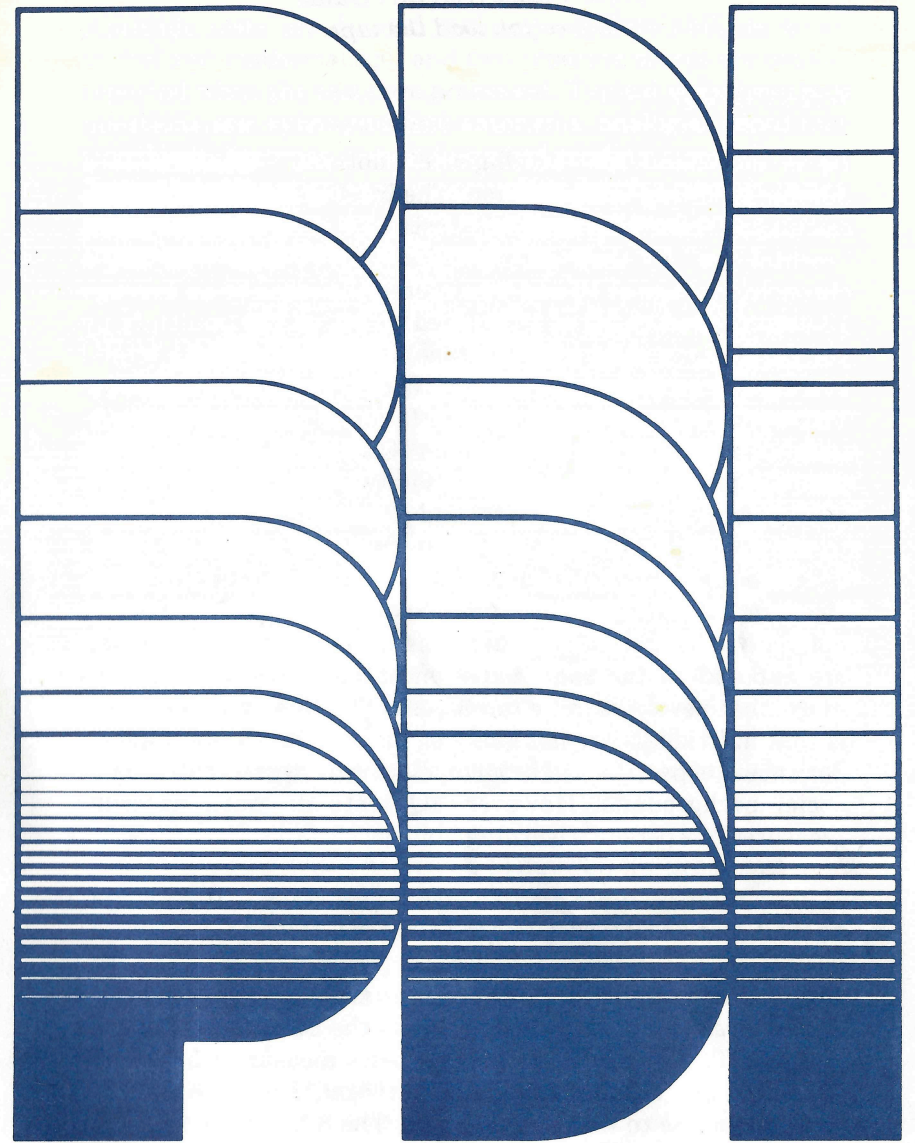


Guide



PROGRAM DESIGN INCORPORATED

Vocabulary Builder

IQ-Builder

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*Note: Please read this Guide
before you load the tape.*

WHAT IS IQ?

IQ is shorthand for "intelligence quotient." Quotient is a number resulting from division. The intelligence quotient was calculated from the first IQ tests by dividing someone's "mental age" by their chronological age. A child who had a chronological age of 10 and who scored the same as an average 12-year old had an IQ of 12 divided by 10, or 120 (multiply by 10). Similarly, a child with a chronological age of 8 who scored average for an 8-year old had an IQ of 8 divided by 8 or 100. This system was later dropped in favor of statistical calculations where the average score on an IQ test was set as 100. The name of the score is still called IQ even though it is not calculated from division of mental and chronological ages.

IQ tests are supposed to measure a person's ability to learn. However, to do this the IQ test actually measures what a person has learned in the *past*. The idea is that if two people are exposed to the same experiences and one person learns more, that person is more intelligent. The flaw in this concept is that individuals are not likely to be exposed to the same experiences, especially if they come from different cultures or social backgrounds. However, IQ tests do work as crude measures of a person's learning ability.

WHAT DO TESTS SUCH AS THE SAT MEASURE?

Many of the same types of questions that appear on IQ tests also appear on aptitude tests such as the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT). IQ tests and aptitude tests measure many of the same things. The big difference between these two types of tests is the use to which each is put. The SAT is used as a predictor of how well a high school student is going to do in college. The test is designed specifically for this purpose. Evidence shows that the combination of grades, SAT scores, College Board Achievement Test scores and recommendations has proved to be an excellent, though not perfect, predictor of how well a high school student is going to do in college.

Aptitude tests are divided into two separate abilities areas: verbal and mathematical, and two separate scores are usually reported when the tests are processed. Typical verbal aptitude questions are: synonyms and antonyms, analogies (word relationships), sentence completions and reading comprehension. Typical math aptitude questions often involve number series, data interpretation, data comparison, story problems, elementary algebra and elementary geometry.

HOW DOES IQ BUILDER HELP?

Many people who have above-average intelligence do poorly on aptitude and IQ tests. One reason is that these individuals have not developed problem-solving skills needed to answer the types of questions found on these tests. The test taker must be able to analyze a question, separate it into its component parts, and then test a variety of answers to find the one that best fits the problem. The poor problem-solver does not follow any real plan of action. Instead he or she looks for an instant answer, or writes the first solution that comes to mind. On a multiple-choice test, the poor problem-solver usually jumps at the first answer that looks like it might be correct. In short, he or she panics and is unable to think through the problem at hand.

The *IQ Builder* series helps you to develop the problem-solving skills needed to do well on IQ and aptitude tests. Each of the courses in the series contains a group of lessons that help you with a specific category of questions. All of the courses will help you to develop your skills so you can handle even the most complex questions.

HOW DO I BEGIN TO USE IQ BUILDER?

Always begin with the first lesson in the course even if you think you know enough to skip ahead. Follow directions in your Computer Manual to load each lesson. There are several lessons on each side of the tape. Do the programs in order because each lesson builds on the one before. Repeat each lesson until you feel you can handle the examples in that lesson.

HOW LONG WILL A LESSON TAKE?

You can make each session last as long as you wish. You can do each of the lessons in about 30 minutes. If you want to stop for more than a few minutes, it is best to turn off the computer and TV monitor. When you resume, rewind the tape to the beginning of that lesson and reload the lesson.

PROGRESS CHART

The Progress Chart at the end of this Guide has space to write the number of each lesson, your comments and how well you did. You can use it to keep track of where you are in the program and to see your improvement, too.

TEST

There is a test at the end of each course. You can take the test after completing all the lessons—or earlier in the course—to see how well you can handle sample test questions.

VOCABULARY TESTS

Most tests that measure a person's ability to use words include a section on word meanings. Tests such as the Scholastic Aptitude Test and other college entrance examinations have a large part of the test devoted to questions on word meaning.

There are several ways to test a person's understanding of word meanings. Vocabulary Builder I and II cover the two most common types of questions. The first type is the synonym question where you must find a word choice that means the *same* as a given word. For example:

quick: (1) fast (2) hard (3) silent
(4) dishonest (5) quiet

ANSWER: (1)

The second type deals with antonyms—words of opposite meaning. Here you must pick a word choice opposite in meaning from the given word. For example:

quick: (1) fast (2) slow (3) silent
(4) sandy (5) loose

ANSWER: (2)

The tendency when answering antonyms is to forget that the correct answer is opposite in meaning. In this case the test taker mistakenly chooses the word that has the same meaning.

HOW IS VOCABULARY BUILDER ORGANIZED?

Vocabulary Builder is divided into Parts I and II, each on its own cassette. In each part Side A of the cassette contains five lessons of synonym questions. Side B contains five antonym lessons. Included on Side B is a sample vocabulary quiz that allows you to simulate taking an actual vocabulary test.

The vocabulary questions in Part II are significantly more difficult than those in Part I. Otherwise, the organization of the two sections is the same.

Each lesson gives you the opportunity to work with as many or as few problems as you wish. You can start anywhere from Question 1 to 40. You could do Questions 1 thru 10 on one day, and then 11 thru 40 on another.

HOW TO USE VOCABULARY BUILDER

The idea of Vocabulary Builder is to give you practice answering the kinds of questions that may appear on aptitude tests. A single pass through a lesson may not be enough. You might have to take a lesson two or even three times to get the feel of the questions.

If you miss a question, you get several more chances to get the right answer. However, don't guess at random! If you miss a question twice, get a dictionary and look up the meaning of the words before attempting the question again.

