

# WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO HAVE A PROBLEM?



01

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I need a lexicographer.  
Do you know what a  
lexicographer is?



A lexicographer is a  
person who writes  
dictionary definitions.



**Write the number 1 on a piece of paper and then write a definition of the word *problem* just like you were writing it for a dictionary.**



**This dictionary definition defines problem more like not knowing the answer to something.**

**prob·lem** *n.* *Abbr. prob.* **1.** A question to be considered, solved, or answered: *math problems; the problem of how to hem a skirt evenly.* **2.** A situation, matter, or person that presents perplexity or difficulty: *urban problems such as traffic congestion and smog; the philosophical problem of evil.*

**This definition of obstacle is more along the lines of “something that is getting in the way of a person getting something they want “- which is what many people think of when they use the word problem.**

**ob·sta·cle** *n.* One that opposes, stands in the way of, or holds up progress.

Combining the two meanings, we can create a working definition of a problem.

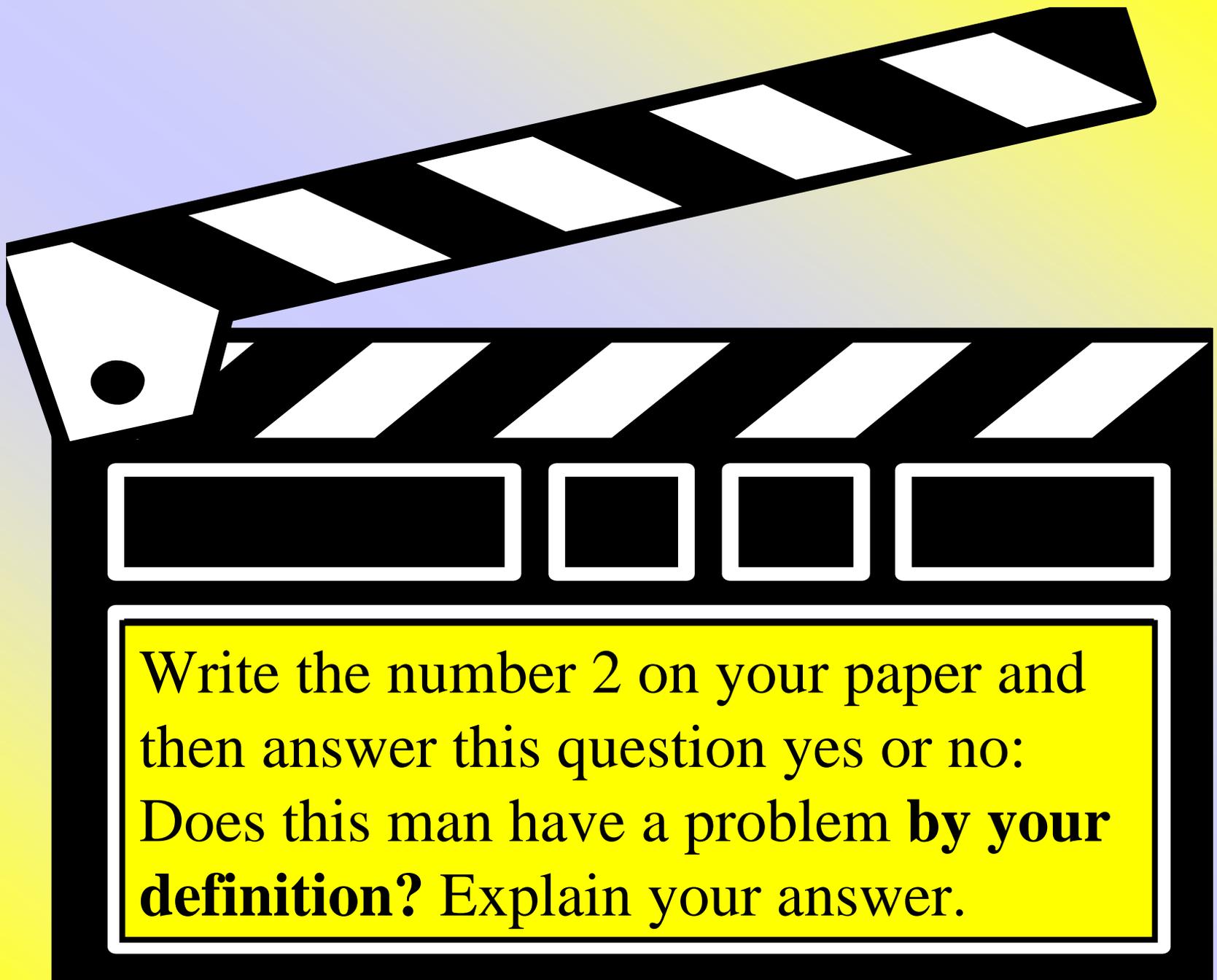


**A problem** is a situation in which someone (including one's own self) or something is keeping a person from getting what they want (and they may or may not know the solution).



In the movie *Leaving Las Vegas* the characters played by Nicholas Cage and Elizabeth Shue go out for a night of drinking and gambling. Late into the evening, something upsets Cage's character. He tips over a card table and knocks down a waitress. Just as the security people grab him, the scene cuts to Cage sleeping on a sofa. He awakes with a jolt. His whole body is shaking as he grabs for a bottle of liquor. As he

tips it towards his mouth, he discovers that it is empty. The scene then cuts to him kneeling on the floor in front of an open refrigerator. He struggles to open the cap on a fresh bottle of alcohol. His face looks pale and pasty. He is shaking so badly that he can barely pour the alcohol into a carton of orange juice. His face is sweating and his hands trembling as he drinks down his mixture. The scene next cuts to him having the dry heaves in the sink. As the alcohol has its effect, he stops shaking and he shuffles off to bed with Shue's character. He asks her how she managed to keep the security people from throwing him out of the casino into the street. She replies that she told them he was an alcoholic.



If you know the story, you would know that this man had decided to drink himself to death. His problem was that he lived in Los Angeles where the liquor stores closed each night. That was an obstacle for him, because he didn't want to take a chance that he would be without alcohol and go through withdrawal pains. So, he moved to Las Vegas, where the liquor stores are open 24/7. He removed his obstacles. He solved his problem.

Does that change your mind about whether he has a problem or not? Write the number 3 and explain your answer.



Regardless of whether you think he has a problem or not, it does point out that people change because they think they have a problem – not because someone else thinks they do.



A photograph of a long, narrow tunnel with rough, textured walls. At the far end of the tunnel, a bright, circular opening is illuminated with a soft, white light, creating a strong contrast with the dark interior. The perspective is from the entrance, looking down the length of the tunnel towards the light.

AND  
NOW FOR SOMETHING  
COMPLETELY  
DIFFERENT

# CAN YOU PILOT A PLANE?

**Pilot  
an  
Airplane**

**?**

# **IF YOU CANNOT, WHAT DO YOU NEED TO DEVELOP?**

Write the number 4 on your piece of paper and then write what a person needs to develop if they want to pilot a plane.

**Pilot  
an  
Airplane**

# **IF YOU CANNOT, WHAT DO YOU NEED TO DEVELOP?**

Did you write: KNOWLEDGE,  
SKILLS AND RESOURCES?

**Pilot  
an  
Airplane**

**Knowledge  
Skills &  
Resources**

**a-bil-i-ty** (...-b<sup>1</sup>l<sup>1</sup>-t<sup>1</sup>) *n., pl. a-bil-i-ties*. **1.** The quality of being able to do something; the physical, mental, financial, or legal power to perform.

**ABILITY**

**Pilot  
an  
Airplane**

**Knowledge  
Skills &  
Resources**



You cannot pilot an airplane  
without the ability to do so.

**NO  
ABILITY**

**Pilot  
an  
Airplane**



# CAN EVERYONE DEVELOP THIS ABILITY?



**ABILITY**

**Knowledge  
Skills &  
Resources**



**Pilot  
an  
Airplane**

Write the number 5 on your piece of paper and then write Yes or No to this question: Can everyone develop the ability to pilot a plane? Explain your answer.

# CAN EVERYONE DEVELOP THIS ABILITY?

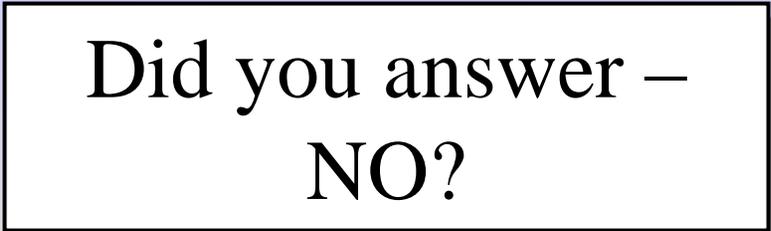


**ABILITY**

**Knowledge  
Skills &  
Resources**



**Pilot  
an  
Airplane**



**Did you answer –  
NO?**

# CAN EVERYONE DEVELOP THIS ABILITY?

**ABILITY**

They have to have the potential to develop the knowledge, skills and resources. For example, they might be blind or not have any arms or legs.

**Pilot an Airplane**

**DO THEY  
HAVE THE  
POTENTIAL?**

**Knowledge  
Skills &  
Resources**



**ca-pac-i-ty** (k...-p<sup>2</sup>s<sup>“1</sup>-t<sup>¶</sup>) *n., pl. ca-pac-i-ties.*

*Abbr. c., C., cap. 5.* Innate potential for growth, development, or accomplishment; faculty.

**CAPACITY**

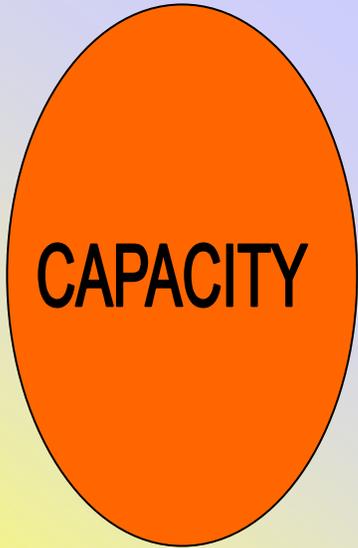
**DO THEY  
HAVE THE  
POTENTIAL?**

**ABILITY**

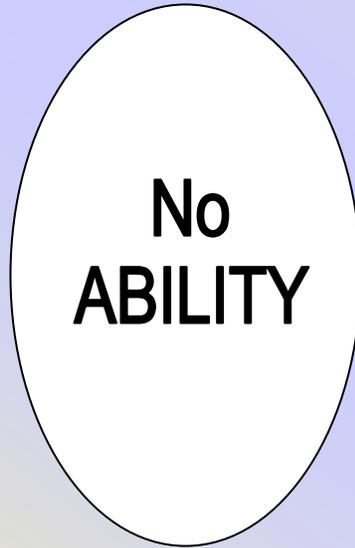
**Knowledge  
Skills &  
Resources**

**Pilot  
an  
Airplane**





DO THEY  
HAVE THE  
POTENTIAL?

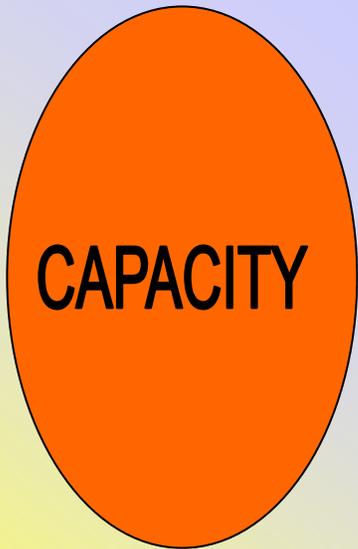


Knowledge  
Skills &  
Resources

If you lack the capacity to develop the ability, you will be unable pilot an airplane.



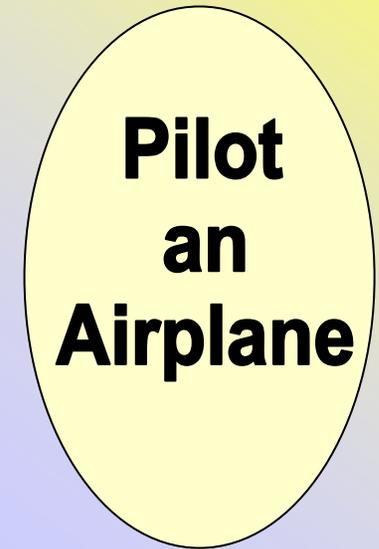
# **DOES EVERYONE WITH THE ABILITY TO DO SOMETHING - DO IT?**



**DO THEY  
HAVE THE  
POTENTIAL?**

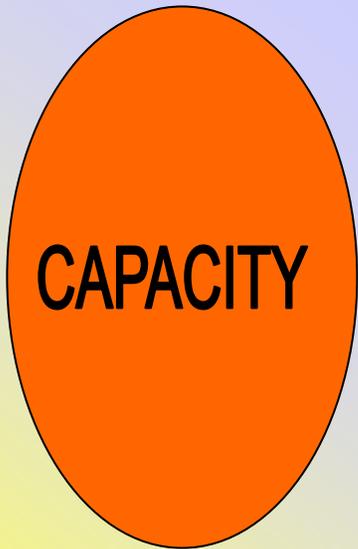


**Knowledge  
Skills &  
Resources**



Write the number 6 on your piece of paper and then write Yes or No to this question: Does everyone with the ability to do something - do it? Explain your answer.

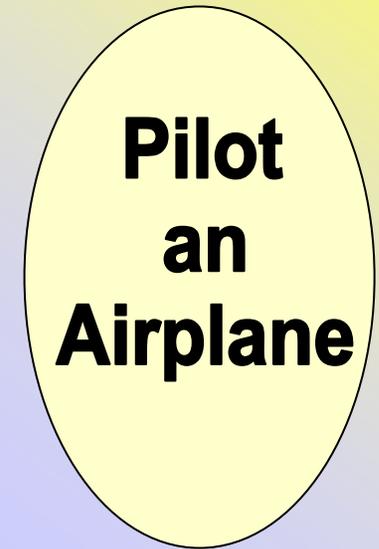
# **DOES EVERYONE WITH THE ABILITY TO DO SOMETHING - DO IT?**



**DO THEY  
HAVE THE  
POTENTIAL?**

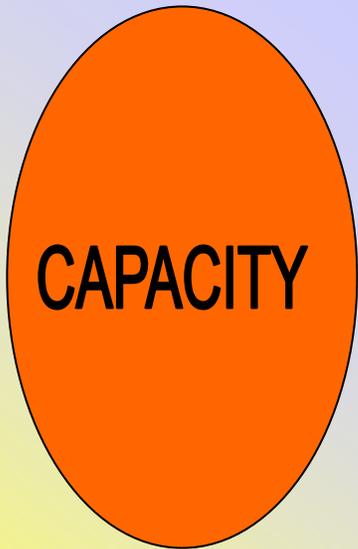


**Knowledge  
Skills &  
Resources**



**Did you answer NO? What  
else is missing?**

# **DOES EVERYONE WITH THE ABILITY TO DO SOMETHING - DO IT?**



**DO THEY  
HAVE THE  
POTENTIAL?**

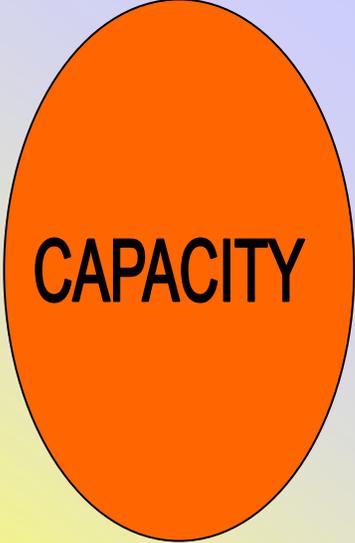


**Knowledge  
Skills &  
Resources**



**They have to  
want to do it  
(and have confidence  
in their abilities)**

**mo-ti-vate** (m<sup>1/2</sup>“t...-v<sup>3</sup>t”) *tr.v.* **mo-ti-vat-ed**,  
**mo-ti-vat-ing**, **mo-ti-vates**. To provide with an  
incentive; move to action; impel. --**mo“ti-va”tor** *n.*



**CAPACITY**

**DO THEY  
HAVE THE  
POTENTIAL?**



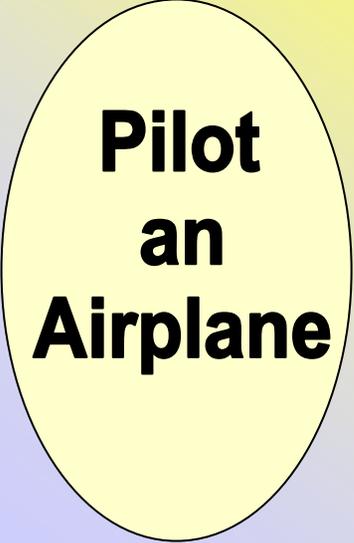
**ABILITY**

**Knowledge  
Skills &  
Resources**



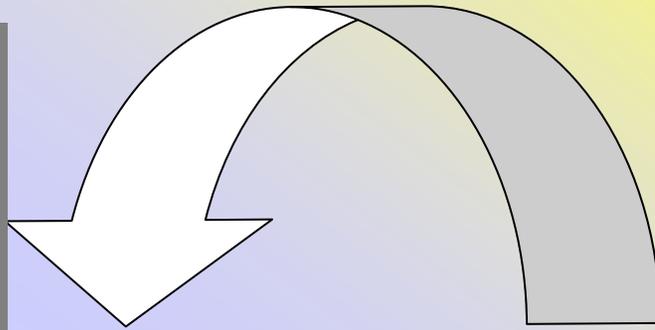
**MOTIVATION**

**They have to  
want to do it  
(and have confidence  
in their abilities)**



**Pilot  
an  
Airplane**

They have to have confidence in their capacity to develop their abilities, as well as a desire to develop them.



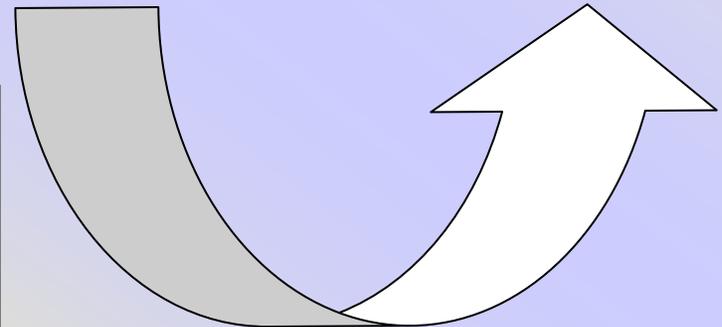
**CAPACITY**

**ABILITY**

**MOTIVATION**

**Pilot  
an  
Airplane**

They have to have confidence in their abilities, as well as have a desire to use them.



Without motivation, a person will not develop the ability or use it if they have it.

**CAPACITY**

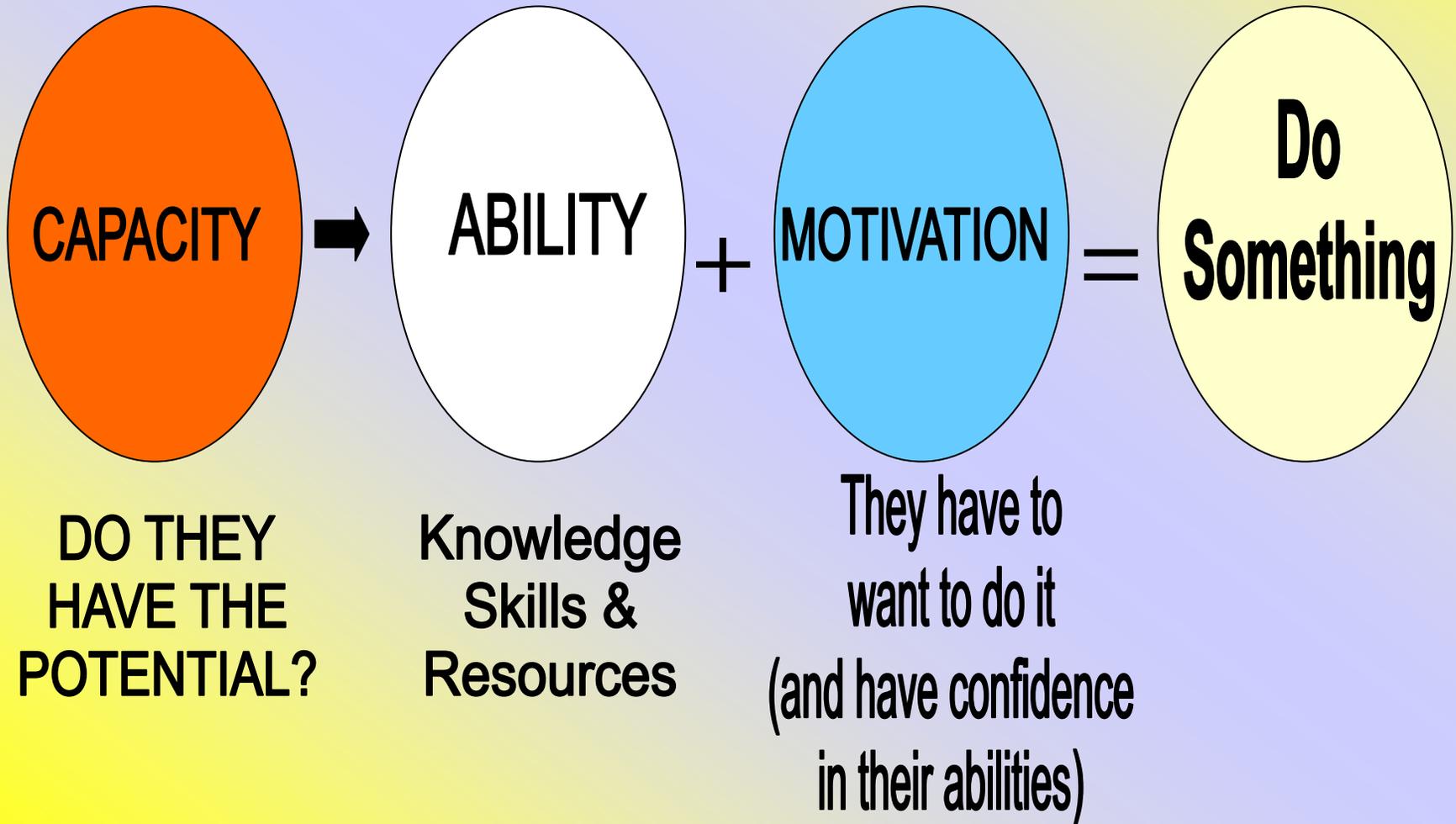
**ABILITY**

**MOTIVATION**

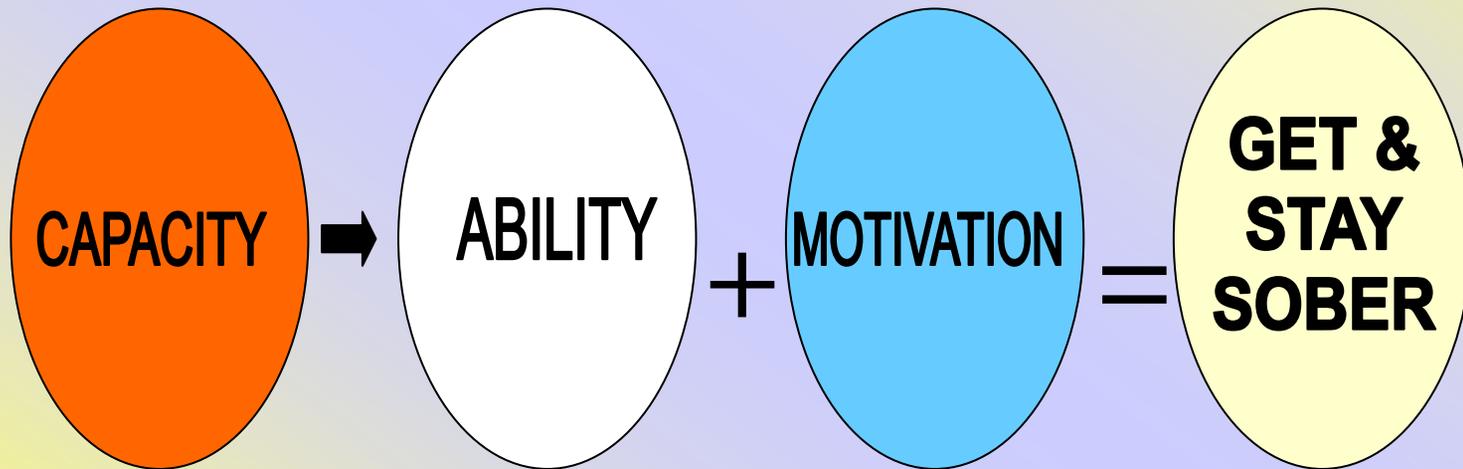
**Pilot  
an  
Airplane**

# ABILITY & MOTIVATION = ACTION

If you want to do something, you have to have the capacity to develop the ability and the desire to develop the ability. then you have to develop the knowledge, skills and resources to do it. you just won't get the job done unless you have all of this.



Write the number 7 on your paper and write a paragraph about what the guy in the movie is missing in order to get and stay sober – capacity, motivation or ability - and why you think that.

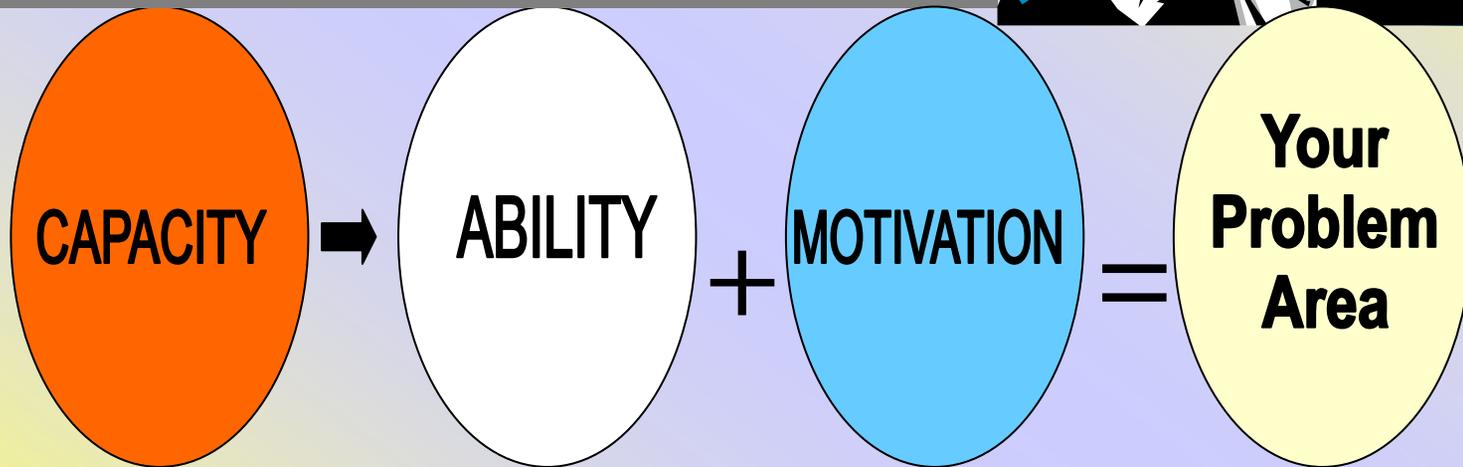


DOES HE  
HAVE THE  
POTENTIAL?

DOES HE  
HAVE THE:  
Knowledge  
Skills &  
Resources?

Does he want  
to do it (and  
have confidence  
in his abilities)

Write the number 8 on your paper and think of one of your problems. Write down what that problem is and then write a paragraph about what area – capacity, motivation or ability – do you think you need to work on - and why you think that.



**DO YOU  
HAVE THE  
POTENTIAL?**

**DO YOU  
HAVE THE:  
Knowledge  
Skills &  
Resources?**

**Do you want  
to do it (and  
have confidence  
in your abilities)**

