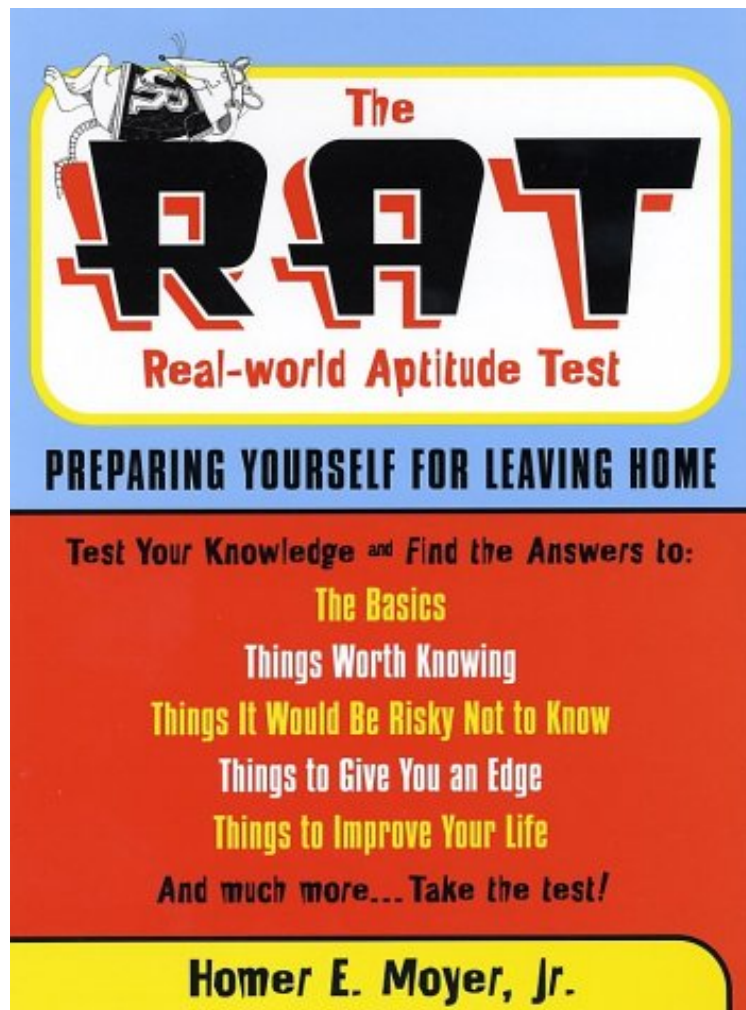


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## The R.A.T. (Real World Aptitude Test): Preparing Yourself for Leaving Home (Capital Ideas)

*Homer E. Moyer Jr.*

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**Homer E. Moyer Jr. : The R.A.T. (Real World Aptitude Test): Preparing Yourself for Leaving Home (Capital Ideas)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The R.A.T. (Real World Aptitude Test): Preparing Yourself for Leaving Home (Capital Ideas):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four StarsBy Patricia Bellfunny and helpful1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. For a small, niche audience...By YoMamaWhile I, as an adult in my fifties, find this book to be fascinating, I have a hard time believing there is a very large, young adult, audience. It might have appealed to the Von Trapp children in "The Sound of Music," prior to their socialization by Fraulein Maria, or maybe Alex P. Keaton

in "Family Ties." In other words, the book, while having obvious appeal to parents who want their children to be well-rounded adults, will most likely be read in detail by those kids who do their homework on Friday night. This leaves the typical Generation Y kids to find out some valuable, basic facts while being entertained at the same time. And that would be by reading *50 Ways to Leave Your Mother*, which will take less than an hour to read, but will provide invaluable to the newly independent who need help with renting, roommates, and the ramen noodle diet. One additional observation: rather than testing your kid with the R.A.T., try encouraging him to read the daily newspaper, Newsweek or Time Magazine, and make sure he socializes in groups that include adults, all throughout the growing up process. Bring him along when you go to the hardware store, change the oil, or replace a fuse. Insist he call the boss to say he's sick and can't come to work; have him sew on the button that fell off his shirt; and have him cook a meal for the family once in awhile. Prepare for what lies ahead when she leaves your home, and do it over the span of many years. Don't wait till they are young adults to test their abilities as stated in this book. The book can serve a useful purpose, to be consulted for the occasional quandry that arises like how to get grease spots out of a shirt, or the correct way to kiss someone when meeting formally. I bet it would be a great conversation-starter after the family meal or when entertaining, and "testing" each other would be a great party game. Making it fun might just be the answer to making the book palatable to the masses. 15 of 15 people found the following review helpful. This book was one of the best graduation gifts I received! By Emily I got this in the mail a few weeks ago from a close family friend for a graduation gift. At first I thought it looked really stupid, but I was bored one afternoon so I just picked it up. It is so fascinating! Each section is short enough so that you can read as much or as little as you feel like. And it's really easy to skip around and only read the sections that interest you. Now I read a section or two everyday. It's a great book because it covers so much information in an interesting and funny way. The quiz format adds a little element of fun into the whole advice book thing. It's also neat how they end each section by telling you where to go for more info on something. Each section is informative and funny at the same time. And it covers really important everyday sort of stuff from basic cooking, to how to change a tire, to basic knowledge for credit cards. If you are looking for a great book for a graduate (of college or high school) this graduate is telling you to get this book!

Do you know how many teaspoons of sugar the average 12 ounce can of soda contains? Can you change a flat tire? Can you identify the ten largest cities in the world? The Real-World Aptitude Test (R.A.T.) answers these questions and more. The R.A.T. is divided into two parts, the first containing questions in thirty different subject areas, and the second providing answers and explanations to these life-defining questions. Subject areas include cooking, managing money, etiquette, geography, sports, and many more. The R.A.T. provides answers to some of life's most common stumbling blocks, as well as facts on generalized knowledge in areas such as geography and politics.

"...focuses on information that helps people maneuver through life skills and smarts..." -- Susan Levine, Washington Post  
"The basics are there cooking, money management, first aid, employment but so are sections on music, automobiles..." -- Amanda Paulson, The Christian Science Monitor  
"The book asks and answers a range of helpful questions..." -- Su-Jin Yim, Portland Oregonian  
About the Author  
Homer E. Moyer, Jr., a distinguished international corporate lawyer, is the father of four children. A graduate of Emory University and Yale Law School, he has held senior government positions in both Republican and Democratic administrations; co-founded a pro bono law reform project in Central and Eastern Europe, and once served as a White House social aide. A pianist and lyricist, Mr. Moyer lives in the Washington, D.C. area.  
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THE RAT is a test to be taken and passed before leaving home to enter the real world--the real world of work, further education, adventure, or some combination of the three. It is designed to test skills and knowledge you might not learn in school but that could be quite useful in life. In superficial respects, THE RAT bears some resemblance to the SAT, the infamous Scholastic Aptitude Test, with which most students are all too familiar. If you are an alert reader, you will already have noticed, for example, that there is some similarity between the two names. Both can be administered at about the same stage of life (or later, when you might assume that your score would be higher). Those who take THE RAT can score from 200 to 800, as is the case with both sections of the SAT. And, as with the SAT, a perfect score of 800 on THE RAT is hard to come by. From the perspective of the test taker, however, THE RAT is vastly superior and far friendlier. THE RAT may be taken in the comfort of your own home; you may take as long as you want to finish, and, if you like, you can take it a second or third time without the answers having changed. Most important, the answers are in the fact. And whatever your score, it will not be mailed in an official looking envelope to employers or colleges with whom you may soon be interviewing--or colleagues who may have laughed at you in the past because you didn't know how to change a tire. THE ORIGINS OF THE RAT  
The idea of a test of practical skills and know how began in our house as a playful notion. It was prompted by the sudden realization that our oldest child was to leave home soon for college. Is she, we wondered, really prepared for what she might encounter in the real world? Have 13 years of schooling and 17 years of loving, but undoubtedly imperfect, parenting, prepared her? Have we given her the skills, knowledge, know-how, and savvy with which she should be equipped for a somewhat intimidating real world? We were not, we recognized, the first parents to be seized with these concerns, Literature is sprinkled with advice from parents to

departing children. The advice of Polonius to his departing son, Laertes (Hamlet, Act 1, Scene 3) which shows up in the answer section on "Managing Your Money," is one of the most famous. A more recent classic that reflects the same instinct, Life's Little Instruction Book, grew out of Jackson Brown's handwritten notes of advice that he accumulated and presented to his son when he left for college. These parental instincts may thus be eternal. As THE RAT began to grow and take shape, it was not just 16-25 year olds who found it educational and entertaining. Those who were responsible for those about to enter the real world also found that a high score was elusive, or decided that it might be appropriate to exclude one or more entire sections of THE RAT for some improvised, unpersuasive reason. As a result, a number of friends are impatient for THE RAT so they can give it to someone else to take. ANATOMY OF THE RAT Although dividing the line is sometimes blurry, THE RAT focuses on real-world subjects, rather than the usual academic subjects that have been covered in countless pop quizzes and traumatic final exams in school. Instead, THE RAT addresses 30- real-life subjects. As a result, THE RAT's anatomy is a bit more varied than its ever-present namesake the SAT. QUESTIONS: THE RAT's questions are not standardized, and many are quite friendly. There are the familiar multiple choice questions, for which you know the right answer is in there somewhere. And--immediately increasing your chances of a right answer to 50-50--there are true/false questions. In addition, there are fill-in-the-blank questions. Some ask for multiple answers, some ask you to identify an incorrect answer, and some have multiple correct answers. Some give you the choice of which question to answer. A few ask you to describe or demonstrate how to do something. And finally, as a small gift to those who take THE RAT, there are questions that simply ask the reader to think carefully about something. ANSWERS: Unlike other, less friendly pre-college tests, THE RAT comes with answers in the back. In fact, the Answer Section comprises most of the book. And if that is not user-friendly enough, the questions and answers are cross-referenced to one another. The Answer Section contains at least one correct answer for every question. And, as further evidence of its superiority over tests, THE RAT also includes many questions for which there is more than one correct answer.