While individuals may be predisposed to be creative or practical, many aspects can be developed. You can improve your skill level in both creative thinking and critical (practical) thinking. Skills, behaviors, and attitudes of effective creatives and effective “practicals” (implementers) can be identified and practiced creating habits. These habits boost the overall quality of your thinking, problem solving and decision-making. 

Click on figure to watch a video on how your brain changes with practice

Quality thinking requires creative, and critical (practical) thinking. (inclusion or collaborative thinking is also important). These are two very different skill sets and need to be practiced separately to be effective. Also called divergent thinking, creativity generates many ideas and options. Practical thinking, or convergent thinking, narrows the multitude of options generated by the creative process to the best one or two ideas.

Click on the figure to watch Dan Roam offer a different approach to this same concept
1. **Take Risks**  
   a. Face fear  
   b. Be willing to release control  
2. **Challenge Assumptions**  
   a. What stories do you tell yourself that are not true?  
   b. What limits have you placed on yourself?  
3. **Explore**  
   a. Be curious  
   b. Ask “What if...?”  
   c. Give yourself permission to go “off-track”  
4. **See Differently**  
   a. Ask “What else could this be?”  
   b. Look through the eyes of others to spark your imagination  
5. **Play**  
   a. Make it a game  
   b. Laugh  
   c. “Sandboxing” – mess around with resources and ideas to see what happens

1. **Start Stuff**  
   a. Start before you feel ready  
   b. Look for optimal, not perfect  
2. **Beginner’s Mentality**  
   a. Be willing to start poorly.  
   b. Readiness to learn  
   c. Joy of discovery  
3. **Resilient**  
   a. Growth Mindset  
   b. Fail  
   c. Recover  
   d. Learn  
4. **Focus**  
   a. Define clear outcomes/objectives  
   b. Make clear commitments to details and deadlines  
   c. Focus on one thing  
5. **Skeptical**  
   a. What am I missing?  
   b. What am I assuming?  
   c. What haven’t I been told? (What did I fail to ask?)

**Practical Creativity**

Click here to learn more about building the skills and habits of practical creatives. Sign up for a Practical Creativity workshop or schedule one for your organization.