

COMMON SENSE PSYCHOLOGY QUIZ

If you use “common sense” for explaining or predicting human behavior, you will often be wrong. Indicate whether each statement below is true or false using “common sense.” Then count the total number of times using “common sense” led you through the wrong “thinking” path.

- T F 1. The titles “psychologist” and “psychiatrist” refer to the same profession.
- T F 2. Psychologists study behavior and the mind, but not biology.
- T F 3. Some people never dream.
- T F 4. When we sleep, the brain sleeps as well.
- T F 5. Negative reinforcement is the same as punishment.
- T F 6. We can’t do much to improve our memory.
- T F 7. Eyewitness testimony is some of the best evidence used by police and in court trials.
- T F 8. In order to be creative, a person must be very intelligent.
- T F 9. A person’s intelligence is partially determined by brain size.
- T F 10. Instinct determines many of our behaviors.
- T F 11. We can train infants to walk at an early age (e.g., 4 or 6 months of age).
- T F 12. There is not much society can do to help the mentally retarded.
- T F 13. All psychologists do is therapy.
- T F 14. Shock treatment is often used for people with anxiety.
- T F 15. A correlation between two variables means that one of those variables causes the other.
- T F 16. Most of us would not follow instructions from an authority figure to hurt another person.
- T F 17. Opposite types of people attract each other (opposites attract).
- T F 18. A person with schizophrenia has a split personality.
- T F 19. Most old people have some degree of senility.
- T F 20. People with hypochondriasis (somatoform disorder) pretend to be sick.
- T F 21. You can’t change people’s attitudes, opinions or beliefs.
- T F 22. If you spank or hit children when they misbehave it will make them more responsible and they will no longer misbehave.
- T F 23. People who rape do so because they have a strong craving for “sex.”
- T F 24. All your memory abilities fade and become worse with increasing age.

- T F 25. Mutual attraction or love is the most important desired characteristic in a potential marriage partner or spouse across all cultures.
- T F 26. You are more likely to get help if there are more people around you. There is safety in numbers.
- T F 27. Homeless are lazy, don't want to work and enjoy living on the streets or in cardboard boxes.
- T F 28. If someone already has a lot of money they are not going to steal your money because they don't need it.
- T F 29. The elderly do not enjoy or have sex.
- T F 30. Fantasy versus reality can be taught to children and will buffer the effects of violent cartoons, movies, etc. So it is harmless for people to be exposed to violent films, TV, etc.
- T F 31. You can't get pregnant the first time you have sex
- T F 32. You can't get pregnant when you are having your period or menstruating
- T F 33. You can't get pregnant unless you have an orgasm.
- T F 34. Baby formula milk is just as good as breast milk. It has all the same ingredients. Thus, breast feeding is not important or advantageous.
- T F 35. You can get to know someone pretty well during a long conversation with them. You don't need to have a courtship or friendship with them to really get to know them.
- T F 36. Taller people have more self-esteem and more of an authoritarian personality because they literally look down on people.
- T F 37. Teenager pregnancy is always a result of an "accident," "incest" or "rape" and never a deliberate or intentional act on the part of the female.
- T F 38. Observational learning or learning by watching others only occurs among "humans" and not among animal primates.
- T F 39. Those who cohabit or live with each other prior to marriage have a higher likelihood of a successful marriage because they get to "try" or "taste" a practice marriage before the real marriage.
- T F 40. Dreams are the best way to measure personality. Also known as "dream analysis."
- T F 41. Breast cancer only occurs among the elderly or post-menopausal women. You can't get breast cancer as a young female or teenager.
- T F 42. Newborns and infants have adult-like vision.
- T F 43. An unborn fetus does not have hearing or audio recognition capabilities.
- T F 44. If children learn or are exposed to more than one language that will make them confused and will hurt their learning and development.
- T F 45. Mental illness does not affect the average person.

- T F 46. All mental ill people are “dangerous.”
- T F 47. Children don’t get mental illness.
- T F 48. If I got to a mental health professional, I’ll look like a “wimp.”
- T F 49. Mentally ill people never recover.
- T F 50. Mental illness is only found in certain countries or places in the world.
- T F 51. Race refers to the color of someone’s skin.
- T F 52. Race and ethnicity are the same.
- T F 53. Ethnicity and culture are the same.
- T F 54. A “psychologist” and “psychiatrist” are the same thing and do the same work.
- T F 55. People who commit suicide do it for “attention” getting.
- T F 56. Dual parents are always better for children.
- T F 57. If you are “tuff,” you won’t get Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).
- T F 58. Once someone is suicidal, he or she will be suicidal forever.
- T F 59. If someone tried to kill themselves once, there is a much smaller chance that they will try again.
- T F 60. Suicidal people clearly want to die.
- T F 61. It is a bad idea to ask people if they are suicidal. Talking about suicide might give them the idea that they should kill themselves.
- T F 62. If a depressed or suicidal person feels better it usually means that the problem has passed.
- T F 63. Young men are at the highest risk of killing themselves.
- T F 64. People who talk about killing themselves will never do it. It’s a way of letting off steam. Those who kill themselves don’t normally talk about it. They just go ahead and do it.