

Howard Gardner's Multiple Intelligences Theory

There are many psychological theories that deal with the problem of grouping and comparing people's types in order to define human personality and their needs. One of the theories, that has had a profound impact on thinking and practice in education, is the theory of multiple intelligences by Howard Gardner. The professor Gardner proposes that there is not a single intelligence, but rather that there are seven:

- Visual / Spatial Intelligence**
- Musical Intelligence**
- Verbal Intelligence**
- Logical/Mathematical Intelligence**
- Interpersonal Intelligence**
- Intrapersonal Intelligence**
- Bodily / Kinesthetic Intelligence**

Types of intelligence and description

Linguistic

You enjoy reading and writing. You explain your ideas via language. You get annoyed with people who use improper language. You give good directions to people so that they understand the first time.

Typical jobs

writers, lawyers, journalists, trainers, copy-writers, teachers, poets, editors, linguists, PR consultants, media consultants, TV and radio presenters

Logical-Mathematical

You like mathematics. You enjoy working with a calculator or a computer. You enjoy playing chess, checkers and solving logical puzzles. You are very curious about how things work.

Typical jobs

scientists, engineers, computer experts, accountants, statisticians, researchers, traders, insurance brokers, negotiators, deal-makers, directors

Spatial-Visual

You find your way around a new place easily. You read maps, charts, or diagrams more easily than text. You like to take things apart and then try to figure out how to put them back together. You understand relationship between images and meanings.

Typical jobs

artists, designers, cartoonists, architects, photographers, sculptors, town-planners, inventors, engineers, cosmetics and beauty consultants

Bodily-kinesthetic

You use a lot of hand gestures and body movement when talking to friends. You run, swim, and exercise without getting tired. You like to touch something you have just seen.

Multiple Intelligence Questionnaire

Based on Howard Gardner's Multiple Intelligences theory



Please complete the following questionnaire by assigning a numerical value to each of the statements that you consider represents you. If you agree that the statement very strongly represents you assign a 5. If the statement does not represent you assign a 0. Use the numbers 5 to 0 to grade each statement.

1.	I am skilful in working with objects	
2.	I have a good sense of direction	
3.	I have a natural ability to sort out arguments between friends	
4.	I can remember the words to music easily	
5.	I am able to explain topics which are difficult and make them clear	
6.	I always do things one step at a time (planning step by step)	
7.	I know myself well and understand why I behave as I do	
8.	I enjoy community activities and social events	
9.	I learn well from talk, lectures and listening to others	
10.	When listening to music I experience changes in mood	
11.	I enjoy puzzles, crosswords, logical problems	
12.	Charts, diagrams, visual displays are important to my learning	
13.	I am sensitive to the moods and feelings of those around me	
14.	I learn best when I have to get up and do it for myself	
15.	I need to see something in it for me before I want to learn something	
16.	I like privacy and quiet for working and thinking	
17.	I can pick out individual instruments in complex musical pieces	
18.	I can visualise remembered scenes easily	
19.	I have a well developed vocabulary and am expressive with it	
20.	I enjoy and value taking written notes	
21.	I have a good sense of balance and enjoy physical movement	
22.	I can discern patterns and relationships between experiences and things	
23.	In teams I co-operate and build on the ideas of others	
24.	I am observant and will often see things others miss	
25.	I get restless easily (I am very vivid and move a lot)	
26.	I enjoy working or learning independently of others	
27.	I enjoy making music	
28.	I have a facility with numbers and mathematical problems	

Now look at the key on page 23 and add your results. The highest number indicates what type you are.

Typical of jobs

dancers, actors, athletes, sports-people, soldiers, fire-fighters, fishermen, drivers, crafts-people, gardeners, chefs, adventurers

Musical

You listen to music a lot. You enjoy playing a musical instrument. You remember the melodies of songs. You can tell when music sounds off-key.

Typical of jobs

musicians, singers, composers, DJ's, music producers, piano tuners, acoustic engineers, entertainers, party-planners

Interpersonal

You like to work and play with other people. You understand how friends are feeling by looking at their faces. You have two or more close friends. You are a natural leader of teams.

Typical jobs

therapists, mediators, leaders, counsellors, politicians, educators, sales-people, clergy,

psychologists, teachers, doctors, organisers, carers, advertising professionals, coaches

Intrapersonal

You like to make collections of things that have special meaning to you. You remember your dreams. You often need a quiet place to work or just be alone.

Typical jobs

artists, poets, novelists, people who are self-aware and involved in the process of changing personal thoughts, beliefs and behaviour in relation to their situation, other people, their purpose and aims

I want my children to understand the world, but not just because the world is fascinating and the human mind is curious. I want them to understand it so that they will be positioned to make it a better place. Knowledge is not the same as morality, but we need to understand if we are to avoid past mistakes and move in productive directions. An important part of that understanding is knowing who we are and what we can do

Howard Gardner