

How to Be Smart: Simultaneous

When we say someone is smart, we usually mean that they know a lot of information. Yet, being smart also means having a lot of ability to learn new things. Being smart at learning new things includes knowing and using *thinking abilities*. There are ways to use your abilities *better* when you are learning.

What Does Being Smart Mean?

Simultaneous ability is what you use to see how things fit together. This ability helps you see the *big picture*. This ability is what helps you understand the meaning of a sentence and a story. It is also very important for seeing patterns in numbers, word spellings, or themes in a story. It also lets you judge distances. For example, when you throw a ball you have to judge the distance to your target and how high you have to aim to get it there.

How Can You Be Smarter?

You can be smarter if you look to see how things are connected. Sometimes people say, “Get the big picture.” This saying is about using your Simultaneous ability. When you stop and think about *how things fit together to make the “big picture,”* you are using your Simultaneous ability.

You will be able to learn more if you remember to see patterns and themes in all you do. An easy way to remember to do this is to look at the picture “Think smart and put the pieces together!” (Figure 1). You should always use your ability to see how parts go together to make a whole when

reading; studying vocabulary, spelling, or science; and solving math problems.

It is smart to use your ability to see the big picture when doing all schoolwork. When you read, you should draw a picture of the characters and story line. Use a series of drawings that shows what happens in the story. Creating a story by using pictures is an excellent way to organize the information. Simultaneous ability is used when you do that, and it is a good way to be smarter about your work!

You can improve your math skills if you use Simultaneous ability. Think about the problem, see what information is needed and what is not, figure out what is related to what, and use esti-

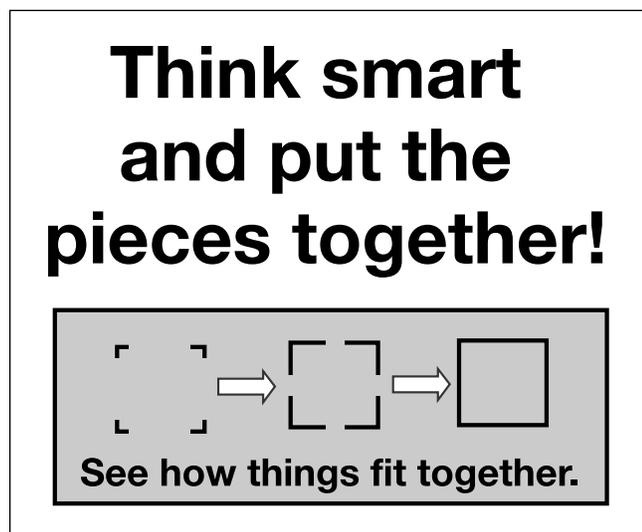


Figure 1. Picture for remembering to see the big picture.

mation to get an idea of how big the answer might be. Draw a diagram of the problem so that you understand the question better. Using your Simultaneous ability in this way is a good way to be smart!

How Can You Be Smart with Other People?

You should always use Simultaneous ability with the people in your life, too. Think about who likes whom and how people form groups. If you do something, how does it affect the group? Do some people in the group act the same and others act differently? Looking at groups of people will help you see how each person is related to the other. Using Simultaneous ability with other people is another way to be smart!

Resources

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- Scheid, K. (1993). *Helping students become strategic learners*. Brookline, MA: Brookline Books.