

## TYPES OF LEARNING

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**Annotation:** *We all experience the world in unique ways , and with that comes variation in the ways we learn best. Understanding these different types of learning styles can drastically impact the way teachers handle their students, set up group projects and adapt individual learning . Without understanding and acknowledging these different ways of learning , teachers might end up with a handful of students lagging behind their classmates- in part because their unique learning style has not been activated.*

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Part of your responsibility as an educator is to adjust your lessons to the unique group of students you are working with at any given time. The best teachers can cater to each students strengths, ensuring they are truly grasping the information.

So, how do you meet the needs of different types of learners in your class ? In the following we outline the four types of learning styles and how teachers can practically apply this information in their classrooms.

The 4 types of learners in education include visual , auditory, reading/writing, and kinesthetic.

It's important to develop lesson plans to help all the different types of learners absorb information in a way that fits their individual needs. When teachers understand the characteristics of different learning styles and associated instruction strategies, they are better able to address the instructional requirements of all their students.

Because every student learns differently, learning styles are widely recognized in both classroom management theory and education theory in general. The term "learning styles" speaks to the understanding that every student learns differently. Technically , an individual's learning style refers to the preferential way in which the student absorbs , processes, comprehends and retains information, Teach . com explains. For example , one student might learn best by acting a process out, while another might prefer reading about the topic instead.

### **4 TYPES OF LEARNERS**

All students have learning styles that explain how they best retain and process information. Everyone uses a combination of learning styles, but most have a preference. Developing lesson plans that reach all types of learners help teachers better address the needs of their students.

Visual

How to organize visual learners in your class:

Someone with a preference for visual learning is partial to seeing and observing things, including pictures, diagrams, written directions and more. This is also referred to as the “spatial” learning style. Students who learn through sight understand information better when it’s presented in a visual way. These are your doodling students, your list makers and your students who take notes.

Visual learners prefer to take in information using charts, maps, graphs, diagrams, and more. Using images to explain concepts and ideas is the best way to teach a visual learner. However, this type of learning style does not include photographs or videos. Instead visual learners learn best when information is presented using patterns, shapes and other visual aids in the place of written or spoken words. One way teachers can differentiate their instruction for visual learners is by using graphic organizers to teach a lesson. A flow chart might be used to explain scientific process for example.

### **VISUAL**

- Process information using charts and graphs
- Need images to explain concepts and ideas
- Prefer graphic elements over words

Auditory

How to organize auditory learners in your class :

Auditory learners tend to learn better when the subject matter is reinforced by sound. These students would much rather listen to a lecture than read written notes, and they often use their own voices to reinforce new concepts and ideas. These types of learners prefer reading out loud to themselves. They aren’t afraid to speak up in class and are great at verbally explaining things. Additionally, they may be slower at reading and may often repeat things a teacher tell them.

This learning style describes students who learn best when information is heard or spoken. They benefit from lectures group discussions and other strategies that involve talking things through. “ Other people with this preference want to sort things out by speaking first rather than sorting out their ideas and then speaking” Vark Learn Limited explains. To help auditory learners learn teachers can post audio recordings of lessons on the class website or incorporate group activities that require students to explain concepts to their classmates.

### **AUDITORY**

- Learn best when information is spoken
- Prefer lectures and discussions
- Process information by talking through things

Reading / Writing Preference

How to organize reading/ writing learners in your class:

According to the Vark Modalities theory developed by Fleming and Mills in 1992, reading/writing learners prefer to learn through written words. While there is some

overlap with visual learning, these types of learners are drawn to expression through writing, reading articles or books, writing in diaries, looking up words in the dictionary and searching the internet for just about everything.

Students who have a reading/ writing preference prefer information to be presented using words. They love to read and perform well on written assignments such as stories or book reports. “This preference emphasizes text-based input and output – reading and writing in all of it’s forms,” Vark Learning Limited notes. A great way to help these students learn is by having them describe diagrams or charts using written statements. Then they can study their notes later to better retain the information.

Read / Write

- Prefer to receive written words
- Enjoy reading and writing assignments
- Process information by writing notes

Kinesthetic

How to organize kinesthetic learners in your class:

Kinesthetic learners, sometimes called tactile learners, learn through experiencing or doing things. They like to get involved by acting out events or using their hands to touch and handle in order to understand concepts. These types of learners might struggle to sit still and often excel at sports or like to dance. They may need to take more frequent breaks when studying.

Kinesthetic learners learn best when they can use tactile experience and carry out a physical activity to practice applying new information. “People who prefer this mode are connected to reality,” either through concrete personal experiences, examples, practice or simulation”, Vark Learn Limited explains. Give these students a working example of an idea or process, or task them with recreating experiments to illustrate concepts.

Knowing how to address the learning needs of your students is an important part of creating meaningful classroom experiences and helping them retain what they learn

**KINESTHETIC**

- Learn best through tactile processes
- Prefer to create concrete personal experiences
- Process information by recreating practicing

Embrace all types of learning

Understanding these different learning styles doesn’t end in the classroom. By equipping students with tools in their early years, teachers are empowering them for their futures. Pinpointing how a child learns best can dramatically affect their ability to connect with the topics you’re teaching, as well as how they participate with the rest of the class.

Now that you have some tactics in your back pocket to accommodate different ways of learning, you may be curious about classroom management strategies.