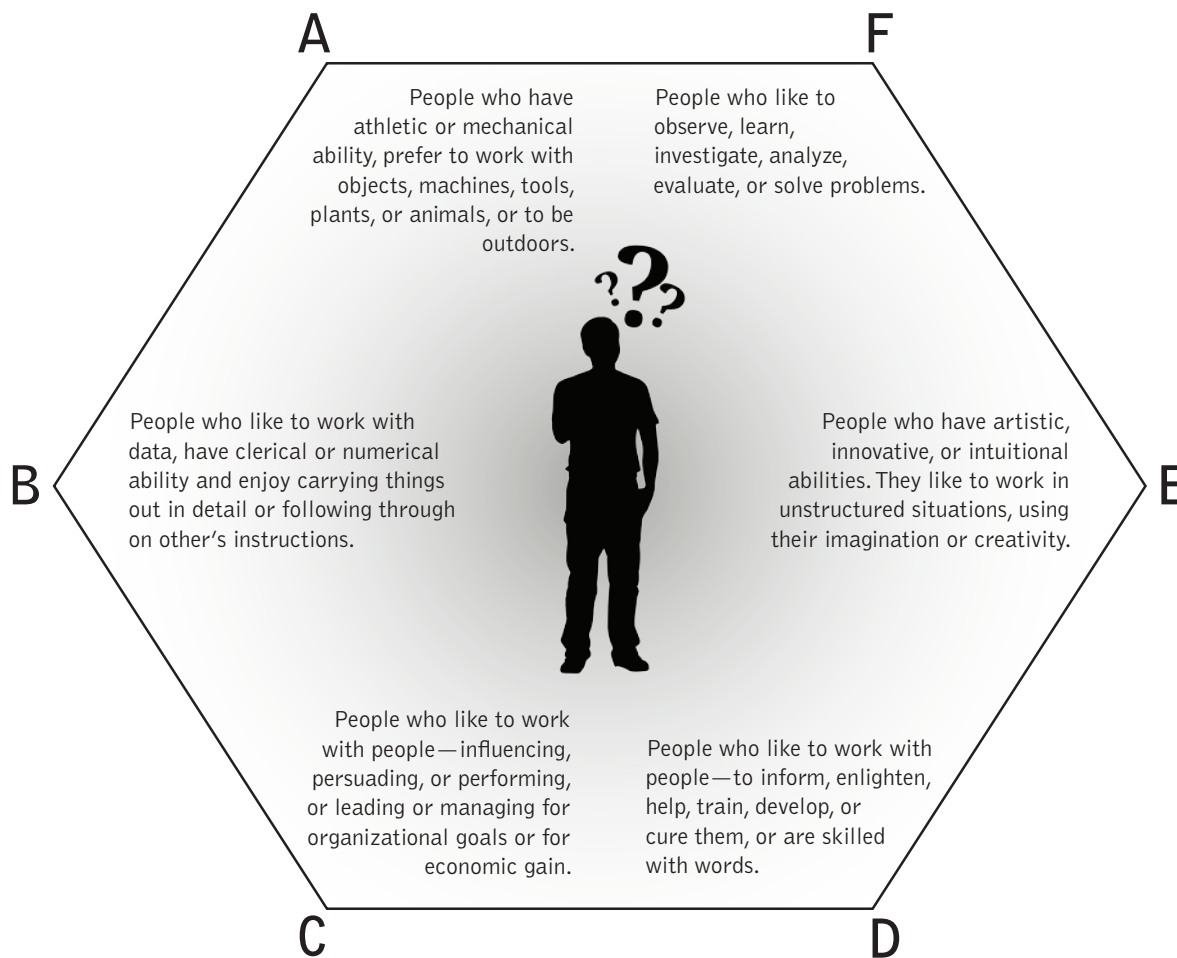


# Party Your Way To A New Job

If you are one of the millions who have lost their job, you may not feel like participating in a celebration of any kind. But what if parties offered a unique opportunity to brighten the spirit as well as the prospects for finding meaningful work? If you're thinking of foregoing the festivities, there's good reason to get out and socialize. While having fun—and networking—you can also learn a great deal about yourself and help your career in the process.

“A party can hold the key to what we most enjoy doing,” says Richard Nelson Bolles, author of *What Color Is Your Parachute?*—the bestselling career book in the world. “The people we are most drawn to at a party—that is, the group that we most enjoy being with for the longest time—can reveal plenty about our interests and talents as well as what we would most enjoy doing in a career.”

If your social calendar is looking a little thin, don't despair. Here is a simple exercise you can try at home. Below is an aerial view of a room in which a party is taking place. At this party, people with the same or similar interests have all gathered in the same corner of the room, as described below:



1. Which corner of the room are you instinctively drawn to, as the group of people you would most enjoy being with for the longest time? (Leave aside any questions of shyness, or whether you would have to talk with them.) Write down the group letter for that corner of the room.
2. After fifteen minutes, everyone in the corner you have chosen leaves for another party across town, except you. Of the groups remaining, which corner are you most drawn to, as the people you would most enjoy being with for the longest time? Write down the group letter for that corner of the room.
3. After fifteen minutes, this group leaves for another party, too, except you. Of the groups remaining, which one would you most enjoy being with for the longest time? Write down the group letter for that corner of the room.
4. Now, starting with the first corner you have chosen and ending with the third, write down the skills and abilities that you like the best from each. Therein lies the clue to what you most enjoy doing. You are now ready to go on to solve the question of:

**What Color Is Your Parachute?**