

Lesson 2: The Foundation of MAST Methodology

Part B

Examining Personality Theories

Identifying and understanding the personalities of participants in a MAST project helps you to work with different types of people. Additionally, the MAST methodology has been influenced by research into the field of personality, as you will discover to a greater extent in the next lesson.

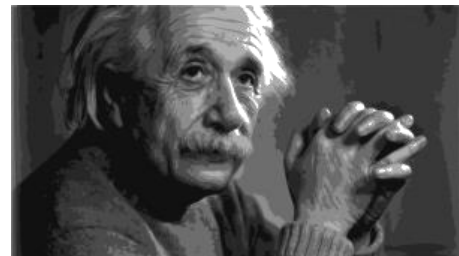
Three theories of personality have been particularly influential in MAST, including:

- Multiple Intelligences theory
- Shapes theory
- Left/Right Brain theory

Examining Multiple Intelligences Theory

What Is Intelligence?

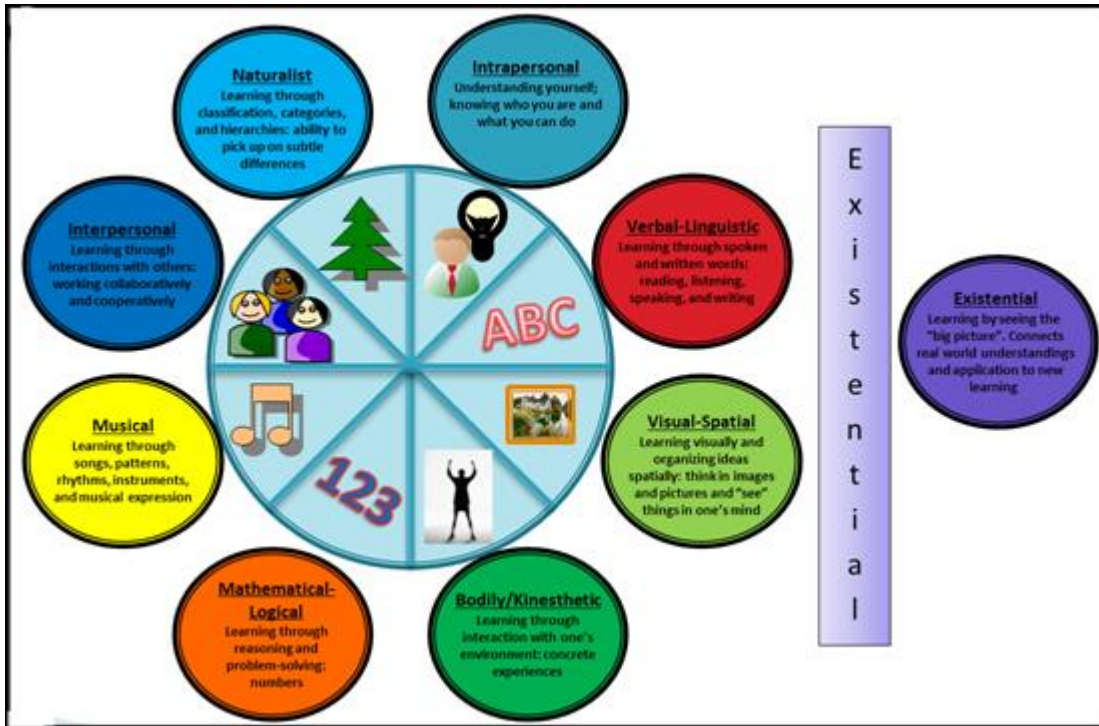
When Albert Einstein was a child, he was so slow in learning to speak that his parents consulted a doctor, fearing that he was developmentally disabled. Later in life, recognizing that there are many types of intelligence, Einstein expressed the sentiment, “Everybody is a genius. But if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing it is stupid.”



Psychologists and behaviorists used to believe that intelligence consisted only of logical and linguistic ability and that people had a fixed amount of intelligence that did not change. Then in 1983 Dr. Howard Gardner, a Harvard professor of education, formulated his Multiple Intelligences Theory. This theory postulated that there are different intelligences, that everyone possesses all intelligences, but that people learn differently based on the dominant intelligences with which they have been most gifted.

Types of Intelligence

Gardner at first identified eight intelligences and in later work added one more. They are:



- *Naturalist* (nature smart): Ability to categorize animals, plants, and so on, in nature
- *Intrapersonal* (self smart): Understanding oneself, self-awareness, personal objectivity, knowing your fears, motivations, feelings, and beliefs
- *Verbal-Linguistic* (word smart): Verbal skills; written and spoken language; rhythm, sounds, and meanings of words; ability to learn languages; remembering information
- *Visual-Spatial* (picture smart): Creation and interpretation of visual images, thinking in images and pictures, visualizing accurately and abstractly
- *Bodily-Kinesthetic* (body smart): Mental capacity to coordinate movement, physical agility and balance, eye/body coordination, dexterity, handling objects skillfully, using the body to express emotion or play a sport
- *Mathematical-Logical* (logic smart): Detecting and analyzing problems, scientific reasoning and deduction, mathematical operations
- *Musical* (music smart): Recognizing, composing, and appreciating music; differentiating pitches, tones, rhythms, timbers, and sounds; understanding relationship of sound and feeling; appreciating musical patterns and performance.
- *Interpersonal* (people smart): Interpreting behaviors and communications, responding appropriately to others, understanding moods or feelings of others
- *Existential*: Capability of tackling deep questions

Multiple Intelligences Examples

These are some examples of occupations exhibiting each of the intelligences:

- *Naturalist*: Farmers, gardeners, florists, geologists, archaeologists
- *Intrapersonal*: Psychiatrists, spiritual counselors

- *Verbal/Linguistic*: Mark Twain, Robert Frost, poets, writers, newscasters
- *Visual/Spatial*: Martin Luther King (dreamer), artists, architects, advertising
- *Bodily/Kinesthetic*: Fred Astaire, dancers, dramatic actors, mimes, physical educators
- *Logical/mathematical*: Einstein, accountants, bankers, medicine, scientific research
- *Musical/Rhythmic*: Michael Jackson, Taylor Swift, music composers, music teachers, musical theatre
- *Interpersonal*: Billy Graham, counselors, politicians, sociologists, therapists, pastors
- *Existential*: Aristotle, theologians, philosophers

Implications of Multiple Intelligences Theory

Think about:

- Which intelligence type describes you or someone you know, such as a friend, spouse, or child?
- What implications would this theory have for teaching? For working?

Much education focuses on using logical and linguistic methods. However, education may be more effective if teachers use a variety of methods, exercises, and activities to reach all types of intelligences.

When you work with or manage other people, it is helpful to know their dominant intelligence to be able to communicate with them effectively.

When teaching or working with multiple intelligences, it is helpful to use diverse teaching methods and various ways to communicate to enable people to learn and work in ways that are most comfortable for their predominant intelligences.

Utilizing Multiple Intelligences Theory

These different types of intelligences tend to learn differently and therefore benefit most from different types of teaching.

- *Naturalist*: Studying outside, being around pets and plants, using senses other than hearing, observing nature
- *Intrapersonal*: Avoiding distractions, working toward personal goals, playing solitary games, working independently, relating personal experiences
- *Verbal-Linguistic*: Reading, memorizing, word games, rhymes, using the internet
- *Visual-Spatial*: Pictures, videos, visual aids/props, mazes/puzzles, using the internet
- *Bodily-Kinesthetic*: Role plays, physical examples, exercising while reviewing, field trips, asking logical questions, using the internet
- *Mathematical-Logical*: Experiments, strategy games, analyzing data, asking logical questions, using the internet
- *Musical*: Listening to recordings, talking to your self, making up songs, reading aloud, changing tempo

- *Interpersonal*: Group studies, comparing information with others, interviewing experts, relating personal experiences, team projects
- *Existential*: Asking questions requiring deep thought, presenting the big picture; looking at a topic from different points of view; providing overviews and summaries, teaching concepts to others

Exercise: Multiple Intelligences Quiz

Existential learners can most benefit from which one of the following:

- A. Studying outside
- B. Answering questions requiring deep thought
- C. Listening to recordings
- D. Associating concepts with parts of the body

Answer: B

Match the type of intelligence with the description of how that type best learns:

Intelligence Type	Learns best through:
<u> </u> Verbal-Linguistic	A. Interactions with others
<u> </u> Interpersonal	B. Spoken and written words
<u> </u> Bodily/Kinesthetic	C. Interaction with environment

Answers:

- B Verbal-Linguistic
- A Interpersonal
- C Bodily/Kinesthetic

Please proceed to Part C of Lesson 2.