

WORK SMARTS™

Picture Smart

What Is It?

Picture smarts (or spatial intelligence) is the ability to perceive and depict the visual-spatial world accurately. This intelligence involves sensitivity to shape, line, color, form, and space and the relationships that exist between them. The kinds of processes used in this intelligence include the capacity to visualize and graphically represent ideas. People who have highly developed picture smarts tend to be excellent architects and artists. They are often visual thinkers who “see” solutions to problems. They think in pictures and images and are very aware of objects, shapes, colors, patterns, and textures.

How They Learn

People with picture smarts learn best when they can create mental images and use their imaginations. They form mental models to help them solve problems and prefer to learn by looking at maps, representations, illustrations, dioramas, and posters. They also function well when they can create visual representations of their theories and ideas.

Picture Smarts & Careers

People possessing picture smarts are best suited for occupations that involve the arts or the sciences. Those interested in the arts are likely to cultivate skills in painting, sculpting, drawing, or design. They are able to imagine and visualize an object and then make an art object from this mental image in their head. Those interested in science can use their visualization skills in engineering, architecture, and drafting. The rapid rise of the Internet and its graphics-based interface has opened up even more opportunities for individuals with picture smarts.

Keep This In Mind

Look at the big picture – You probably have and use most of the eight intelligences to some degree or another throughout your daily life. You may even excel at multiple intelligences and use them effectively in your career. That’s why it can be useful to read through the materials for each intelligence.

Develop career aspirations – The theory of multiple intelligences can help you explore intelligences you possess and then use this knowledge to help you make career choices. Remember that the *Work Smarts* assessment is not designed to match you with an occupation, but it can help you explore many occupations related to your intelligences that you might not have considered before.

Embrace your strengths – Remember that multiple intelligences stretch over a wide spectrum of abilities, not just those traditionally valued by society, such as English and math. Now is your chance to see the different ways that you are intelligent and to capitalize on your strengths.

Don’t ignore hidden intelligences – The theory of multiple intelligences allows you to identify and work to develop your hidden or underdeveloped intelligences. It is never too late to awaken unused abilities. Doing so can even open up career paths that you will find more productive and rewarding.

“One picture is worth a thousand words.” – Fred R. Barnard

Top Occupations for Picture Smart People

Surveyors make exact measurements and determine property boundaries. They provide data relevant to the shape, contour, gravitation, location, elevation, or dimension of land or land features on or near the earth's surface for engineering, mapmaking, mining, land evaluation, construction, and other purposes.

Outlook: Much-faster-than-average (21% or higher) growth with a need for 33,000 additional employees for 2006–2016.

Median Earnings: \$51,630/year

Interior Designers plan, design, and furnish interiors of residential, commercial, or industrial buildings. They formulate designs which are practical, aesthetic, and conducive to intended purposes, such as raising productivity, selling merchandise, or improving life style.

Outlook: Faster-than-average (14% to 20%) growth with a need for 33,000 additional employees for 2006–2016.

Median Earnings: \$43,970/year

Architects plan and design structures such as private residences, office buildings, theaters, factories, and other structural property.

Outlook: Faster-than-average (14% to 20%) growth with a need for 48,000 additional employees for 2006–2016.

Median Earnings: \$67,620/year

Multi-Media Artists and Animators create special effects, animation, or other visual images using film, video, computers, or other electronic tools and media for use in products or creations such as computer games, movies, music videos, and commercials.

Outlook: Much-faster-than-average (21% or higher) growth with a need for 43,000 additional employees for 2006–2016.

Median Earnings: \$54,550/year

Picture Smart Workplace Skills

Knowledge of design techniques, tools, and principles involved in the production of plans, blueprints, drawings, and models.

The ability to analyze needs and product requirements to create a design.

The ability to imagine how something will look after it is rearranged.

The ability to develop creative ways to solve a problem.

The ability to match or detect differences between colors, shapes, and brightness.

Profiles in Intelligence

Michelangelo was an Italian Renaissance painter, sculptor, architect, and poet. His artistic output included the paintings on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel in Rome and the sculpture of David in Rome. Of course you don't have to be a famous painter to make the most of your picture smarts. An advertising executive, graphic designer, or landscape architect may someday become the Michelangelo of his or her own field.

MI Resources

Multiple Intelligences: New Horizons in Theory and Practice, Howard Gardner

7 Kinds of Smart: Identifying and Developing Your Multiple Intelligences, Thomas Armstrong

www.thomasarmstrong.com/multiple_intelligences.htm

www.newhorizons.org/strategies/mi/front_mi.htm