



LANGUAGE LEARNING STYLES AND STRATEGIES

Yelena Kandalina
A. Baitursynov Kostanay State University

WHAT IS A LEARNING STYLE?

the more or less consistent way in which a person perceives, conceptualizes, organizes and recalls information.

Ellis (1985)



The learning styles are:

- **Visual (spatial).** You prefer using pictures, images, and spatial understanding.
- **Aural (auditory-musical).** You prefer using sound and music.
- **Verbal (linguistic).** You prefer using words, both in speech and writing.
- **Physical (kinesthetic).** You prefer using your body, hands and sense of touch.
- **Logical (mathematical).** You prefer using logic, reasoning and systems.
- **Social (interpersonal).** You prefer to learn in groups or with other people.
- **Solitary (intrapersonal).** You prefer to work alone and use self-study.

THE VISUAL (SPATIAL) LEARNING STYLE

You may use phrases like these:

- I Let's look at it differently.
- I See how this works for you.
- I I can't quite picture it.
- I Let's draw a diagram or map.
- I I'd like to get a different perspective.
- I I never forget a face.

If you are a visual learner, use images, pictures, color and other visual media to help you learn. Incorporate much imagery into your visualizations.

THE AURAL (AUDITORYMUSICAL-RHYTHMIC) LEARNING STYLE

You may use phrases like these:

- | That sounds about right.
- | That rings a bell.
- | It's coming through loud and clear.
- | Tune in to what I'm saying
- | Clear as a bell.
- | That's music to my ears.

If you are an aural learner, use sound, rhyme, and music in your learning. Focus on using aural content in your association and visualization. Use sound recordings to provide a background and help you get into visualizations.

THE VERBAL (LINGUISTIC) LEARNING STYLE

You may use phrases like these:

- I Tell me word for word...
- I Let's talk later.
- I The word you're looking for is...
- I I hear you but I'm not sure I agree.
- I Let me spell it out for you.
- I In other words...

If you are a verbal learner, try the techniques that involve speaking and writing. Find ways to incorporate more speaking and writing in techniques. For example, talk yourself through procedures in the simulator, or use recordings of your content for repetition. Make the most of the word-based techniques such as assertions and scripting. Use rhyme and rhythm in your assertions where you can, and be sure to read important ones aloud. Set some key points to a familiar song, jingle or theme.

THE PHYSICAL (BODILYKINESTHETIC) LEARNING STYLE

You may use phrases like these:

- I That feels right to me.
- I I can't get a grip on this...
- I Stay in touch.
- I Get in touch with...
- I That doesn't sit right with me.
- I I have good feelings about this.

If you use a physical style, use touch, action, movement and hands-on work in your learning activities. Use role-playing, either singularly or with someone else, to practice skills and behaviors. Find ways to act out or simulate what you are learning.

THE LOGICAL (MATHEMATICAL) LEARNING STYLE

You are more likely to use phrases that reflect your most dominant style out of the visual, aural or physical styles, however you may also use phrases like these:

- I That's logical.
- I Follow the process, procedure, or rules.
- I There's no pattern to this.
- I Let's make a list.
- I We can work it out.
- I Quantify it, or prove it!

If you are a logical learner, aim to understand the reasons behind your content and skills. Understanding more detail behind your compulsory content helps you memorize and learn the material that you need to know. Explore the links between various systems, and note them down. While you study, create and use lists by extracting key points from your material.

THE SOCIAL (INTERPERSONAL) LEARNING STYLE

As with people with the logical style above, you are more likely to use phrases that reflect your dominant style out of physical, aural and visual styles. Here are some other phrases you may use:

- I Let's work together on this.
- I We can work it out.
- I Tell me what you are thinking.
- I Help me understand this.
- I Let's pull some people together to discuss.
- I Let's explore our options.

If you are a social learner, aim to work with others as much as possible. Try to study with a class. Role-playing is a technique that works well with others, whether its one on one or with a group of people. Mind maps and systems diagrams are great to work on in class.

THE SOLITARY (INTRAPERSONAL) LEARNING STYLE

Again you are more likely to use phrases that reflect your other dominant styles.

Here are some other phrases you may use:

- I'd like some time to think it over.
- This is what I think or feel about that.
- I'd like to get away from everyone for a while.
- I'll get back to you on that.

You prefer to learn alone using self-study. When you spend time with an instructor or a teacher, you often only clarify information you haven't be able to clarify yourself. You may dislike learning in groups.


LEARNING STRATEGIES (LS)

specific actions, behaviours, steps, or techniques that students (often intentionally) use to improve their progress in developing L2 skills. These strategies can facilitate the internalization, storage, retrieval, or use of the new language. Strategies are tools for the self-directed involvement necessary for developing communicative ability.

(Oxford, 1992/1993, p. 18)



WHAT ARE THE CHARACTERISTICS OF LLS?





allow learners to become more self-directed expand the role of language teachers are problem-oriented involve many aspects, not just the cognitive can be taught are flexible are influenced by a variety of factors.

(Oxford, 1990a, p. 9)



FACTORS INFLUENCING THE CHOICE OF L2 LEARNING STRATEGIES

- 
- Motivation
 - Cultural background
 - Gender
 - Attitudes and beliefs
 - Type of task
 - Learning style
 - Tolerance of ambiguity



Make the list of
strategies

Compare your list with
your partner

