



# Traits of Giftedness

No gifted individual is exactly the same, each with her or his own unique patterns and traits. There are many traits that gifted individuals have in common, but no gifted learner exhibits traits in every area. This list of traits may help you better understand whether or not a student is gifted.

Cognitive	Creative	Affective	Behavioral
Keen power of abstraction			Intensely focused on passions—resists changing activities when engrossed in own interests
Interest in problem-solving and applying concepts	Creativeness and inventiveness	Unusual emotional depth and intensity	Constantly questions; insatiable curiosity
Voracious and early reader with large vocabulary	Keen sense of humor	High expectations of self and others, often leading to feelings of frustration	Impulsive, eager and spirited
Intellectual curiosity or diversity of interests and abilities	Ability for fantasy	Heightened self-awareness, accompanied by feelings of being different	Perseverance—strong determination in areas of importance
Power of critical thinking, skepticism, self-criticism	Intuitiveness	Easily wounded, need for emotional support	High levels of frustration—particularly when having difficulty meeting standards of performance (either imposed by self or others)
	Self-acceptance and unconcern for social norms	Idealism and sense of justice	

Source: Clark, B. (2008). *Growing up gifted (7<sup>th</sup> ed.)* Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Prentice Hall.