**Multiple Intelligence Defined**

Do you think IQ tests provide the best indication of intelligence? You may be surprised to know that some scientists don't think so. As a matter of fact, one scientist came up with a new theory about intelligence more than twenty years ago. Dr. Howard Gardner of Harvard University proposed that people were much more complex than standard testing suggested. He argued that traditional intelligence tests favored logical and mathematical people, but that different people had different strengths.

The intelligence types were:

1. Linguistic and verbal intelligence: good with words
2. Logical intelligence: good with math and logic
3. Spatial intelligence: good with pictures
4. Body/movement intelligence: good with activities
5. Musical intelligence: good with rhythm
6. Interpersonal intelligence: good with communication
7. Intrapersonal intelligence: good with analyzing things
8. Naturalist intelligence: good with understanding natural world

Read more about each type and discover your own strengths by choosing from the list below.

**Linguistic and verbal intelligence: Good With Words**

Do you keep a journal? Do you plan to write a novel one day? How many of the traits below fit your personality? Count the characteristics that seem to describe you well. If you count more than four, you score well on this type of personality. Remember you can be strong in several intelligence types!

* You are a good writer
* You're good with crossword puzzles
* People say you "have a way with words"
* You tell good stories
* People say you're funny
* You like to debate or argue
* You explain things well
* You have a great vocabulary or enjoy learning new words and their origins

**Logical intelligence: Good With Math and Logic Problems**

Logical and mathematical intelligence represents the traditional concept of "intelligence," and it is the type of intelligence that is measured on many standardized tests. Count the characteristics that seem to describe you well. If you count more than four, you score well on this type of personality. Remember you can be strong in several intelligence types!

* You enjoy solving mysteries
* You can solve logic problems
* You're good at math
* You like to put things in their places
* You've always been interested in scientific discoveries
* You can be bossy
* You like to figure out how things work
* You're good with computers

**Spatial intelligence: Good With Pictures and Images**

How many of these traits fit your personality? Do you have a knack for navigating? Are you the leader when it comes to find your way to a new location? If you count more than four of these traits as familiar to you, you might have spatial intelligence.

* You can put puzzles together
* You appreciate art or photography
* You prefer geometry over algebra
* You study with charts and pictures
* You can find your way with a map
* You make outlines when you write a paper
* You doodle or draw
* You notice details

**Body/movement intelligence:** **Good With Sports and Movement**

Are you a natural when it comes to gymnastics or dance? Do you have smooth moves? Body and movement intelligence is a trait of the world's great athletes.

* You're good at sports
* You can dance well
* You talk with your hands
* You're interested in acting
* You like to build things
* You clown around in class
* You have great balance
* You can throw a ball accurately

**Musical intelligence: Good With Music and Rhythm**

Did you start dancing as soon as you started walking? Can you tap out a tune on the piano after hearing it once? People with musical intelligence "have an ear" for music. How many of these traits fit your personality? Count the characteristics that seem to describe you well. If you count more than four, you score well on this type of personality. Remember you can be strong in several intelligence types!

* You'd like to be a drummer
* You can read music
* You criticize a new song when others just accept it
* You enjoy a few types of music
* You can figure out how to play a tune on an instrument
* You've considered writing songs
* You notice patterns
* You remember old songs

**Interpersonal intelligence:** **Good With People**

If you seem to know what other people are thinking, you probably have interpersonal intelligence. Do people come to you with their problems? Do you find yourself giving a lot of advice? People can sense if you have interpersonal intelligence and they tend to lean on you.

* You sometimes feel like a mind reader
* You hate injustice
* You're a good listener
* You see through people who aren't being honest
* You know how others feel
* You often lend a shoulder
* You find it hard to be mean
* You enjoy deep conversations

**Intrapersonal intelligence:** **Good With Analyzing Things**

Do you get lost in your own little world sometimes? That's a trait of someone with intrapersonal intelligence. A person with strong intrapersonal intelligence might be accused of "thinking too much" about things. This type of intelligence comes in handy when it comes to analyzing essays, deconstructing arguments, and doing a critical analysis of an article.

* You think a lot
* People think you're dreamy
* You can analyze dreams
* You are self-critical
* You second guess yourself
* You really get into a good book
* You can break down complicated ideas
* You judge people

**Naturalist intelligence: Good at Understanding Nature**

Love bugs? Are you deeply concerned about the environment? These are a few of the traits of people with naturalist intelligence. If you dream about living in the wilderness, or if you love to grow plants, you might fit into this category. If you relate to the characteristics below, you score well on this type of personality. Remember you can be strong in several intelligence types!

* You like the wilderness
* You read about nature
* You stop to look at bugs
* You categorize things
* You read about explorers
* You collect things
* You enjoy studying plant parts
* You notice characteristics