

Characteristics of High Achievers, Gifted Learners, and Creative Thinkers

| A High Achiever... | A Gifted Learner... | A Creative Thinker... |
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| Remembers the answers. | Poses unforeseen questions. | Sees exceptions. |
| Is interested. | Is curious. | Wonders. |
| Is attentive. | Is selectively, mentally engaged. | Daydreams; may seem off task. |
| Generates advanced ideas. | Generates complex, abstract ideas. | Overflows with ideas, many of which will never be developed. |
| Works hard to achieve. | Knows without working hard. | Plays with ideas and concepts. |
| Answers the questions in detail. | Ponders with depth and multiple perspectives. | Injects new possibilities. |
| Performs at the top of the group. | Is beyond the group. | Is in own group. |
| Responds with interest and opinions. | Exhibits feelings and opinions from multiple perspectives. | Shares bizarre, sometimes conflicting opinions. |
| Learns with ease. | Already knows. | Questions: What if... |
| Needs 6-8 repetitions to master. | Needs 1-3 repetitions to master. | Questions the need for mastery. |
| Comprehends at a higher level. | Comprehends in-depth, complex ideas. | Overflows with ideas—many of which will never be developed. |
| Enjoys the company of age peers. | Prefers the company of intellectual peers. | Prefers the company of creative peers but often works alone. |
| Understands complex, abstract humor. | Creates complex, abstract humor. | Relishes wild, off-the-wall humor. |
| Grasps the meaning. | Infers and connects concepts. | Makes mental leaps: Aha! |
| Completes assignments on time. | Initiates projects and extensions of assignments. | Initiates more projects than will ever be completed. |
| Is receptive. | Is intense. | Is independent and unconventional. |
| Is accurate and complete. | Is original and continually developing. | Is original and continually developing. |
| Enjoys school often. | Enjoys self-directed learning. | Enjoys creating. |
| Absorbs information | Manipulates information. | Improvises. |
| Is a technician with expertise in a field. | Is an expert who abstracts beyond the field. | Is an inventor and idea generator. |
| Memorizes well. | Guesses and infers well. | Creates and brainstorms well. |
| Is highly alert and observant. | Anticipates and relates observations. | Is intuitive. |
| Is pleased with own learning. | Is self-critical. | Is never finished with possibilities. |