

Step 1: HOW TO TELL IF YOU ARE CREATIVE. TAKE THIS EASY QUIZ AND FIND OUT!

- | | YES | NO |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| • WHEN YOU WERE A LITTLE KID (OR EVEN NOW) DID YOU EVER SING SONGS? DID YOU MAKE UP SONGS? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • DID YOU DANCE AROUND YOUR ROOM OR BACK YARD? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • DID YOU MAKE UP STORIES FOR YOUR TOYS TO ACT OUT? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • DID YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS PRETEND TO BE ACTION HEROES OR YOUR FAVORITE CARTOON CHARACTERS? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • DID YOU EVER DRAW A PICTURE LIKE THIS? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |



If you didn't answer YES to **any** of these questions, you should probably put this book down, because you may be a dog or a houseplant and you cannot read.

That's because human beings are creative. We are *addicted* to Making the Thing That Is Not. We cannot help ourselves.

So yes, you are creative. Unless you are a dog or a houseplant.

WHAT IS LICHTENBERGIANISM?

Don't worry about that right now. We'll talk about it later.

Right now I want to talk about Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. You probably know his name; I hope you know his music. ¹

This is a footnote. It means I have something extra to tell you at the bottom of the page. Sometimes it's fun, sometimes it's more information.

Mozart was one of the few absolute geniuses that we humans have ever produced. This is just fact. You will not find anyone who will argue against this fact.

When he was five years old, he had his first public appearance performing in concert, on *both* the violin and the piano.

When he was eight, he wrote his first symphony.

When he was twelve, he wrote his first opera.

When he was 26, he got married against his father's wishes.

When he was 30, he wrote his most popular opera, *The Marriage of Figaro*.

When he was 36, he died.



Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
1756 1791

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Everything we know about him indicates that the music came straight out of his head and onto the paper in one pure and perfect stream. He never seemed to stop to think what came next. He never seemed to go back to correct anything.

MUSIC NERD TALK:

When you write music for more than one instrument, you have to produce a *score*, which has all the instruments on one page, like this:

Mozart
Symphony No. 40
in G minor
K. 550

Allegro molto

Oboe
Clarinet in Bb
Flute
Oboe
Bassoon
Clarinet in Bb
Horn in G
Violin I
Violin II
Viola
Violoncello & Bass

1 flute, 2 oboes, 2 clarinets,
2 horns, some violins, some
violas, some cellos, a string
bass or two.

...and then you have to copy out the parts for each instrument. ²

Here's a string quartet:

A string quartet has a first violin, a second violin, a viola, and a cello.



We know for a fact that Mozart could write a string quartet in his head while riding in a coach, and then when he finally got to pen and paper he would write out the *parts* first, only later filling out the score.



Who does that kind of thing??

A genius, that's who. ³

AND WE DON'T HAVE TO DO THAT.

¹ If you don't, what a grand adventure you have before you! Start with his wind concertos: clarinet, bassoon (my favorite), flute (2), French horn (4). You won't regret it. Search YouTube for "Mozart bassoon concerto" and go from there.

² Yes, in the old days, you literally had to hand-write every part. People made a living doing this. They were called *copyists*.

³ Also, maybe a genius who liked showing off, like Mozart.