

Examples of learning styles

Learning strategies and styles are described in a range of ways. In the literature, whilst there are variations in the different learning style “models”, there are also many similarities. Following are two examples of ways to categorise different learning strategies and styles. The aim of providing these examples is to stimulate you to think about different learning styles, it is not meant to infer that these “models” are “better” than any others.

Use this information to think about the ways you may have learnt and identify your preferred approach. Once you have identified your preference you can put into place strategies to assist you to learn more effectively.

Example One: Visual, auditory and kinesthetic learning styles

Visual learning styles – this means you learn by seeing and looking.

You will:

- Take detailed notes rather than get involved in discussions
- Tend to sit in the front so you can see clearly
- Benefit from illustrations and presentations, and especially those in colour
- Make comments like:
 - “How do you see the situation?”
 - “What do you see stopping you?”
 - “Do you see what I am showing you?”

Auditory learning style – this means you learn by hearing and listening.

You will:

- Enjoy discussions and talking things through and listening to others
- Acquire knowledge by reading aloud
- Hum and/or talk to yourself
- Make comments like:
 - “I hear you clearly.”
 - “I’m wanting you to listen.”
 - “This sounds good.”

Kinesthetic learning style – this means you learn by touching and doing.

You will:

- Need lots of breaks and will want to move around
- Speak with your hands and gestures
- Remember what was done, but have difficulty with what was said or seen
- Learn through doing activities
- Make comments like:
 - “How do you feel about this?”
 - “Let’s move forward together.”
 - “Are you in touch with what I am saying?”

Example Two: Felder-Silverman Learning Style Model

Sensing learners Concrete, practical, oriented towards facts and procedures.	Intuitive learners Conceptual, innovative, oriented toward theories and meanings.
Visual learners Prefer visual representations of presented material – pictures, diagrams, flow charts.	Verbal learners Prefer written and spoken explanations.
Inductive learners Prefer presentations that proceed from the specific to the general.	Deductive learners Prefer presentations that go from the general to the specific.
Active learners Learn by trying things out, working with others.	Reflective learners Learn by thinking things through, working alone.
Sequential learners Linear, orderly, learn in small incremental steps.	Global learners Holistic, systems thinkers, learn in large leaps.