

Cognitive Ability and Definition	It's like...	What This Could <u>Generally</u> Look Like	What You Might <u>Specifically</u> See at Home or School
<p>Crystallized Knowledge: An individual's amount of knowledge of their own culture.</p>	<p>The brain's "library," where learned information is stored. Some libraries are bigger and have many materials while others are smaller and have fewer materials.</p>	<p>Difficulties/Strengths with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning new information • Understanding the words people use when speaking • Remembering facts • Using appropriate words when talking 	<p>Difficulties/Strengths with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The amount of words they use and understand (vocabulary) • Understanding what they are reading • Understanding math concepts • Following the rules of writing (grammar) • Creative writing • Understanding class lessons
<p>Fluid Reasoning: An individual's ability to solve problems with new information.</p>	<p>The brain's "detective," that helps to examine clues, draw conclusions, and solve new problems. Some detectives are able to solve problems just by thinking about them, while others solve problems by asking questions and looking at real things.</p>	<p>Difficulties/Strengths with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solving unfamiliar and/or complex problems • Thinking about new situations • Learning something in one situation and being able to use that knowledge in a different situation 	<p>Difficulties/Strengths with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Figuring out the main idea from a reading passage • Drawing conclusions in reading, math or science • Understanding math word problems or science concepts • Understanding the process of completing a math problem • Explaining how ideas are the same or different when writing and coming up with a conclusion • Developing a theme when writing
<p>Auditory Processing: An individual's ability to hear and use orally presented information.</p>	<p>The brain's "drive-through attendant" who hears a customer's message through a speaker system, interprets it, and then performs an action based upon that message (i.e., they enter a food order into a computer system). There can be error in the food ordering process if a message is misheard.</p>	<p>Difficulties/Strengths with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Correctly hearing oral information • Hearing differences between similar sounds • Paying attention in places where there is background noise • Figuring out which direction a sound is coming from 	<p>Difficulties/Strengths with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breaking words into smaller letter sounds • Blending letter sounds to make a word • Sounding out words • Reading word problems • Spelling • Note taking • Doing high-quality writing
<p>Visual Processing: An individual's ability to use visual information.</p>	<p>The brain's "photographer," who is able to take images, store them on a memory card and "Photoshop" them if needed. Some photographers can take more detailed pictures, store more on a memory card, and change the way a photo looks more than others.</p>	<p>Difficulties/Strengths with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognizing patterns • Attending to fine visual details • Remembering visual information • Organizing visual information • Visualizing (i.e., holding a picture in your "mind's eye") • Seeing the difference in how objects look (e.g., size, location, position) • Imagining how something might look when it is changed (e.g., rotated, partially covered, changed in size) • Memorizing and using letters, words, and word patterns (e.g., -tion, -ing) 	<p>Difficulties/Strengths with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognizing whole words (i.e., sight words) • Reading or writing without changing the order of letters in a word or making reversals • Reading and interpreting maps, graphs, tables, charts, and blueprints • Planning and organizing visual information on a page (e.g., aligning numbers when doing math problems) • Building puzzles • Using patterns and designs in art, geometry or geography • Spelling sight words • Writing with appropriate size, spacing, and slant of words
<p>Processing Speed: An individual's ability to complete simple tasks quickly and correctly.</p>	<p>The brain's "internet speed." Some people have processing speed that would be similar to dial-up internet (slow to process information) while others have speed similar to internet provided through fiber optic cables (quick to process information).</p>	<p>Difficulties/Strengths with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completing simple tasks quickly and correctly • Working within a time limit • Making quick decisions 	<p>Difficulties/Strengths with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading at a good pace (which affects understanding) • Quickly answering math fact questions • Efficient written output • Motivation to produce writing • Getting thoughts across quickly when talking

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<p>Short-Term/Working Memory: An individual's ability to hold information in mind and use this information within a few seconds.</p>	<p>The brain's "<i>post-it note</i>," where messages are temporarily placed and then thrown out after being used. Some people are able to write a lot of information on their post-it notes, while others write just a few messages.</p>	<p><i>Difficulties/Strengths with:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remembering complex instructions (i.e., more than one) • Following through with multi-part instructions • Multi-tasking • Remembering a sequence of information • Memorizing information • Keeping a train of thought 	<p><i>Difficulties/Strengths with:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sounding out longer words when reading • Spelling longer words • Understanding and remembering what they are reading • Memorizing math facts • Remembering the process of completing a math problem • Figuring out the main information from a math word problem • Note taking
<p>Long-Term Memory/Retrieval: An individual's ability to store information in memory and use it in the future.</p>	<p>The brain's "<i>vault</i>" or "<i>safe</i>," where information is kept. Some vaults have complex security systems (and take more effort to access), but some only have simple access codes. They also vary on how big and organized they are.</p>	<p><i>Difficulties/Strengths with:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning new concepts • Recalling specific information • Learning and recalling information <i>quickly</i> • Remembering information without repetition or review 	<p><i>Difficulties/Strengths with:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using personal experiences to help with understanding new reading passages • Remembering the specific sounds that letters make when reading • Summarizing what they have read • Recalling math facts • Thinking of words and ideas to use when writing or talking