**[It's not that I'm so smart, it's just that I stay with problems longer.](http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/quotes/a/alberteins106192.html%22%20%5Co%20%22view%20quote)**
[**Albert Einstein**](http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/authors/a/albert_einstein.html)

An intelligence quotient or IQ is a score derived from a set of standardized tests developed to measure a person's cognitive abilities ("intelligence") in relation to their age group. It is also *only* one way to measure a person’s intelligence in a short amount of time.

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Modern IQ tests produce scores for different areas (e.g., language fluency, three-dimensional thinking, etc.), with the summary score calculated from subtest scores.

*-Examples of some Tests:*

* Weschler Intelligence Scale for Children (WISC)
* Weschler Adult Intelligence Scale (WAIS)
* Weschler Nonverbal Scale of Ability (WNV)
* Woodcock-Johnson Tests of Cognitive Abilities (WJ-Cog)
* Stanford-Binet Intelligence Test

-*What do cognitive tests measure?* – These assessments look at a person’s ability to learn and may include the some following areas:

* Performance Ability (spatial, reasoning)
* Verbal Ability (language)
* Nonverbal Ability (shapes, patterns)
* Thinking Ability (different thinking processes—which include visual-spatial, retrieval, reasoning)
* Working Memory (long and short term)
* Processing Speed (fluency)

-*What do scores mean?* One test sample . . .

|  |
| --- |
| Woodcock-Johnson IV Test of Cognitive Abilities [NU] |
| **IQ Score** | **WJ IV Classification** |
| **131 and above** | Very superior |
| **121 to 130** | Superior |
| **111 to 120** | High Average |
| **90 to 110** | Average |
| **80 to 89** | Low Average |
| **70 to 79** | Low |
| **69 and below** | Very Low |

-*How do IQs affect learning?*

* A person with a high IQ may learn or pick up a new task more quickly than someone with a lower IQ.
* There is some evidence that a person’s IQ may be better if they had more nurturing parents, better diet, or had more stimulating activities as a baby.
* IQ is relatively stable no matter what education you acquire vs your achievement which can change over time.
* A person may have strengths and weaknesses with their cognitive ability.

-Other Types of Assessments

* Aptitude Tests (ASVAB)
* Achievement Tests (ACT, Woodcock-Johnson Tests of Achievement)
* Personality Tests (Computerized-Special Operations Resilience Test or C-SORT)

-What is a standard deviation?

* A quantity calculated to indicate the extent of deviation for a group as a whole.



-What does standardized mean?

* A standardized test is a test that is administered and scored in a consistent, or "standard", manner. Standardized tests are designed in such a way that the questions, conditions for administering, scoring procedures, and interpretations are consistent and are administered and scored in a predetermined, standard manner.

-*What about disabilities?*

* A Learning Disability is not a sign of low intelligence. A learning disability is another way of saying learning problem. This may manifest itself differently with different people. Some people’s brains may be wired a bit differently (how they take in and process information).
* Traumatic Brain Injuries: Some people may have an injury to part of their brain which may affect their language center, their reasoning, or other motor abilities (etc). Other diseases such as dementia may affect the brain in which the person may have been in the average range of intelligence earlier in life.
* Intellectual Disability affects people whose cognitive abilities are below 69 and also have difficulties adapting to things around them. They may need support throughout their life in order to function independently.
* Physical Disabilities may affect people at various ages such as multiple sclerosis, muscular dystrophy, accidents, etc. Depending upon the reason for the physical disability, it may or may not affect cognitive abilities.

-*Closing Note*

* Don’t forget . . . not all disabilities are visible to you. Many things go on internally in the brain. Many diseases or disabilities do not have answers or cures at this time.