

# THINKING SKILLS

There are different levels of thinking that you use everyday. These thinking skills have been described according to something called “Bloom’s Taxonomy.” This fancy term describes the different levels of thinking that you use to understand something, solve a problem, or judge an answer. By being aware of which thinking skills you are using to approach different tasks, you can pose different questions to consider the task from several perspectives.

Skill	Definition	Key Words	Questions
Knowledge	Demonstrate previously learned material by recalling facts, terms, basic concepts, and answers	who, what, when, where, choose, find, how, define, label, show, list, name, relate, recall, select	How would you explain . . . ? How would you show . . . ? Can you select . . . ? Who were the main . . . ? Can you list three . . . ?
Comprehension	Demonstrate understanding of facts and ideas by organizing, comparing, translating, interpreting, giving descriptions, and stating main ideas	compare, contrast, demonstrate, interpret, explain, illustrate, outline, rephrase, summarize, show, classify	How would you compare . . . ? How would you interpret . . . ? Which statements support . . . ? How would you rephrase . . . ? Which is the best answer . . . ? How would you summarize . . . ? How would you classify . . . ?
Application	Demonstrate ability to solve problems by applying acquired knowledge, facts, concepts, and strategies in new and different contexts	apply, build, construct, develop, interview, plan, select, solve, utilize, model, identify	How would you apply . . . ? How would you solve . . . ? What approach would you use . . . ? What would result if . . . ? How could you show . . . ? What examples can you find . . . ?
Analysis	Demonstrate ability to examine and break information or concepts into parts by identifying different components, making inferences, and finding evidence to support generalizations	analyze, categorize, dissect, divide, examine, distinguish, infer, conclude, hypothesize	What do you think . . . ? What conclusions can you draw . . . ? How would you classify . . . ? What evidence can you find . . . ? What is the relationship . . . ? How would you distinguish . . . ?
Synthesis	Demonstrate ability to compile information together in a different way by combining concepts or parts in a new pattern or proposing alternative solutions	build, choose, combine, compile, construct, create, design, develop, imagine, invent, propose, solve, suppose, modify, improve, adapt, test, change	What would happen if . . . ? How could you change . . . ? How would you test . . . ? How could you connect . . . ? How would you construct . . . ?
Evaluation	Demonstrate ability to present and defend opinions by making judgments about information, the validity of ideas, or quality of work based on criteria	criticize, defend, determine, evaluate, judge, justify, recommend, interpret, prioritize, criteria, prove, assess, decide, support, importance, estimate	What is your opinion of . . . ? How would you evaluate . . . ? How would you select . . . ? How would you judge . . . ? Why was it better or worse . . . ?