and how understanding them can help you choose the right horse, and train and ride him as best suits his personality, check out the book *Know You, Know Your Horse* by Eunice Rush and Marry Morrow (www.HorseandRiderBooks.com).