

Improving Your Creative Abilities (Continued)

Learn about things outside your specialty.



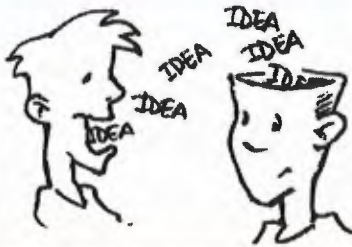
Use cross-fertilization to bring ideas and concepts from one field or specialty to another. Consider how different classes in school relate to each other or how you can use your abilities in one activity for another purpose. Cross-fertilization is further examined in Chapter 7.

Avoid rigid, set patterns of doing things.



Overcome biases and preconceived notions by looking at the problem from a fresh viewpoint, *always* developing at least two or more alternative solutions to your problem.

Be open and receptive to ideas (yours and others).



Rarely does an innovative solution or idea arrive complete with all its parts ready to be implemented. New ideas are fragile; keep them from breaking by seizing the tentative, half-formed concepts and possibilities and developing them.

Be alert in your observations.



This principle is a key to successfully applying the Kepner-Tregoe approaches discussed in Chapter 8. Keep alert by looking for similarities, differences, and unique and distinguishing features in situations and problems. The larger the number of relationships you can identify, the better your chances of generating original combinations and creative solutions.

Learn to know and understand yourself.



Deepen your self-knowledge by learning your strengths, skills, weaknesses, dislikes, biases, expectations, fears, and prejudices.