A Definition of Intelligence

By Howard Gardner

Intelligence is ability or set of abilities that permits an individual to solve problems or fashion products that are of consequences in a particular cultural setting.

Visual/Spatial Intelligence

- Tend to think in pictures and need to create vivid mental images to retain information
- Enjoy looking at maps, charts, pictures, and movies.

Their skills include:
- Puzzle building, reading, writing, and sense of direction, sketching, painting, and interpreting visual images

Possible career interests: Navigators, sculptures, visual artists, inventors, architects, interior designers, mechanics, engineers

Linguistic Intelligence

- Highly developed listening skills and are generally elegant speakers
- Able to comprehend and write well

Their skills include:
- Speaking, writing, story telling, explaining, teaching, using humor, understanding the meaning of words, remembering information

Possible career interests: Poet, journalist, writer, teacher, lawyer, politician, and translator

It's not that I'm so smart; it's just that I stay with problems longer.

Albert Einstein
Logic/Math Intelligence

• Use numbers
• Good at recognizing patterns, sequence of ideas
• Able to think abstractly, reason logically, and solve problems systematically
• Curious about the world around them
• Asks lots of questions and like to do experiments

Their skills include:
Problem solving, classifying and categorizing information, doing controlled experiments

Possible career paths: Scientists, engineers, computer programmers, researchers, accountants, and mathematicians

Kinesthetic Intelligence

• Good body coordination
• Can use the body well in sports, acting, building
• Able to handle objects well, using fine motor skills and eye-hand coordination

Their skills include:
Dancing, physical co-ordination, sports, hands on experimentation, using body language, crafts, acting, miming, and using their hands to build, and expressing emotions through the body

Possible career paths: Athletes, physical education teachers, dancers, actors, firefighters, and artisans

Let us put our heads together and see what life we will make for our children.  

Tatanka Iotanka (Sitting Bull, Lakota Leader)
Musical Intelligence

- Sensitivity to pitch, rhythm, tone as well as the emotional power and order of music
- Remember melody and beat of tunes
- Think in sounds

Their skills include:
Singing, playing musical instruments, composing music, remembering melodies, understanding the structure and rhythm of music

Possible career paths: Musician, disc jockey, singer, and composer

Interpersonal Intelligence (Social)

- See things from other people’s point of view to understand how they think and feel
- Encourage cooperation
- Able to relate well with others and respond to and work with different types of people. Outgoing.

Their skills include:
Listening, using empathy, understanding other people’s moods and feelings, counseling, co-operating with groups, noticing people’s moods, building trust

Possible Career paths: Counselor, salesperson, politician, and businessperson

Intrapersonal Intelligence (Self):

- Understand their inner feelings, dreams
- Aware of one’s own moods, wishes, problems, fears, and goals
- Clear sense of self

Their skills include:
Recognizing their own strengths and weaknesses, reflecting and analyzing themselves, awareness of their inner feelings, reasoning with themselves

Possible Career Paths: Researchers, theorists, philosophers

*Character is higher than intellect. A great soul will be strong to live as well as to think.*  

*Ralph Waldo Emerson*