

A central illustration of a man in a suit and tie is surrounded by a network of grey lines connecting to various circular icons: a lightbulb, a magnifying glass, a pie chart, a question mark, a pencil, and a gear. The text is overlaid on this network.

We often hear of people who think a step ahead of another. Chess masters often think more than one step ahead. However, what if two people engage in a debate where both are more than one step ahead of where most thinkers would be?

When two intelligent people play chess or debate, the trick is not to be one step ahead; the other thinker is also one step ahead. Maybe the other debater is two steps ahead, or maybe three, or more. The trick is to be the right number of steps ahead. Those who are better at discerning this number in any intellectual context are truly the smarter or smartest in any contest of intelligence.

*What do you think?*