

Learning Styles

There are three basic types of classroom learning styles: visual, auditory, and kinesthetic. 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**.

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 such as colorful¹ 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.

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.

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.

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

¹BrE: colourful

²BrE: visualise

fer 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 practicing³ other styles involves more of the brain's potential and therefore helps students remember more of what they learn.

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.

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.

³BrE: practising

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.

My Words

Write the words that are new to you. Look them up in the dictionary and write their definitions.

Words

Definitions

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Word Families

noun	confidence	Developing confidence in one's abilities is an important part of learning.
adjective	confident	Students who feel confident do better in school.
adverb	confidently	Students learn confidently when they are allowed to use learning styles that they feel comfortable with.

noun	convention	Classroom conventions sometimes need to be adapted to fit the learning styles of all the students.
adjective	conventional	Conventional teaching methods are changing as educators understand the need to address all styles of learning.
adverb	conventionally	A conventionally taught lesson may not incorporate approaches suited to all the students' learning styles.

noun	dominance	The dominance of one learning style over others does not mean that the learner relies on that one style alone.
verb	dominate	In each individual, one learning style tends to dominate over the others.
adjective	dominant	Students can learn to use other styles in addition to the one that is dominant.

ESSENTIAL WORDS FOR THE IELTS

noun	exposure	Students benefit a great deal from exposure to different styles of learning.
verb	expose	It is a good idea for teachers to expose students to a variety of learning experiences.

noun	face	Visual learners like to be able to see the teacher's face during a lesson.
verb	face	Visual learners like to face the teacher during a lesson.
adjective	facial	Facial expressions are an important part of communication.
adverb	facially	People may express their feelings facially even if they don't say a word.

noun	solitude	Some students prefer to work in solitude.
adjective	solitary	Solitary learners would rather work alone than in a group.
adverb	solitarily	Some students do better when they can work solitarily.

Word Family Practice

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

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.

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

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

Listening

CD 1
Track
26

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**.....