

## Which light bulb are you?

Much has been written about changing light bulbs - way too much, if you ask me. But what do you learn from all those stories about light bulbs? Absolutely nothing. They don't even tell you what kind of light bulb is supposed to be changed. All they tell you relates to the group of people that's trying to change the said (unknown) bulb, and they often go into great detail to demonstrate personality features relevant to that particular group. However, for a change, I would like to put an end to the widespread ignorance and neglect that light bulbs have suffered in contemporary English literature. Also, I would like to show that light bulbs provide a strong foundation for a theory of personality types that is more easily accessible than the Myers-Briggs concept, due to the illustration of the theory through commonly available objects of our daily lives.

To start with, there is the most popular light bulb: the standard bulb with bayonet cap. It comes in various levels of brightness and fits in easily in most places. Not much more can be said about it, as it tends to lead a fairly unspectacular life - sometimes so unspectacular that you only notice it after it went.

The standard bulb with screw cap is a bit more fussy about where it wants to be. Even when it finds a place to its liking, it still goes around in circles for several times before it feels at home.

The energysaver is, at first, more demanding than the previous two types. The fact that it's as bright as a standard bulb only becomes apparent after a while. It needs some time to get warm. However, it is much more steadfast and reliable than a standard bulb - qualities you may come to appreciate, as time goes by.

The red-coloured 25W bulb with bayonet cap fits in easily just about anywhere, a feature it shares with a standard bulb. However, its moody character and significant lack of brightness make it inappropriate in most places. It tends to inspire people to do things they wouldn't normally dare. It likes to be in company, but only with lights of its own kind. When joined by brighter bulbs, it finds it hard to assert itself.

At the other end of the spectrum is the 800W quartz lamp which is very popular in the film industry. It is full of energy, extremely bright and happy to appear in almost any outfit or none. However, don't get too close to it, lest it will hurt you. Also, you should approach it only with greatest caution, as the slightest disturbance can make it explode.

This is only a small cross-section of light bulbs, but certainly sufficient to make you realise the big potential of a light bulb personality tester. Unfortunately, no agreement could be reached as to whether it should be called 'Osram-Philips' or 'Philips-Osram' type indicator. Also, Tesco and Safeway complained on the main protagonists' unwillingness to allow them cheaper own brand versions, and General Electric has tentatively announced a lawsuit and patent application - even though they're not quite sure what either one is about. Development on the light bulb personality tester has therefore been stopped.

**Klaus Huber**