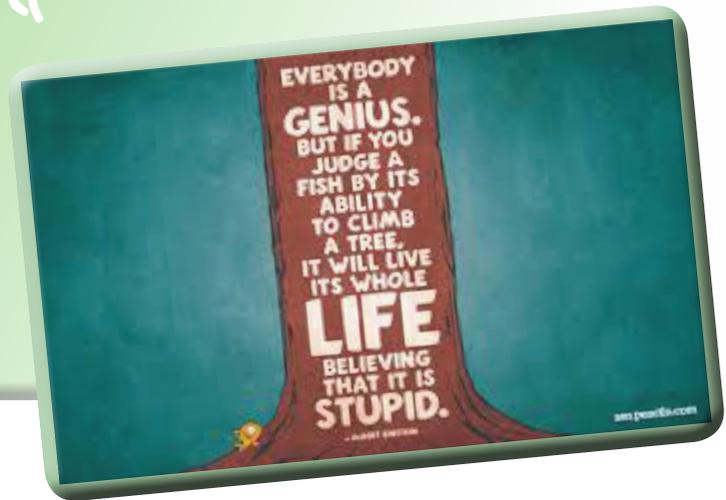


# You are intelligent

Discover your own, and start tapping into your potential



Did you know there isn't just the kind of intelligence that gets you good grades in school? There are different kinds. Many of us may feel that we are not "clever" because we are not performing well at school. Should someone call you stupid for having performed poorly in a Maths test, you may not rebut the person but accept the ridicule, because you are sadly in agreement with them.

The Harvard psychologist, Howard Gardner, first outlined this theory in his 1983 book *Frames of Mind: The Theory of Multiple Intelligences*, where he suggested that all people have different kinds of "intelligences". Many criticise his theory for defining intelligence too broadly and lacking in empirical evidence. Be that as it may, it also has many defenders. In this article, we want to tell you that you are intelligent.

For Gardner, intelligence stretches beyond "standard" intellectual capacity and includes musical – *rhythmic and harmonic, visual-spatial, verbal-linguistic, logical-mathematical, bodily-kinesthetic, interpersonal, intrapersonal, and naturalistic intelligence*. As you read the explanations below, we trust you will identify your particular strength and recognize that you actually possess a range of intelligences.

Are you sensitive to sounds, rhythms, and tones? Are you able to hold a note, play a musical instrument or compose music? Is it easy for you to recognize patterns in music and remember melodies? Well, then you are musically intelligent.

Is it easy to visualize things with your mind's eye? If so, you are probably good with directions, maps, charts and pictures. Do you like puzzles, interpreting graphs and pictures as well as enjoy visual arts? If so, studying architecture, engineering or visual art may make a lot of sense for you.

Do you like reading and telling stories? Would you say your vocabulary can be considered impressive and that you are eloquent? You are not afraid to debate and enjoy giving persuasive speeches. If this is you, you will probably make an excellent writer, journalist, lawyer or teacher.

If you are a strong critical thinker and good with numbers, abstractions, and reasoning, then you probably also enjoy problem-solving and scientific experiments. As you are reading you may already be thinking, "yes, and that's why I want to become a computer programmer, engineer, accountant, mathematician and scientist. I just can't make up my mind".

In theory, individuals who have high interpersonal intelligence are characterised by their sensitivity to others' moods, feelings, temperaments and motivations, and their ability to cooperate in order to work as part of a group. So you probably enjoy discussion and debate and that's why you would make a great sales person, manager, politician, teacher, psychologist and social worker. Understanding and relating to others is a great strength, which not all people have. Consider yourself interpersonally intelligent, my friend.

Are you one of those people who know who you are, what you are about, why you are feeling what you are feeling and what drives you? Can you analyse, understand and motivate yourself? Maybe you should consider becoming a writer, philosopher or theorist? Hm? Think about it.

I hope this article has enabled you to discover your own intellectual strength(s).

Who is intelligent?

