

LEARNING STYLES INVENTORY

To learn we need to take information in. People do that in different ways.

This chart will help you determine your preference for 'taking information in'. Your responses may fall into all three columns, but one column will likely contain the most responses. The dominant column indicates your preference for 'taking information in.'

WHEN YOU . . .	VISUAL	AUDITORY	READING / WRITING	KINESTHETIC / TACTILE
Spell	Do you try and imagine the word?	Do you sound out the word or use a phonetic approach?	Do you look it up in the dictionary or write the word several times to see if it looks right?	Do you write the word down to find if it feels write?
Give directions to your home	Do you draw a map on paper?	Do you tell a person the directions?	Do you write the directions [without a map]?	Do you offer to pick the person up or arrange for the person to follow you?
Want to visit a friend in the same town	Do you like them to draw you a map?	Do you like them to tell you the directions?	Do you like them to write the directions down [without a map]?	Do you like them to collect you?
Cook a meal as a special treat	Do you thumb through the cookbook looking for idea from the pictures?	Do you ask for advice from others?	Do you refer to a particular cookbook where there is a good recipe?	Do you cook something familiar without instructions?
Need help with a computer program	Do you seek out pictures and diagrams?	Do you call the help desk, ask a neighbour, or growl at the computer?	Do you read the instruction manual and perhaps make notes to yourself?	Do you keep trying to do it or try it on another computer?
Do something new at work	Do you like to see demonstrations, diagrams, slides or posters?	Do you prefer verbal instructions or talking to someone else about it?	Do you prefer to read the instruction or procedures manual?	Do you prefer to jump write in and try it?
Need to contact people on business	Do you prefer direct, face to face, personal meetings?	Do you prefer to talk with them on the phone?	Do you prefer to have read something about them [CV] prior to contact?	Do you prefer to talk with them while walking or participating in an activity?
Meet someone again	Do you forget names but remember faces or where you meet them?	Do you forget faces but remember names or what you talked about?	Do you remember something you read about them or notes you made after meeting them?	Do you remember best what you did together?
Need to learn a physical skills	Do you prefer visual clues – pictures, diagrams, charts?	Do you prefer written instructions?	Do you prefer listening to someone explaining it?	Do you prefer doing or trying it?
Teach someone something	Do you prefer to use flow diagrams, charts, overheads etc?	Do you prefer talking and discussion?	Do you prefer to use handouts and/or textbooks and manuals?	Do you prefer practical sessions?
Talk	Do you talk sparingly and dislike listening for too long? Do you use visual words such as see, picture and imagine?	Do you enjoy listening but are impatient to talk? Do you use words such as hear, tune and think?	Do you make reference to things read?	Do you gesture and use expressive movements? Do you use words such as feel, touch and hold?
Purchase a new sound system	Other than price, are you influenced by the way it looks?	Other than price, are you influenced by salesperson telling you what you want to know?	Other than price, are you influenced by reading the technical details about it?	Other than price, are you influenced by listening to it and playing with the knobs?
Con - centrate	Do you become distracted by untidiness or movement?	Do you become distracted by sounds or noises?	Do you become distracted by bad spelling or poor grammar?	Do you become distracted by activity around you?
MY PREFERRED STYLE IS	VISUAL	AUDITORY	READ / WRITE	KINESTHETIC

What does it mean to you as a receiver and/or giver of information?

STYLE	RECEIVER [learner]	GIVER [trainer / teacher]
VISUAL	Needs to see it to learn it. You should use: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Underlining ▪ Different colours ▪ Highlighters ▪ Symbols ▪ Flow charts ▪ Charts ▪ Graphs ▪ Pictures, videos, posters, slides ▪ Different spatial arrangements ▪ Manuals with diagrams, pictures Difficulty with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Spoken directions, lectures 	Prefers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To use visuals to explain things ▪ Diagrams, slides, charts, symbols ▪ Clever use of graphics, fonts ▪ Complex ideas shown in graphic form ▪ Interesting whiteboard arrangements ▪ Books with diagrams, graphics, pictures, colour and white space ▪ Videos ▪ Colour coding
AUDITORY	Needs to hear it to learn it. You should : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Use discussion ▪ Explain ideas to others ▪ Repeat things over to yourself ▪ Ask and answer questions ▪ Use audio taped material ▪ Describe visuals to someone who wasn't there ▪ Leave spaces in notes for later recall Difficulty with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Following written directions ▪ Reading and writing 	Prefers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To use voice to explain ▪ Discussion ▪ To say important words and use words well ▪ Seminars, presentations, dialogue, role play and interaction with learner ▪ Learners to listen, speak, discuss, question and comprehend
READ / WRITE	Needs to read and write it to learn. You should use: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lists ▪ Headings ▪ Manuals ▪ Dictionaries ▪ Glossaries ▪ Definitions ▪ Handouts ▪ Diaries ▪ Notebooks Difficulty with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Visual information ▪ Field work, discussions 	Prefers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To use written text to explain things ▪ Email ▪ To give handouts and expects learner to have read widely ▪ Learner to have done any background reading before sessions ▪ Instructions, directions, notes and guidelines in written form ▪ To place key words on whiteboard or overhead ▪ Lists in vertical and left aligned arrangements
KINESTHETIC	Needs to do to learn. You should use: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All of your senses ▪ Real life contexts ▪ Real life concrete examples ▪ Applications ▪ Hands-on approaches ▪ Trial and error ▪ Doing and movement Difficulty with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sitting still ▪ Listening 	Prefers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To use real life examples ▪ Case studies, practical work, visits, demonstrations ▪ Samples, working models, observation of processes ▪ Real world contexts where possible ▪ Learning to have relevance and application to workplace ▪ Learners to construct, experience, apply, develop, demonstrate ▪ Learners to use all their senses

Once information is in people process it in different ways.

This chart will help you determine your preference for ‘processing information [thinking]’. Your responses may fall into both columns, but one column will likely contain the most responses. The dominant column indicates your preference for ‘processing information.’

	YES	NO
Do you have a place for everything and everything in its place?		
When talking do you gesture a lot, a little or not at all?	GESTURE A LITTLE OR NOT AT ALL	GESTURE A LOT
Is your workplace neat and organised or cluttered with stuff you might need?	NEAT AND ORGANISED	CLUTTERED WITH STUFF YOU MIGHT NEED
Do you prefer new challenges and risks or predictable situations and knowing what’s coming?	PREDICTABILITY AND KNOWING WHAT’S COMING	NEW CHALLENGES AND RISKS
Do you work in a step by step style, preferring to finish one thing before starting another or do you jump from project to project and juggler several things at once?	WORK STEP BY STEP AND PREFER TO FINISH ONE THING BEFORE STARTING ANOTHER	OFTEN JUMP FROM PROJECT TO PROJECT AND JUGGLE SEVERAL THINGS AT ONCE
Do you work in bursts or consistently and methodically?	WORK CONSISTENTLY AND METHODICALLY	WORK IN BURSTS
Are you spontaneous or do you prefer to plan and organise?	PREFER TO BE PLANNED AND ORGANISED	SPONTANEOUS
When you get a picture in your head is it in 3 dimensions and probably colour or in two dimensions [flat] and black and white?	TWO DIMESNIIONS FLAT BLACK AND WHITE	THREE DIMENSIONS COLOUR
Do you have lots of ideas and do little with them or are you better at taking other people’s ideas and making them work?	TAKING OTHER PEOPLE’S IDEAS AND MAKING THEM WORK	HAVE LOTS OF IUDEA BUT DON’T DO MUCH WITH THEM
Is it easier for you to read for main ideas or to read for specific detail?	READ FOR SPECIFIC DETAIL	READ FOR MAIN IDEAS
In maths have you ever got the answer but couldn’t explain how or are you able to explain how you got the answer?	ABLE TO EXPALIN THE ANSWER	ABLE TO GET THE ANSWER BUT NOT ALWAYS ABLE TO EXPLAIN HOW
Do you often have hunches [intuition – gut feeling] and follow them or do you rarely have hunches?	RARELY HAVE HUNCHES	OFTEN HAVE HUNCES AND AFTEN FOLLOW THEM
Do you make decisions based more on how you feel than on logical thought?	LOGICAL THOUGHT	FEELINGS
If you were to learn a new dance step would it be easier for you to learn by imitating the teacher and getting the feel of the music or to learn the sequence of movements and talk your way through the steps?	LEARN SEQUENCE AND TALK THROUGH THE STEPS	IMITATE THE TEACHER AND GET THE FEEL OF THE MUSIC
TOTAL		

So what does it all mean?

If the total of your first column is greater than the second you have a LEFT BRAIN preference. If the total of the second column is greater than that of the first you have a RIGHT BRAIN preference. If they are the same or very close . . . WELL – we'll talk about that!

It also means that the last time you had difficulty communicating with someone, got frustrated with them or got into conflict it may have been simply because they processed [thought] differently from you. It doesn't make them wrong and you right – it makes you both different!

In summary:

LEFT BRAIN	RIGHT BRAIN
logical	illogical
rational	irrational
facts	fantasy
knowledge	intuition
serious	playful
linear, sequential	holistic
2D thinking	3D thinking
book learning	common sense
monochronic time	polychromic time
creativity - implementation	creativity – AHA!
pre-planning	spontaneous
structure , organisation	flexibility
'What's the bottom line?'	"Have a heart?"

For information on accelerating your learning and a range of learning programmes contact:

Wayne Morris

email: wayne@future-edge.co.nz

phone: 64 6 753 5914