

Dear Xiaoqi,

Your score indicates that you're well along the road to becoming a high-payoff learner. You may resist at times, but often, you're open to acquiring the new skills and knowledge you need to succeed.

In fact, you're probably strong in two or three of the four key skills you need to become a true master of mastery: *Aspiration*, *Neutral Self-Awareness*, *Endless Curiosity*, and *Willingness to Be Bad First*. I'll give you a brief snapshot of what each skill – or its lack – looks like; I encourage you to be as objective as possible in reflecting on where you're strong and where you're not. This will give you some insight into what may be holding you back from achieving your highest potential as a learner:

Aspiration: Great learners are able to *make* themselves want to learn things. They figure out the *personal* benefits to them from learning a new skill, and then envision a future where they're enjoying those benefits. People who haven't built this skill tend to focus instead on what will be hard or uncomfortable about learning – and they assume that if they don't want to learn something, they won't be able to change that.

Neutral Self-awareness: Excellent learners have an accurate sense of their strengths and weaknesses – in general, and relative to the particular skill or approach they're trying to learn. People who haven't developed this skill often tend to over- or under-estimate their starting point. Not knowing where you're starting from, when learning, means you may not be open to building skill or capability in the areas where you most need to improve.

Endless Curiosity: All humans are born endlessly curious; great learners retain this childhood curiosity or, in some cases, consciously re-engage it as adults. When faced with new learning, they ask curious questions that propel them into finding out more. People who have lost touch with their own curiosity are more likely, when faced with new learning, to be disinterested or dismissive ("I don't care" or "It doesn't matter") – and those responses almost guarantee that learning won't happen.

Willingness to Be Bad First: For most of us, our biggest stumbling block to new learning is that we really like being good at things – and we don't like to have to go back to being a novice, with all the awkwardness that entails. We avoid doing things we're not good at – or resist admitting that we don't know how to do them. Great learners accept that they are going to be bad at things when they start learning them...that it's inevitable. And at the same time, they have faith in their ability to get good. Believing those two things frees their minds to acquire new skills and knowledge.

Now that you've heard a little bit about *Aspiration*, *Neutral Self-Awareness*, *Endless Curiosity*, and *Willingness to Be Bad First*, the four skills of the ANEW model, I hope you have a better sense of where you might be stronger and weaker as a learner. You may find it useful to read ***Be Bad First – Get Good At Things Fast To Stay Ready For the Future*** (<https://www.amazon.com/Be-Bad-First-Things-Future/dp/1629561088>), to get a more in-depth explanation of each of the four skills and how to develop them. It provides real-life examples and simple practices you can apply to learning topics that are important to you. It can help you target the soft spots in your skills as a learner, so that you can become a true master of mastery – the kind of high-payoff learner who's fully equipped to keep up with the pace of change as it continues to accelerate.

Purchase your copy today and stay ready for the future!



(https://www.amazon.com/Be-Bad-First-Things-Future/dp/1629561088/ref=asc_df_1629561088/?tag=hyprod-20&linkCode=df0&hvadid=312006100296&hvpos=&hvnetw=g&hvrnd=12955890806487251062&hvpone=&hvptwo=&hvqmt=&hvdev=c&hvdvcmdl=&hvlc491343844493&psc=1)

Sincerely,

Erika Andersen

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