Unit 9: Education

LEARNING STYLES

Words

Write the letter of each definition with the word it defines. If you don't know the definition, use the context of the reading passage to help you. Look for the words in bold as you read the passage.

PARAGRAPHS 1–2

Words	Definitions
1 ..... approach **2** ..... circumstance **3** ..... obstruction **4** ..... hinder **5** ..... facial	**A** n., method **B** adj., related to the face **C** n., situation **D** n., something that blocks or stands in the way **E** v., to prevent; get in the way

PARAGRAPHS 2–3

Words	Definitions
6 ..... blend **7** ..... diagram **8** ..... confidence **9** ..... auditory **10** ..... verbal **11** ..... recite	**F** adj., related to words **G** v., to say or repeat out loud **H** n., a simple drawing to explain how something works **I** adj., related to hearing **J** n., a mixture; combination **K** n., belief in one's abilities

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PARAGRAPH 4

Words	Definitions
12 ..... kinesthetic[1]	**L** v., to move constantly in a nervous manner
13 ..... conventional	**M** adj., normal; traditional
14 ..... fidget	**N** adj., related to body motion
15 ..... manipulate	**O** v., to move things around with the hands

PARAGRAPHS 4–6

Words	Definitions
16 ..... incorporate	**P** n., praise; support to keep going
17 ..... encouragement	**Q** adj., more important, stronger
18 ..... solitary	**R** v., to add in; bring together
19 ..... expose	**S** v., to give an opportunity to experience or learn new things
20 ..... dominant	**T** adj., done alone; independent

Reading

Learning Styles

(1) There are three basic types of classroom learning styles: visual, auditory, and kinesthetic[1]. These learning styles describe the most common ways that people learn. Individuals tend to instinctively prefer one style over the others; thus each person has a learning style that is dominant even though he or she may also rely somewhat on the other **approaches** at different times and in different **circumstances**.

(2) Visual learners prefer to sit somewhere in the classroom where no **obstructions hinder** their view of the lesson. They rely on the teacher's **facial** expressions and body language to aid their learning. They learn best from a **blend** of visual displays and presentations

[1]BrE: kinaesthetic

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such as colorful[1] videos, **diagrams**, and flip-charts. Often, these learners think in pictures and may even close their eyes to visualize[2] or remember something. When they are bored, they look around for something to watch. Many visual learners lack **confidence** in their **auditory** memory skills and so may take detailed notes during classroom discussions and lectures.

(3) Auditory learners sit where they can hear well. They enjoy listening and talking, so discussions and **verbal** lectures stimulate them. Listening to what others have to say and then talking the subject through helps them process new information. These learners may be heard reading to themselves out loud because they can absorb written information better in this way. Sounding out spelling words, **reciting** mathematical theories, or talking their way across a map are examples of the types of activities that improve their understanding.

(4) **Kinesthetic** learners may find it difficult to sit still in a **conventional** classroom. They need to be physically active and take frequent breaks. When they are bored, they **fidget** in their seats. They prefer to sit someplace where there is room to move about. They benefit from **manipulating** materials and learn best when classroom subjects such as math, science, and reading are processed through hands-on experiences. **Incorporating** arts-and-crafts activities, building projects, and sports into lessons helps kinesthetic learners process new information. Physical expressions of **encouragement**, such as a pat on the back, are often appreciated.

(5) In addition to these traditional ways of describing learning styles, educators have identified other ways some students prefer to learn. Verbal learners, for example, enjoy using words, both written and spoken. Logical learners are strong in the areas of logic and reasoning. Social learners do best when working in groups, whereas **solitary** learners prefer to work alone. Research shows that each of these learning styles, as well as the visual, auditory, and kinesthetic styles, uses different parts of the brain. Students may prefer to focus on just one style, but practicing[3] other styles involves more of the brain's potential and therefore helps students remember more of what they learn.

(6) Teachers who present their lessons using varied techniques that stimulate all learning styles **expose** students to both their **dominant** and less preferred methods of learning, aiding them to more fully reach their potential as learners.

[1]BrE: colourful
[2]BrE: visualise
[3]BrE: practising

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Answer the questions about **Learning Styles**.

Questions 1–6

Look at the following descriptions of different styles of learners.
Match each type of learner with the correct description.
Write the correct letter, ***A***, ***B***, *or* ***C***, *next to numbers 1–6.*

A Visual learners

B Auditory learners

C Kinesthetic learners

..... **1** They are stimulated by lessons that incorporate discussions and verbal lectures.

..... **2** Facial expressions are important to them.

..... **3** They learn best in circumstances where they can manipulate objects.

..... **4** Taking notes is one approach they use for processing information.

..... **5** They often fidget in a conventional classroom setting.

..... **6** Reciting information helps them absorb it better.

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Questions 7–9

*Choose the correct letter, **A**, **B**, **C**, or **D**.*

7 Verbal learners are
- **A** better at writing than speaking.
- **B** good with words.
- **C** solitary people.
- **D** skilled at reasoning.

8 Social learners need
- **A** other people around them.
- **B** very little encouragement.
- **C** both spoken and written instructions.
- **D** information presented through diagrams.

9 When teachers expose students to all learning styles, the students
- **A** change their dominant style.
- **B** lose their confidence.
- **C** get confused.
- **D** learn more.

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Word Families

A

Complete each sentence with the correct word from the word family chart. Make nouns plural where necessary. Use the correct form of verbs.

noun	adjective	adverb
confidence	confident	confidently

1 Students learn ..... when they are allowed to use learning styles that they feel comfortable with.

2 Developing ..... in one's abilities is an important part of learning.

3 Students who feel ..... do better in school.

noun	adjective	adverb
convention	conventional	conventionally

4 Classroom ..... sometimes need to be adapted to fit the learning styles of all the students.

5 ..... teaching methods are changing as educators understand the need to address all styles of learning.

6 A ..... taught lesson may not incorporate approaches suited to all the students' learning styles.

noun	verb	adjective
dominance	dominate	dominant

7 In each individual, one learning style tends to ..... over the others.

8 Students can learn to use other styles in addition to the one that is ..... .

9 The ..... of one learning style over others does not mean that the learner relies on that one style alone.

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noun	verb
exposure	expose

10 It is a good idea for teachers to ..... students to a variety of learning experiences.

11 Students benefit a great deal from ..... to different styles of learning.

noun	verb	adjective
face	face	facial

12 Visual learners like to ..... the teacher during a lesson.

13 ..... expressions are an important part of communication.

14 Visual learners like to be able to see the teacher's ..... during a lesson.

noun	adjective	adverb
solitude	solitary	solitarily

15 ..... learners would rather work alone than in a group.

16 Some students do better when they can work ..... .

17 Some students prefer to work in ..... .

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Word Families

B

Choose the correct word family member from the list below to complete each blank.

1	Conventions	Conventional	Conventionally
2	dominance	dominates	dominant
3	Exposure	Exposes	Exposed
4	solitude	solitary	solitarily
5	confidence	confident	confidently
6	faces	facial	faced

1..... approaches to learning have students sitting at their desks listening to the teacher or working in their textbooks. These days, however, teachers have changed their methods, and modern classrooms no longer look like this, at least not all the time. Teachers now incorporate activities into their lessons that address the learning needs of all the students. Although students each have a particular learning style that 2....., it is important to give them the opportunity to practice other learning styles as well. 3..... to a variety of activities encourages students to use different parts of their brains, thus increasing their learning potential. Students who have a tendency to work in 4....., for example, will benefit from working in small groups some of the time. Students who get used to different ways of working in the classroom will become more 5..... learners. The results will be seen in the quality of the work they do, and on their proud and happy 6..... as well.

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Paraphrases

Read the sentence from the reading passage. Then, choose the sentence that has the same meaning.

1 *Visual learners prefer to sit somewhere in the classroom where no obstructions hinder their view of the lesson.* (paragraph 2)
   A Visual learners can easily remember things they see during a lesson.
   B Visual learners like to sit where they can easily see the lesson.
   C Visual leaners are more comfortable when no one is watching them during a lesson.

2 *They benefit from manipulating materials and learn best when classroom subjects, such as math, science, and reading, are processed through hands-on experiences.* (paragraph 4)
   A They tend to be good at math and science and enjoy reading materials about these subjects.
   B They like to share their learning experiences with others in the classroom.
   C They learn best when they can touch things and use their hands.

Dictionary Skill

PARTS OF SPEECH

Blend can be a noun or a verb.

Read the definitions below. Then read the sentences and write the letter of the correct definition for each sentence.

blend [BLEND]
A *noun.* a mixture, combination
B *verb.* to mix, combine

..... 1 There is a *blend* of learning styles in every classroom.

..... 2 When forming learning groups in the classroom, it is a good idea to *blend* students with different learning styles.

Unit 9

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Listening

Track 25

Listen to the lecture. Complete the notes below.
*Write **NO MORE THAN ONE WORD** for each answer.*

Needs of Different Students

Visual Learners:
They need to see the teacher's face.
They need lessons with **1**..... and pictures.

Auditory Learners:
They need to hear words.
They need to read aloud and **2**..... rules.

Kinesthetic Learners
They need to do things.
They need to move around and **3**..... items.

All students need **4**..... .

Writing (Task 2)

Confidence in oneself is an important part of learning. What factors in a classroom can contribute to a student's feeling of confidence?

Give reasons for your answer and include examples from your own knowledge or experience.

Write at least 250 words.

Speaking

Talk about the following topics.

Think about the three learning styles—visual, auditory, and kinesthetic. Which do you think is your dominant style? Why?

Would you describe yourself as a solitary learner or a social learner?

What things hinder your learning?

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