

Paper Clip Test



There are 3 critical elements to human intelligence:

Academic &
Theoretical
Intelligence

Practical
Intelligence

Creativity

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Theoretical
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Practical
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Creativity

School normally
just does this one,
but there is more!

Especially in
STEAM, we want
to build this too.

There are 3 critical elements to human intelligence:

Academic &
Theoretical
Intelligence

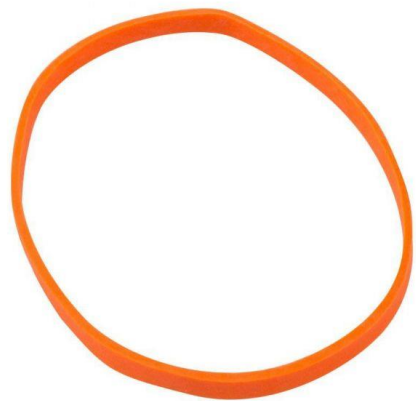
Practical
Intelligence

Creativity

But, before we start building
creativity, let's get a baseline
for where you are now.

“How many uses of X can you think of in 2minutes” is used as a measure of creativity.

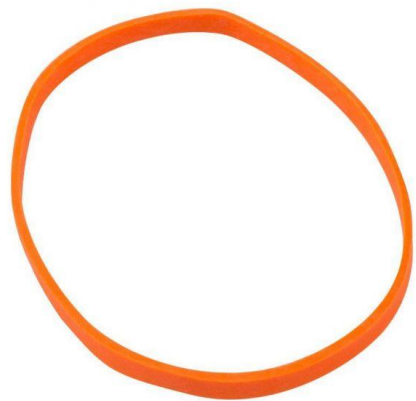
On average, people can think of 8 in 2 minutes.



First, as an example, let's consider elastic bands.

The elastic band test

On a separate piece of paper, give yourself exactly two minutes to write down, as fast as you can, all the different uses you can think of for an ordinary elastic band.



You might write:

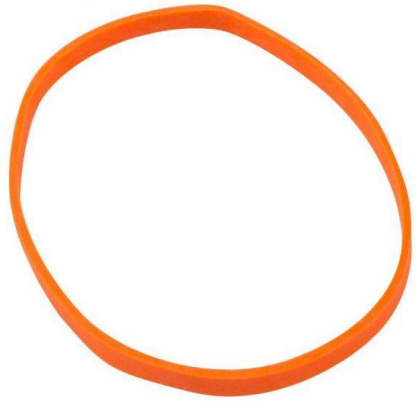
To hold together paper

✗ To hold together forks

✗ To hold together straws

✗ To hold together sticks


This is wrong. This is all one thing: “To hold things together”.



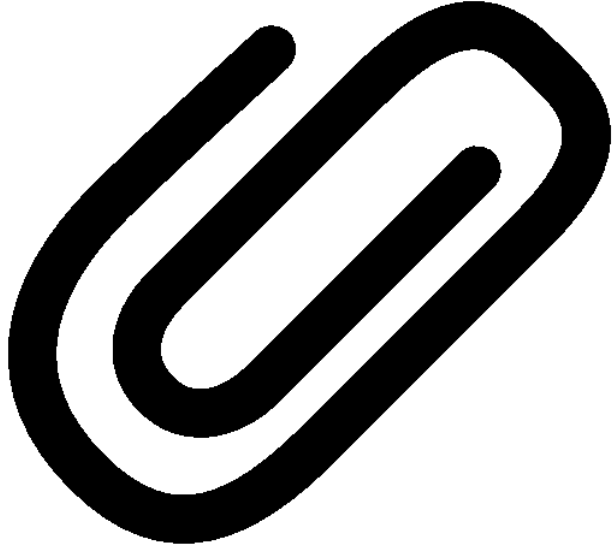
A better list:

1. To hold together paper
2. To tie back hair
3. To chain together & make a bracelet
4. To stack up & make a rubber ball
5. To tie on a ball & make a kids' tennis game

These are all
quite
different. They
count.

An orange speech bubble with a white outline, pointing downwards and to the left. It contains white text.

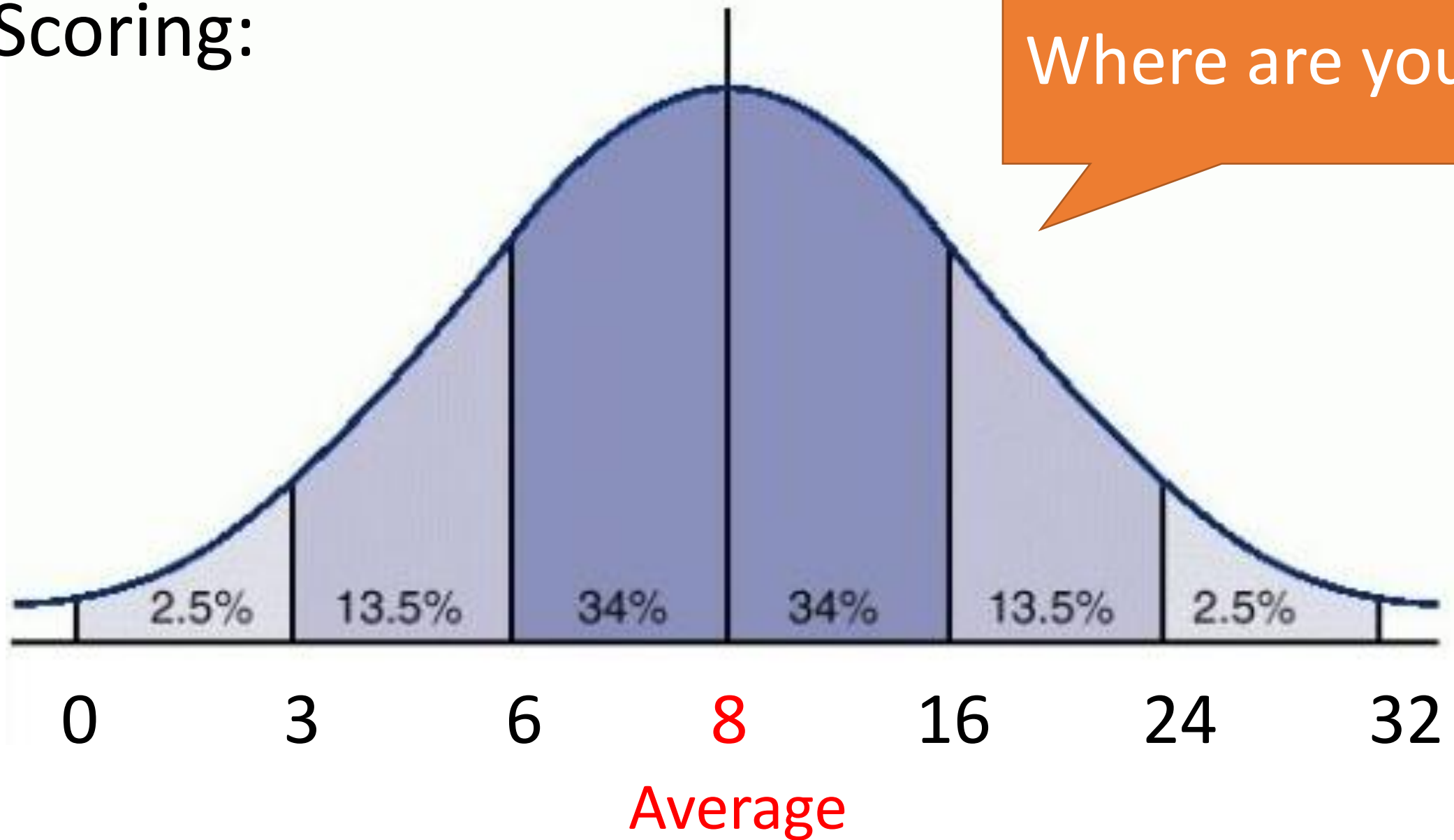
Time to test your
current creativity.
Get Ready.



The paper clip test

On a separate piece of paper, give yourself exactly two minutes to write down, as fast as you can, all the different uses you can think of for an ordinary paper clip.

Scoring:



What if you didn't do very well?
Does that mean you have no hope
at being creative?

Nope. This is a skill.
We want everyone to
try to improve it this
semester.

