

Harvard professor Howard Gardner has identified eight different types of intelligences that each individual has the capacity to possess. The idea of multiple intelligences is important because it allows for educators to identify differing strengths and weaknesses in students and it also contradicts the idea that intelligence can be measured through a simple IQ test.

Summaries of eight intelligences:

Visual/Spatial - Involves visual perception of the environment, the ability to create and manipulate mental images, and the orientation of the body in space.

Verbal/Linguistic - Involves reading, writing, speaking, and conversing in one's own or foreign languages.

Logical/Mathematical - Involves number and computing skills, recognizing patterns and relationships, timeliness and order, and the ability to solve different kinds of problems through logic.

Bodily/Kinaesthetic - Involves physical coordination and dexterity, using fine and gross motor skills, and expressing oneself or learning through physical activities.

Musical - Involves understanding and expressing oneself through music and rhythmic movements or dance, or composing, playing, or conducting music.

Interpersonal - Involves understanding how to communicate with and understand other people and how to work collaboratively.

Intrapersonal - Involves understanding one's inner world of emotions and thoughts, and growing in the ability to control them and work with them consciously.

Naturalist - Involves understanding the natural world of plants and animals, noticing their characteristics, and categorizing them; it generally involves keen observation and the ability to classify other things as well.