

# Steinberg's Triarchic Theory of Intelligence

Narrator:

What does it **mean** to be intelligent? Does it mean that you are **good** at **math**? ...that you are **artistic**? ...that you can find your **way** around a **new** city without a **map**?

According to American psychologist Robert **Sternberg**, intelligence is a **measure** of how you perform in the **world, every** day. Sternberg's **triarchic** theory describes **3** types of intelligence:

**Analytical** Intelligence,  
**Creative** Intelligence,  
And **Practical** Intelligence

Did you ever refer to someone as "book smart"? It's likely you did so because the person had strong **analytical intelligence**. **Analytical intelligence** (also called **componential** intelligence) is the ability to **problem-solve, analyze** information, and complete **academic** tasks.

**Creative intelligence** is a person's ability to use **existing** knowledge to deal with **new** situations. Because this type of intelligence calls on **past experiences**, it is also referred to as **experiential** intelligence. People with high **creative** intelligence have strong **insight**, big **imaginations**, and new **ideas**.

**Practical intelligence** is sometimes thought of as "**common sense**" or "**street** smarts." It is a person's ability to **thrive** in the **real world** and **adapt** in changing situations. Practical intelligence is also called **contextual** intelligence.

According to Sternberg, most people have **all 3 types** of intelligence to some degree.

- Analytical,
- creative,
- and practical.

## Recap: Sternberg's Triarchic Theory of Intelligence

According to Sternberg, there are 3 types of intelligence:

- **Analytical** intelligence, or **componential** intelligence, is the ability to **solve** problems.
- **Creative** intelligence, or **experiential** intelligence, is a person's ability to apply **existing** knowledge to **new** problems.
- **Practical** intelligence, or **contextual** intelligence, often thought of as **common sense**, is the ability to **adapt** to the changing world.
- Sternberg says we **all** have these **3 kinds** of intelligence to **varying** degrees.