

## **Are you a big thinker or a small thinker? Take the test below and find out...**

Think of people who are five times wealthier than you. Are they five times smarter? Are they five times better than you? If the answer is no, then you may wonder what makes them different.

In his best-selling book, *The Magic of Thinking Big*, David Schwartz suggests that the difference could be that they think five times bigger. We are, after all, the product of our thinking. Is your thinking small or big?

The size of bank accounts, the size of happiness accounts, and the size of one's general satisfaction in life account is dependent on the size of one's thinking. Yes, there is magic in thinking big.

Big thinking generates the power, skill, and energy needed to do big things. When you believe you can do something the "how to do it" develops. The "how to do it" always comes to the person who believes he can do it.

Big thinking is the driving force, the power behind all great books, scientific discoveries and every successful business. Big thinking is the one basic, absolutely essential ingredient in all successful people.

Small thinking is a driving force as well. It's a force that can lead people to failure or mediocrity. The problem is, when you think small the mind attracts "reasons" to support small thinking. Doubt and disbelief show up and they are responsible for many failures.

You see, it doesn't matter how much intelligence you have but how you use what you do have. The thinking that guides your intelligence is much more important than the quantity of your brain power.

Here's a short profile test below, to help you determine if you are more of a big thinker or more of a small thinker, along with some tips on how to think big. Please note, this is not a scientific test by any means nor is it the definitive answer on whether you are a big or small thinker. Rather, it's a starting point meant to get you thinking about you approach things. There's no right or wrong answer, just feedback.

Here's the test. With each question, just answer True or False if you generally agree or disagree with the statement when applied to your thinking.

True/False

1. I believe that I make my own success.
2. I have to be reminded sometimes that I'm better than I think I am.
3. I think success has a lot to do with luck and intelligence.

4. When I experience a setback, I try to learn and profit from the experience.
5. I use big, positive, cheerful words to describe how I feel.
6. I use bright, favorable words to describe others.
7. I regularly write my ideas and plans down on paper.
8. I don't really try to anticipate problems. Rather, I usually meet problems as they arise.
9. I think you are either born with confidence or without it. I don't think it can be acquired.
10. I don't wait for the spirit to move me. I move the spirit.
11. I have an image of myself 10 years from now.
12. I generally let others take the lead in organizations or groups to which I belong.
13. I often complain about my health.
14. I constantly make bold decisions.
15. I don't normally set aside specific time in my day/week just to be creative.
16. I like to experiment.
17. Quick success is more important to me than long term progress.
18. I believe in the adage "nothing ventured, nothing gained."
19. I think about possible future regrets in life.
20. I have a big future goal that upon achieving it, my life would be changed forever.

If you answered "True" to questions 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10, 11, 14, 16, 18, 19 and 20 you probably lean more to being a big thinker. Conversely, if you answered "True" to questions 2, 3, 8, 9, 12, 13, 15, and 17 you probably lean to being more of a small thinker.

Again, there's no right or wrong outcome. The last thing the world needs is yet another big thinker that never takes action on his thoughts. People like this usually fall into the "all talk and no action" category. On the other hand, small thinking can hold some people back from achieving their goals. It's always a good idea to check yourself to make sure you are not "playing small" in life.

Remember this, it all begins with a single thought...

The one major factor that separates the most successful people from the rest begins with a single thought. This single thought — when cultivated — grows over time into the empowering habit of thinking big that eventually takes over a person's psychology, and pushes them towards the achievement of their goals and objectives.

If after taking the test, you would like to cultivate more of the habit of thinking big, then you've come to the right place. The first step towards becoming a big thinker involves incorporating the habit of thinking big into every aspect of your life. You must begin to think big about:

Daily tasks, projects and objectives.

Your contributions to the world and others.

Your capacity to think creatively and outside the box.

Your capacity to think problematically, critically and flexibly.

Your capacity to overcome any obstacle and challenge that is thrown your way.

Your capacity to stretch your imagination and the possibilities of your current circumstances.

Your life's purpose and goal

**Here are some questions to ask yourself to help you think bigger:**

Are my personal standards higher now than they were 5 years ago?

Is my family happier today than it was 5 years ago?

Am I following a plan to improve my family's standard of living?

Can I honestly say I am a more valuable person today than I was 5 years ago?

Do I have forward looking goals for at least 5 years in the future?

Do I have an image of me 10 years from now?

What income level do I want to attain?

What level of responsibility do I seek?

How much authority do I want to command?

What prestige do I expect to gain from my work?

What kind of standard of living do I want to provide for my family and myself?

What kind of house do I want to live in?

What kind of vacations do I want to take?

What financial support do I want to give my children in their early adult years?

What kind of friends do I want to have?

What social groups do I want to join?

What community leadership positions would I like to hold?

What worthwhile causes do I want to champion?

As you visualize your future, don't be afraid to stretch past your comfort zone. No one accomplishes more than he sets out to accomplish. So visualize a big future. Also, try to choose answers above that require you to learn something new.

Lastly, I strongly recommend taking steps that put you in contact with other people that are more successful than you are right now. Otherwise, you may choose a future image that fits within your limits. Remember, thinking big requires first the dream and then the journey. If your own dreams are too small, borrow some dreams from big thinkers.

Big dreams can trigger doubt, which might leap up and say "I could never do that" or "I'm not the kind of person who..." Ignore those thoughts because they don't matter. What matters is having the type of thinking and goals that sends your life in the right direction - the direction towards a bigger life.