

Wagner, R. K. (2000). Practical intelligence. In R. J. Sternberg (Ed.). *Handbook of Intelligence*, (pp. 380-95). Cambridge, England: Cambridge University Press.

What is practical intelligence? Some define it as intelligence that is used in managing a business, or more generally, problems that are solved outside of school. Problems found in schools or on IQ tests "tend to (a) be well-defined; (b) be formulated by others; (c) come with all the information required for problem solution; (d) have one correct answer; (e) have one or at most several methods for obtaining the correct answer; and (f) be unrelated to everyday experience. In contrast, the more practical problems of everyday life, including many of the problems encountered in diverse careers, often are (a) defined poorly; (b) formulated by the problem solver; (c) missing information essential to solution; (d) characterized by having multiple solutions, each associated with liabilities and assets; (e) characterized by having multiple methods of obtaining each solution; and (f) related to everyday experience" (Wagner, 2000, p. 381). Much of this chapter gives examples of practical intelligence among people of different cultures, such as automobile mechanics in poor countries, ocean navigators among the Pulawat people of Micronesia, street vendors in Brazil, and racetrack handicappers. It also gives examples of how well practical intelligence predicts performance in real life and on the job. What I found most valuable about this chapter was the clear definitions of well-structured and ill-structured problems.