Characteristics of Learning Styles

Three of your senses are primarily used in learning, storing, remembering and recalling information. Your eyes, ears, and sense of touch play essential roles in the way you communicate, perceive reality and relate to others. Because you learn form and communicate best with someone who shares your dominant modality, it is a great advantage for you to know the characteristics of visual, auditory and kinesthetic styles and to be able to identify them in others.

Visual
- Mind sometimes strays during verbal activities
- Observe rather than acts or talks
- Likes to read
- Usually a good speller
- Memorizes by seeing, graphics or pictures
- Not too distractible
- Finds verbal instruction difficult
- Has good handwriting
- Remembers faces
- Uses advanced planning
- Doodles
- Quiet by nature
- Meticulous, neat in appearance
- Notices details

Auditory
- Talks to self aloud
- Enjoys talking
- Easily distracted
- Has difficulty with written directions
- Likes to be read to
- Memorizes sequentially
- Enjoys music
- Whispers to self while reading
- Distracted by noise
- Hums or sings
- Outgoing by nature
- Enjoys listening activities

Kinesthetic
- Likes physical rewards
- In motion most of the time
- Likes to touch people when talking
- Taps pencil or foot when studying
- Enjoys doing activities
- Reading not a priority
- Poor speller
- Likes to solve problems by physically working through them
- Will try new things
- Outgoing by nature; expresses emotions by physical means
- Uses hands while talking
- Dresses for comfort
SIGHT: Hints for the Visual Learner

General
1. Take notes, make pictures, graphs, and charts. Use flashcards and highlight key details.
2. Sit close to the teacher so that you can watch his/her face and gestures.
3. Take notes or make lists as you listen to directions.
4. Carefully check instructions written on the chalkboard and on handouts.
5. As the teacher lectures, pay attention to visual aids such as the following:
   - Drawing, maps, graphs, charts
   - Transparencies, posters, films, books
6. Imagine pictures of the information you are suppose to remember.
7. Use color coding as cues to important information.
8. When possible, read assignments silently.
9. Maintain class notes and outlines of important information to study.
10. Try to read and study in well lit, quiet place.
11. Record homework assignments in a date book, on a note pad, or a specially designed assignment sheet.
12. Keep a note pad with you at all times. Write out everything for frequent and quick visual review.

Reading
1. Use sight words, flashcards, note cards and experience stories; don’t try to sound words out, but try to determine if the new word or words has words you already know. For example, the “systematic” has the word “system”, “stem” and “mat” within it.
2. You are a “look-and-say” learner. Look at a word carefully; then say it.

Writing
1. Jot down ideas as they form in your mind.
2. Outline your ideas.
3. Make a rough draft, skipping lines. Correct/revise your work.
4. Re-copy your paper.
5. ESSAY TEST: Make quick outlines on scratch paper or in the margin of the test before writing your answer.

Spelling
1. See the word – close your eyes.
2. Make a picture – then read from your picture.
3. Write the word – match the picture.
4. Check your work immediately.

Mathematics
1. Visualize the problem.
2. Make pictures or tallies of the problem on scratch paper.
3. Write the problem.