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### **Intelligence Is Abstraction**

Abstractions are the basic units of intelligence. Even a short version of an IQ test, such as the VIBS, is not limited just to information. The other three elements, vocabulary, block design, and similarities identify a thinker's ability to use abstractions.

There are three facets of abstractions.

There is the abstraction skill itself, the “thing.” An abstraction is a similarity/difference. It is communicated through some kind of vocabulary in language. The “vocabulary” of music is notes or sounds; visual “vocabulary” might be elements of color, brush strokes, lights. Remember how the movie *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* used music, lights, hand motions to communicate intelligently?

Abstraction units, the “things,” are put together in a pattern. Putting things together in a pattern allows the thinker to sort, categorize, classify, and sequence. Intelligent activity in any form puts things together in some kind of pattern. Intelligence organizes, establishes frameworks. (Otherwise, we would always be bumping into trees – Life would be one darn thing after another.)

Abstractions establish relations – relationships. They are relationals. Even the abstraction basics, similarities/differences, set things in relation to each other. All intelligent activity – whether it is a word, an anagram, or a metaphor; notes on a scale, a tune, or a symphony; a move, a dance, or choreography; sets things in relation to one another.

## *Intelligence Is Abstraction*

Abstractions are  
skills,  
patterns,  
relations.

Abstractions are the things that are measured by any test of intelligence – whether it is a standard IQ test that relies on verbal skills and is often culturally bound, or an instrument designed for more non-verbal activity.

Now that we have identified what is behind intelligence testing, the ability to abstract, we can set it in a context for the purpose we desire.