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Intelligence

By [Carol Bainbridge](#), About.com

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Definition: Intelligence

There are probably as many definitions of *intelligence* as there are experts who study it. Simply put, however, intelligence is the ability to learn about, learn from, understand, and interact with one's environment. This general ability consists of a number of specific abilities, which include these specific abilities:

Adaptability to a new environment or to changes in the current environment
Capacity for knowledge and the ability to acquire it
Capacity for reason and abstract thought
Ability to comprehend relationships
Ability to evaluate and judge
Capacity for original and productive thought

Additional specific abilities might be added to the list, but they would all be abilities allowing a person to learn about, learn from, understand, and interact with the environment. Environment in this definition doesn't mean the environment of the earth, such as the desert, the mountains, etc., although it can mean that kind of environment. It has a wider meaning that includes a person's immediate surroundings, including the people around him or her. Environment in this case can also be something as small as a family, the workplace, or a classroom.

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