

Organized

An organized person is one who has a firm grasp on what she or he has or needs to do; or on where needed things are. An organized person can even be messy, live with piles of this and that, and yet know where everything of significance is, and be able to produce it readily. An organized person may be a long term planner, too, but not necessarily; to be organized is to exercise local control over all that could become clutter in one's life.

Examples

1 Invisible mind organization

My wife is always arranging structures of action in mind just when I think she is simply going about her business. When we came back from the gym the other morning, she jumped out of the car and headed over to our neighbor's house—without explaining why. I knew she was acting at some point on a thought chain, but only later did I trace it. She was eager to get some small branches cut off trees in our side yard. She knew that our neighbor, who usually left for work pretty early in the morning, had a long tree trimming device that would enable my wife to clip off the branches. Hence the hurry to meet our neighbor, to ask to borrow the tree trimming device. My wife is always ready to move toward an accomplishment she has been carefully brewing, although I have no idea of the process until I see the first result in action.

2 Organizing a small party

To organize a small dinner party requires attention. There is shopping, then cooking, then cleaning the house, then setting the table. Recently, my wife and I carried out all the above activities, not in sequence but as interwoven parts of a single organizing plan. My wife was cooking a chicken while I was polishing silverware; I was going out for some sauces we had forgotten, while she was sweeping the living room. Two people were sharing the organization of the dinner, but each one was contributing certain elements. For this operation to succeed, the two organizing partners needed to be working in sync, while establishing a single final product. At any given moment, the two partners would be engaged in organizing different sectors of the party, but if they worked in sync, and their overall goal—this dinner—was sharply targeted, the two individual contributions would be melded into a single activity.