

4 For 1–8, complete the second sentence so it has a similar meaning to the first. Use no more than five words and the word given.

- 1** She'll be accepted at her first choice of university, but only if she passes the exams. PROVIDED

Her first-choice university _____ she passes the exams.

- 2** Apparently, there are a few questions about the accuracy of last year's tests. SEEMS

It _____ some inaccuracies in last year's tests.

- 3** It's not that clear if he learnt much during his degree. WHETHER

I don't _____ he learnt anything during his degree.

- 4** If you're not sure what to do, send an email to your tutor. DOUBT

I'd contact _____.

- 5** There's very little difference in the colleges, really. ANY
There is little _____ the two colleges.

- 6** If you put in a bit more effort, I can't see you failing. AS
You'll _____ you put in a bit more effort.

- 7** If it's true, we should tell somebody. SO
_____ be told.

- 8** They almost never attended the lectures I was at. IF
They _____ to the same lectures as me.

3 Complete the article with the words in the box.

as long as but for if any if in doubt
if so it seems as if otherwise
provided that rarely, if ever unless
whether or not without

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A quick glance through any number of online forums will reveal that for the pedagogical community, learning styles are a fairly ubiquitous concept. While there's an abundance of research into the field,

¹ _____ there is little consensus on what learning styles are. ² _____ do two commentators seem to agree. In fact, some educational experts actually argue they don't exist. ³ _____, that would certainly contradict a good deal of official policy.

The traditional view is that each learner has a particular favoured style which enables them to pick up information more effectively than other forms of teaching and learning. Conventional wisdom would have it that ⁴ _____ children learn regularly in their chosen style, they will have a better chance of success. ⁵ _____, they may not fulfil their potential.

⁶ _____ recent studies by cognitive psychologists, this might be viewed as a given. However, they have shown that students don't perform any differently ⁷ _____ they are given tests in one learning style or another. What they may have, rather than a particular style, is a preference. So, what issues, ⁸ _____, does this raise?

Well, the problem has been that over time, what began as a notion has become a theory of the mind which has been used to justify curricula. ⁹ _____, take a look at

some of the materials rigorously imposed upon teachers and students.

Critics of more entrenched approaches to learning styles would argue that while people do learn differently, it's important to say how they learn differently and to focus on meaningful difference which can be observed. They would posit that ¹⁰ _____

learning contexts are addressed, styles are fairly meaningless. ¹¹ _____

we think about a bigger picture, we can better address needs. ¹² _____

looking at the learning environment, and factors which impact on it, we can't start to make real, measurable differences.