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BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

More 6 Minute English



June 2008

March - April 2008

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- Cyber crime
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Are you intelligent?

Are you really as intelligent as you like to think you are? A study shows men are more likely to overrate their intelligence than women. Jackie and Callum look at the results and at the language of abilities.

This week's question: The word 'intelligence' comes from the Latin verb 'intellegere'. This means...

- a) to see
- b) to know
- c) to understand

Listen out for the answer to this question at the end of the programme!

Listen

AUDIO Intelligence

Words to describe intelligent people

bright (most often used with children)
 smart
 clever
 sharp
 quick

Words meaning 'the things you can do'

abilities

Example: *I'm not sure he has the right abilities for this job.*

We can be specific about kinds of abilities, for example, mathematical ability, musical ability etc.

skills

Examples:

I want to develop my writing skills.

He is a skilled writer.

talents

Examples:

He has a talent for painting.

He is a talented painter.

gifts

Examples:

She has a gift for singing.

She is a gifted singer.

Note: gifts and talents are more likely to be used to mean natural abilities that you are born with, while skills are things you can learn or acquire.

to do something to the best of your ability

to do it as well as you can

Example: *I promise I will do it to the best of my ability.*



Extras

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