Karen, a 27-year-old law clerk, had always felt ordinary. All of her friends seemed so much more intelligent. They were gifted in areas like music or writing, while Karen wasn't sure she had any special talent at all.

"I felt depressed that I wasn't good at anything," she remembers.

But when she confided in a friend, she was met with astonishment. "But you're..."

Some kinds of intelligence aren't usually measured with grades or IQ tests, but they may be the key to making your life better and more successful.

Discover your hidden genius

Karen was working in a public relations firm and doing a terrific job. "Everyone has a hidden genius," confirms Thomas Armstrong, the author of Seven Kinds of Smart: Identifying and Developing Your Many Intelligences (Plume, 1993). "You just have to find and develop it," he says.

**Word genius**

These are folks with a real gift for gab! You may have this kind of intelligence if:

- You're practically unbeatable at Scrabble.
- You have an exceptionally large vocabulary.
- You're an ace at crossword puzzles.

**Make your word smarts work for you**

People who are word smart make great executive secretaries, librarians, writers and paralegals. If you're this type, you'd also do well working in a bookstore or writing a newsletter for a local organization.

At home, use your word smarts to save money on long-distance calls: friends will enjoy getting long, chatty letters from you.

**Social genius**

People with social smarts are blessed with a natural ease around other people. They're good listeners and can usually find a way to communicate with almost anybody.

You may have this kind of intelligence if:

- You have a lot of friends.
- You strike up conversations with everyone.
- You're usually the life of the party.
- You know how to handle sticky social and work situations graciously.

**Make your social smarts work for you**

Social workers, public relations professionals, teachers and coaches are usually people smart.

If you fall into this category, consider a service or sales position that involves working with the public.

Your special talent can also work for you in daily life. With your natural charm, you should be able to get the
I can actually assemble your children's Christmas presents.
You like to sew your own clothes.
You make arts and crafts.
You're good at sports like tennis, which require superior coordination.

You can pull together unlike-ly but attractive outfits.
You have a knack for arranging flowers.

You may have this kind of intelligence if:
- You have an eye for color.
- You pull together unlikely but attractive outfits.
- You have a knack for arranging flowers.

Make your art smarts work for you
People with artistic intelligence may become paint-
- You can rattle off phone numbers by memory.
- You can do quick calculations in your head.
- You can name all the plants, trees and flowers that grow in your neighborhood at first sighting.

Make your math/science smarts work for you
Bookkeepers, accountants and medical technicians all need this kind of intelligence. Consider a job as a computer programmer or as a tour guide for a science-oriented museum.

You may have this kind of intelligence if:
- You have a knack for minor car repairs.
- Your houseplants thrive.

Artistic genius
Since there are so many ways to express creativity, you may be an artist with-
- You have a knack for figures and a love of logic.
- They're also curious about the natural world around them.

Hands-on genius
If you're ever stranded on a desert island, you'll want to have a person with hands-on smarts with you!
You may have this type of intelligence if:
- You have a knack for minor car repairs.
- Your houseplants thrive.

Math/science genius
People who are math/science smart have a head for figures and a love of logic. They're also curious about the natural world around them.

You may have this kind of intelligence if:
- You can rattle off phone numbers by memory.
- You can do quick calculations in your head.
- You can name all the plants, trees and flowers that grow in your neighborhood at first sighting.

Make your math/science smarts work for you
Bookkeepers, accountants and medical technicians all need this kind of intelligence. Consider a job as a computer programmer or as a tour guide for a science-oriented museum.

And of course, you can put your math aptitude to good use by doing your own taxes each year!

—Alison Bell