

Paper's new puzzle guru went from a 90 IQ to 'super genius'

Low score on IQ test spurred Gruber on

Staff Report

Starting this week, the Marinscope Newspapers feature brain teasers written by Marin County's Gary Gruber, Ph.D., who is recognized as a leading authority

on standardized tests and is the originator of the critical thinking skills used to prepare for them.

Gruber's lifelong mission came about when he found that he had a well-below-average 90 IQ in fifth-grade. He was devastated. Gruber could have given up and believed he was not as smart as his classmates. But instead, he was more interested in seeing why he scored so low and became fascinated by what IQ tests were trying to measure.

He realized there were powerful strategies and thinking tools one could use on the tests, as well as use generally in all problem solving.

In college, his interest in



Gary Gruber

helping Marin students excel on their standardized tests for more than 30 years.

Gruber believes that people can excel in anything once they put their mind to it. He has not limited himself to educational endeavors but has a passion for music and the arts, writing newspaper and magazine reviews for plays and concerts.

Gruber's ultimate quest, though, is to get the nation curious and passionate about problem solving and to help people develop and hone important critical thinking abilities. If this happens, he believes people will realize their tremendous potential. Automatically and without anxiety, they should perform markedly better on any standardized test in any occupation and feel a tremendous sense of fulfillment and accomplishment. Through his work, he has found consistently that all yearn to be passionate, creative and successful in what they do. But many times, either because of some external source or because they don't believe in themselves, they do not realize their potential.

Gruber hopes to play a part in developing that passion and creativity. However, he still believes he has a 90 IQ.

You can contact Dr. Gruber through his website, drgarygruber.com. He will try to personally answer all questions.

tests transformed into a quest for what nature is about and how things work. Thus he developed a great interest in physics and went on to receiving a doctorate in astrophysics.

But Gruber remembered a line from a poem he shared with his father in high school ("Gray's Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard") "Full many a flower is born to

blush unseen and waste its sweet fragrance on the desert air." Gruber realized that he wanted to help people show their true potential. So he developed a lifelong mission of getting people to perform markedly better on tests and develop and use their creativity and true potential. He went on to write 35 books that sold 7 million copies on

test preparation and critical thinking.

Through his work, he has increased aptitude, intelligence and standardized test scores on tests such as the SAT and ACT. His brain teasers have created national interest and excitement in problem solving and developing creativity. He has been called "America's super genius" by the Washington Post.

"Gruber's Complete SAT Guide 2010" is now in its 13th edition and his series of books, including "Gruber's SAT 2400" are available in bookstores. Through his individualized program that actually tracks the student's approach and corrects "faulty thinking," Gruber has been

Sudoku

The challenge is to fill every row across, every column down, and every 3x3 box with the digits 1 through 9. Each 1 through 9 digit must appear only once in each row across, each column down, and each 3x3 box.

	9		2					
3			5			7		
		7						
	6				4		5	
	1			5				3
8	4							
	2	6		1				9
			4	2		5	8	
				9				7

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BRAIN-TEASERS

Marin County's Dr. Gary Gruber is recognized as the leading authority on standardized tests and the originator of the critical thinking skills used to prepare for them. Through his work, more than 35 books with more than 7 million copies sold, he has dramatically increased aptitude, intelligence and standardized test scores on tests like the SAT and ACT.

Gary offers individualized instruction in Marin County.



www.drgarygruber.com

QUESTIONS

- Two U.S. coins add up to 30 cents. If one of them is not a nickel, what are the two coins?
- Make one word from all the following jumbled letters:
o r e n o d w
- In miles per hour, what is the average rate of a car going 20 mph and traveling back the same distance at 60 mph?
(A) 30 (B) 40 (C) 50 (D) 60 (E) cannot be determined unless the distance is given
- The opposite of the word PRECURSORY means:
(A) flamboyant (B) succeeding (C) cautious (D) simple (E) not planned
- An explorer found a silver coin marked 7 B.C. He was told it was a forgery. Why?

1. A quarter and a nickel (Be careful of what the wording says: One is not a nickel, but the other is.)
2. one word
3. (A) 30. Average rate is not the average of the rates and the answer is not 40. Also the distance does not need to be known. Where a and b are the two rates above, the average rate can be shown to be $2ab/(a+b)$, so $2(20)(60)/(20+60) = 30$.
4. (B) The Gruber 50 prefixes and roots can give you the meaning of over 150,000 words. PRE means before, CURS means to run, So PRECURSOR means to run (or go) before. The opposite is running or going after or "succeeding."
5. The label B.C. only could have come into usage after 0 B.C.

Cruciverbalists' Corner Solution below

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8	9
10				11					
12				13					
14			15				16		
17					18	19			
			20	21		22	23	24	25
26	27	28		29	30				
31			32				33		
34							35		
36							37		

- ACROSS**
- Fast plane
 - Reduces
 - Garden tool
 - Strange person
 - Grain
 - Terrified
 - Gully
 - School group
 - Russian ruler
 - Leave
 - Kid's gun
 - Eager
 - Count
 - Image of a person
 - Puma
 - Boxer Muhammad
 - Ave
 - Not (refix)
 - Swank
 - Man's best friend

- DOWN**
- Pig
 - Flies
 - Domestic fish
 - Gone
 - Confuse
 - Atmosphere
 - Snare
 - Alter
 - Carbonated drink
 - Bolus
 - Clod
 - Boyfriends
 - Treat
 - Ice house
 - Wilting
 - College (abbr.)
 - Noah's bird
 - Fight
 - Loose
 - African antelope

Sudoku solution: From above

4	3	8	6	5	9	2	1	7
1	7	9	4	2	3	5	8	6
5	2	6	7	1	8	3	4	9
8	4	5	3	7	6	9	2	1
7	1	2	9	4	5	8	6	3
9	6	3	1	8	2	4	7	5
2	5	7	8	9	1	6	3	4
3	8	1	5	6	4	7	9	2
6	9	4	2	3	7	1	5	8

Crossword solution: From right

D	E	L	X	E		D	O	G
A	V	E	N	U	E		N	O
C	O	U	G	A	R		A	L
A	D	E	F	F	I	G	Y	
B	B	A	V	I	D			
T	S	A	R		G	O		
A	R	R	O	Y	O		P	T
O	A	T	A	F	R	A	I	D
H	O	E	W	E	I	R	D	O
S	T	A	B	A	T	E	S	